

Annika Harper, JR, Martensdale St. Mary's High School

Annika Harper is the kind of student athlete that this award is all about. A junior this past season, she was not a starter on this year's state tournament qualifying softball team. To her credit, that did not change how she approached practice and games. In her high school career she has played a very limited number of innings at the varsity level, however, her contributions to the team have been many. Annika is the type of leader all teams need because she is confident, positive and always thinks about what is best for the team first. She does this without complaining about what her playing time may be. I have no doubt that Annika will go on to be very successful after graduation, no matter what career path she decides to take.

Nominated by Todd Verwers, Head Softball Coach, Martensdale St. Mary's HS

Mallory Todd, SR, Riverside

Mallory Todd has been one kid who has always demonstrated great character on the field. She says very little when it comes to the game she just works hard. She has been honored by all district and all conference. But, her efforts to move forward with a new head coach have been remarkable. Not only is she active in softball, but several other sports and she continues to make strides to improve herself as a well rounded student-athlete. I know that she has been chosen for other awards but as her coach she is an athlete who deserves credit even though she may not want it. Her efforts to teach the younger kids to love and respect the game of softball are amazing.

Nominated by Justin Williams, Riverside, Head Softball Coach

Jen Angus, SR, Mount Ayr

Angus is a five year member of the Mount Ayr softball team. Jen has been a solid player throughout her career, but has never been a varsity starter. Even though Jen has not been a starter on the varsity team; she shows great work ethic in practice, leads the other players in cheers, and does everything that is asked of her with a smile on her face. In a season when two other seniors quit the team and moved on with other things, Jen stuck it out and not only accepted her role on the team, she embraced it. Even though she is not on the field, she is as valuable as anyone we have. Jen also has a big responsibility at home. She has a very active young brother that needs a lot of attention and supervision, which Jen is always willing to provide not worrying about her own wants or needs. Jen is truly the picture of good character. She demonstrates every pillar of character on a daily basis. The world would be a much better place if there were more people like Jen. I know that our team and program would not and will not be the same without her.

Nominated by Josh Vanderflight, Mount Ayr Head Softball Coach

Kassi Guinn, Soph. Moulton-Udell

Kassi did a great job of moving positions this year for us. She was moved to 1st base and towards the end of the season she moved to 2nd for us. She did a great job of adjusting and worked hard to know what to do at each spot.

Nominated by Jason Ogden, Moulton-Udell Softball Coach

Alexis Kauzlarich, Soph., Moulton-Udell

She is a key player as she was always keeping her team up and ready when they needed to be encouraged. She does the little things that go unnoticed by most people. She was very important to our team as she was in the game mentally.

Nominated by Jason Ogden, Moulton-Udell Softball Coach

Chelsey Harris, Jr., Moulton-Udell

Chelsey had to sit out last year with a knee injury. She was able to come back and do a great job for us this year. It's tough when you have to take a year off and you have to work that much harder to get back into the swing of things. She did a good job for us this year. We will be looking for more leadership next year.

Nominated by Jason Ogden, Moulton-Udell Softball Coach