

B5, L4 announce All-League selections

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Published: Jun 14 2008, 12:48 AM

Category: **Sports**

Topic: **Prep baseball**

The Big Five and Little Four announced their MVPs, All-League selections and honorable mentions in baseball and softball on Friday.

All of the MVP selections came from a league championship team as Eureka's Ryan Stearns (Big Five), a senior who led his team to a league title with a perfect 12-0 record, and St. Bernard's Andrew Ayers (Little Four), a junior who led his team to second consecutive North Coast Section championship, took the awards in baseball.

In softball, Del Norte junior starting pitcher Alyssa Bergquist (Big Five) was named MVP after a 23-2 season, where she led her team to its first-ever NCS title and a perfect 12-0 record in league.

And in the Little Four, co-league champions Ferndale and Hoopa had their senior starting pitchers take top honors as Hoopa's Chenone Blake and Ferndale's Mishka Bessingpas-Hamor earned co-MVPs.

"He's just very intense, very motivated and he's got quite a motor," said St. Bernard's baseball coach Dale Del Grande about Ayers, who was named league MVP for a third consecutive season. "He leads by example and he really bought into the team concept. He came into close almost every game we played."

St. Bernard's also had four other players earn All-League selections as Matt Landing, Josh Genevro, Eli Adams and David Del Grande were honored.

Also named All-Little Four in baseball was Ferndale's Ross Sutton, Jake Morris and Kyle Miranda, Hoopa's Lonnie Risling and Nolan Colegrove and South Fork's Jared Morris.

In Big Five baseball, meanwhile, Eureka's Jimmie Jessee, Justin Hatch, Chris Gutierrez and Brandon Vitale earned All-League selections, along with Arcata's D.J. Hancock, Conor Byrne and Mitch Provolt; Del Norte's Evan O'Brien and Chad Freeman; McKinleyville's Sam Rotwein; and Fortuna's Bryce Head.

In softball, Del Norte had four players named All-Big Five as Paula Rhodes, Jessica Morrow, Katie Rinkevicz and Lauryn Lesina won the award, while Arcata's Chelsea Lindstrom, Christina Casarez and Rebekah Matteri; Eureka's Amanda Wendlandt and Sarah Pricer; Fortuna's Felicia Ambrosini and McKinleyville's Mariah Lindgren were also honored.

In the Little Four, Hoopa and Ferndale dominated the All-League choices as Hoopa's Naomi Ames, Jessica Ammon and Patiesha Ferris, along with Ferndale's Sarah Albers, Brianne Miller and Jodi Grinsell were selected.

Other All-League picks in the Little Four were St. Bernard's Brittany Borges and Kaitlyn Swihart, along with South Fork's Larissa Harrison and Kelsey Stillwell.

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