

## **HS Sports Headlines**

Familiar faces highlight All-Wood County softball selections (06-18-11)

Five 'Jackets, four Flyers earn first-team All-County (06-17-11)

Northwood's Russell named TAAC coach of the year (06-16-11)

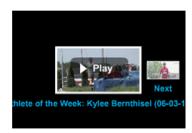
Northwood softball has three on All-TAAC first team (06-16-11)

Final SLL-SBC all-star game set for Monday (6-11-11)

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Lakota, NB each had two players on MAL softball first team (6-11-11)

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## Five 'Jackets, four Flyers earn first-team All-County (06 -17-11)

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Perrysburg's baseball team had a dream season.

The Yellow Jackets finished 26-4 overall and advanced to the Division I state championship game.

Along the way, they won Northern Lakes League, sectional, district and regional championships.

Five of the players who played key roles for the Yellow Jackets headline the Sentinel-Tribune's 14-player All-Wood County baseball first-team.

The five are: Alec Schmenk, Zach Kolvey, Matt Kruzel, Alex Williams and Steve Slocum.

Suburban Lakes League champion Lake had four players on the team - Kurt McKee, Ryan Kohlhofer, Josh Tantari and Nathan Scanlan.

Completing the first-team were Jack Waldock and Kevin Hammer of Elmwood, Daniel McKinney of Bowling Green, Cameron Juhasz of Northwood; and Travis Podolak of Otsego.

Schmenk, Kruzel, Kohlhofer and Waldock are repeat first-team selections from last season. Podolak was an honorable mention pick in 2009 and 2010 and Tantari was honorable-mention selection last season.

Schmenk was dominant on the mound, posting a 9-0 record and a 1.09 earned-run average in 10 games, all starts

In 64 1/3 innings, the senior right-hander allowed just 10 runs (all earned) on 32 hits with 76 strikeouts and 10 walks. He also had six complete games, including four shutouts, and opponents hit just .149 against him

Schmenk's success was even more impressive because he entered the season with high expectations. Even before his senior season started, he had signed a national letter of intent and earned a scholarship to play collegiately at Toledo, and was named a preseason high school All-American by Louisville Slugger.

Schmenk was 6-0 with a 0.84 ERA as a junior.

Schmenk and Kolvey both earned All-Ohio honors, with Schmenk being named to the first-team and Kolvey receiving honorable mention.

"He was under a lot of pressure," Perrysburg coach Dave Hall said about Schmenk. "We knew he was going to be good coming into the season, and he met those expectations way above and beyond." One of Schmenk's brightest moments came in Perrysburg's 4-3 state semifinal win over Willoughby South

South, an excellent hitting team, hit Schmenk hard early in the game as it scored three times on four hits in the first two innings. But Schmenk quickly recovered, retiring 16 of the final 19 hitters to enable the Yellow Jackets rally for a 4-3 victory after trailing 3-0.

Schmenk's best pitch was his fastball, but South adjusted and hit that pitch hard. With the help of Kolvey, Perrysburg's catcher, Schmenk decided to throw more sliders and fewer fastballs. He finished with a five-hitter, allowing just one hit after the second inning.

"He grew up during the state semifinal," Hall said. "He had always been fastball, fastball, fastball, but we saw a kid who worked it out and made adjustments with his slider and took back control of the game."



Schmenk, who played second base when he wasn't pitching, hit .347 as he played in all 30 games. Batting in the leadoff position, he was 37-of-98 with 25 runs, 10 doubles, one triple, one home run and 15 runs batted in.

"He's just a great baseball player, a great athlete," Hall said.

Kolvey's arm, glove and bat also played huge roles in Perrysburg's success. The senior led the team with a .457 average, going 37-for-81 with four homers and 31 RBI. He had 25 runs, 12 doubles and one triple. He also was solid defensively.

"He hit .400 all season and really improved himself as a receiver," Hall said. "He did a good job blocking balls, and he had a quick release and strong arm.

"He also had a lot of expectations on him like Alec did and he responded with a really good senior year," Hall said. "He played in every game and never asked out of the lineup once, and that's a demanding position."

Kruzel was terrific, too, on the mound and in center field.

The senior left-hander was 8-1 with a 1.11 ERA in 10 games, striking out 67 and walking 35 in 562a,3 innings. He allowed nine runs (all earned) on 31 hits.

"He's one of the best baseball players I've ever coached," Hall said. "When he throws strikes, he's as good as anybody in the area. He throws hard, he has good off-speed pitches. He knows how to set hitters up."

Kruzel batted .330 with 30 hits in 91 at-bats as he played in all 30 games. He also had 28 runs, four doubles, two homers and 14 RBI.

He also played well in the outfield after playing first base as a junior, taking advantage of his outstanding arm and his ability to catch most everything hit his way.

"He was a very, very good center fielder." Hall said. "He moved from first base and that really solidified our defense. He was a big part of our offense. He was productive in the three spot and did a lot of the little things well, He has a lot of baseball savvy and knows how to play the game."

Williams was Perrysburg's third ace on the mound, behind Schmenk and Kruzel.

The senior right-hander's 5-0 record and school-record four saves were instrumental in Perrysburg winning the league

"Alex was one of the real keys to our success," Hall said, adding Williams only pitched four varsity innings as a junior.

Williams pitched well last summer and continued his success in the spring. In 39 2/3 innings, he allowed 12 runs (four earned) on 26 hits with 43 strikeouts and 11 walks.

"He throws hard and he has good off-speed pitches," Hall said. "If we don't have him and Kruzel, we don't do what we did. He pitched in some big games."

Slocum, a sophomore, provided Perrysburg with excellent offense and defense.

He was second on the team with a .367 average to go along with 22 RBI and 23 runs scored. He primarily played right field, but also saw action in center.

"He's probably one of the best athletes at the school," Hall said. "He catches the ball as well as anybody I've coached and he has a rocket for an arm.

"He hit the ball hard and when he got on, you knew he was going to steal. He could bunt. He did a really good job offensively and was really good at doing the little things.

McKee was the SLL's player of the year, helping Lake to records of 23-4 overall and 12-0 in the league. He hit .419 with 21 runs, 16 RBI and nine stolen bases.

"He was our biggest surprise this year," Lake coach Greg Wilker said. "He wasn't that big or strong as a sophomore, but he's really worked hard and he matured physically and became a leader. He played great defense and make a number of catches to help us win games.

"He had a lot of big hits as he gained confidence during the season. He really had a good knowledge of the strike zone, making himself a tough out and swinging at good pitches."

Kohlhofer, a junior shortstop, batted .349 with four homers and 27 RBI. He also had 31 runs and 13 stolen

"His move from outfield to shortstop solidified our infield," Wilker said. "He was very steady, making all of the routine plays and some outstanding plays as well.

"As the No. 3 hitter, he was right in the middle of things offensively. He was a big reason for our offensive success."

Tantari, a junior, batted .313 with one homer and 19 RBI. He also stole 10 bases and scored 23 runs. He pitched and saw action defensively in the outfield and the infield.

On the mound, Tantari was 6-1 with a 1.64 ERA, In 422â, 3 innings, he allowed 21 runs (10 earned) on 35 hits with 41 strikeouts and 37 walks.

"He was the kind of athlete and competitor, that no matter where you put him, he was going to do well," Wilker said. "He helped us in a lot of different ways: pitching, defense, offense. The biggest thing is he was a good athlete who loved to play the game.'

Scanlan, a junior, was 5-0 with three saves and a 1.34 ERA. In 41 2/3 innings, he allowed 12 runs (eight earned) on 25 hits with 44 strikeouts and 19 walks.

"He did a tremendous job, regardless of what role he was in, starting or relieving," Wilker said. "He handled pressure well. You could see his confidence develop early in the season and he did a great job all season.'

Waldock, a senior outfielder, hit .383 with four homers and 20 RBI.

"He was one of our most consistent hitters," Elmwood coach Kyle Reiser said. "He was our one returning hitter that teams knew about, so they tried to pitch around him, but he was still productive."

Hammer, a senior second baseman, had a .356 average with two homers and 17 RBI.

"He's always played well defensively, but the biggest improvement he made was with his hitting," Reiser said. "He really didn't do anything different mechanically with his hitting and he worked just as hard this year, but everything just seemed to fall together for him. He got off to a good start and just kept it going." Podolak, a senior catcher, batted .375 with two homers and 19 RBI.

"He had a great year," Otsego coach Aaron Myers said. "He was our team captain and he filled that role above and beyond. He works real hard and ways always swilling to come early and stay late. He had a great year offensively and he was one of the better defensive catchers I've coached."

McKinney was BG's ace. Despite a 4-5 record, the junior right-hander still had a 2.26 ERA. In 62 innings, he struck out 50 and walked 24. He allowed 43 hits and 25 runs (earned).

"He worked hard and he was a competitor, and that's a good combination to have," BG coach Josh Iler said. "In addition to his fastball, he had a great breaking ball and he knew how to hit his spots. He knew







Bowling Green Jr. Bobcats12U struggle to find the defensive holes in falling to Ohio Vipers, 3-



Bowling Green Jr. Bobcats12U slip to Sylvania Mavericks, 2-1 Baseball: Bowling Green Junior Bobcats



Bowling Green Jr. Bobcats12U fall short to Sylvania Mavericks 8-3 Baseball : Bowling Green Junior Bobcats

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Juhasz, a senior, hit .396 with 18 RBI. On the mound, the left-hander was 3-2 with a 1.75 earned-run average, striking out 75 in 40 innings. Northwood was 19-5 overall and shared the Toledo Area Athletic Conference championship. "He really stepped it up offensively," Northwood coach Dave Russell said. "He was a decent hitter before, but he really improved during the offseason in the cage. He had a better approach and wasn't the free swinger he's been in the past. He worked to get ahead in the count. "He worked hard during the offseason. He came a lot stronger and the velocity on his fastball increased. He also had good off-speed pitches and hit his spots." The 14 honorable mention selections were: Bowling Green's Garrett Jex; Eastwood's Justin Faykosh; Elmwood's Nate Benschoter, Joe Bockbrader, Conlan Varty; TD Waldock; Lake's Casey Witt; Lakota's Tiger Jaso; North Baltimore's Clinton Ebright; Northwood's Nick Russell; Perrysburg's Kevin Schenk; Hunter Smith; Ryan Young; Rossford's Nick Vidra. Varty, Witt and Russell are repeat honorable mention picks. LAST UPDATED ON FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2011 09:22 Add comment NOTE: Comments are moderated. Comments have a 800 character limit! Comments are not posted until reviewed by Sentinel staff. Depending on the time of day you submit comments there may be a delay in posting to the website. If you see a comment that you think needs our attention, please email hbrown@sentinel-tribune.com. Name (required) E-mail 850 symbols left Notify me of follow-up comments Send **JComments Front Page Stories** LOCAL TEENS SHARE PERRYSBURG SEEKS Other Front Page Articles **SUCCESS AT BOYS** WATER TOWER FUNDS STATE 06/18/2011 | PETER KUEBECK Forecast bright for BGHS 06/18/2011 | JENISE FOUTS Sentinel Staff Writer grad Sentinel Staff Writer PERRYSBURG -EcoErek Wakanene The city is · Dog days of summer Kamau (right) of seeking funds to · Perrysburg plant will add Perrysburg, in pay for the upcoming iobs session at the House of construction of water t [ ... ] · 'Plane Fun' set to take off Representatives at [...] · United Way allots funding for county + FULL STORY + FULL STORY · Vet talks about service to Boys State · Community band in the park (06-16-11) CONTACT US ADVERTISE HISTORY **EMAILS** SUBSCRIBE WHERE TO BUY TERMS OF SERVICE PRIVACY POLICY Click here to see our inventory! www.thayerbg.com 

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