

Seven Lady Saints Named All Conference

Following a 33-26 season and a runner-up finish at the Region VI Tournament, seven Seward County Lady Saints have been named to the Jayhawk West All-Conference and NJCAA All-Region VI teams as announced by the league on Tuesday. Stephanie Mark and Felisha Vogelaar led the stable of Lady Saints chosen as All-Conference/All-Region members with 1st Team selections while Michelle Duford, Samantha Phelps, Rachel Shockley, Becky Allen, and Marissa Chavez were all 2nd Team picks.

Mark was named the top 1st baseman in the Jayhawk West this season after leading the Lady Saints in five major categories. She was a 1st Team All-Conference/All-Region selection after hitting .432 with 19 doubles, 17 home runs, and 70 RBI's in her sophomore season. Her 19 doubles led the league while her 70 RBI's tied for the league lead and her 17 home runs were second. She shattered numerous school records during her sophomore season including career hits (174), career RBI's (122), career doubles (45) and her 86 hits, 17 home runs, and 70 RBI's are all second most in a single season in school history.

Vogelaar was a 1st Team All-Conference/All-Region pick at 2nd base during her freshman season for the Lady Saints. The Kelowna, British Columbia native hit .314 with 17 doubles, 3 home runs, and 33 RBI's in her first season in Liberal. Not only an impact hitter for Seward County in 2013, Vogelaar was also one of the top defensive players in the Jayhawk West Conference. She finished the year with a .949 fielding percentage and turned 11 double plays on the year while committing just 11 errors in 217 chances.

Duford makes her second trip to the 2nd Team All-Conference/All-Region circle after also being named so in 2011. The sophomore shortstop started all 59 games for the Lady Saints in 2013 and hit .330 with 9 doubles and 7 home runs while driving home 49 runs. Her 93 career RBI's rank 6th in school history while her 11 career home runs rank 7th best. A magnet in the middle of the Seward infield, Duford handled a team high 288 chances on the year and posted an .895 fielding percentage.

Phelps may have been the breakout star of the group as she was named 2nd Team All-Conference/All-Region after finishing second on the team with a .376 average this season. Phelps was the 2nd Team pick at designated player following a sophomore season in which she saw her batting average jump .213 points from her freshman year while ripping 11 doubles and driving in 36 runs.

Shockley is one of three Lady Saints to receive their second All-Conference/All-Region award this season. As a freshman in

2012 the Seward catcher was a 1st Team selection while this season she was chosen to the 2nd Team. Shockley ranked fourth on the Lady Saints roster with a .347 batting average and hammered out 17 doubles which was second most in the league behind teammate Stephanie Mark. She drove in 27 runs on the season and was second on the team scoring 55 times.

Allen was picked as a 2nd Team All-Conference/All-Region outfielder for the Lady Saints during her freshman season. She had a solid first year on the offensive end, ranking in the top three on the team in batting average (.358), home runs (9), and RBI's (45). Allen was one of just two players, along with Stephanie Mark, to finish the season with an OPS over 1.000 as she just clipped the mark at 1.004.

Chavez joined Allen as a 2nd Team All-Conference/All-Region choice at the outfield position. Chavez was a spark plug at the top of the Seward order, hitting .337 with 13 doubles, 2 home runs, while driving in 29 runs for the Lady Saints. A speedster on the bases, Chavez led Seward with 56 runs scored as a freshman and was second on the team with 7 stolen bases. She played a number of positions for Seward in 2013, starting the season as Seward's shortstop before moving to the outfield. She fielded .840 and finished the year with 56 putouts and 28 assists.

The seven players selected to the All-Conference/All-Region teams for Seward were the second most in the conference behind Conference and Region VI Champs Butler who had 10. The Lady Saints and Lady Grizzlies players comprised 17 of the 19 choices on the two teams. Butler swept the top honors as pitcher Maggie Ham was named the Most Valuable Player, the Grizzlies Kate James was the Freshman of the Year and Doug Chance was the winner of the Coach of the Year award.

SCCC/ATS Roy Allen