

# Huskies claim section crown, return to state

by Jeff Sanford

Not that long ago, the St. Anthony Huskies softball team's presence at the State Tournament was an annual tradition. After a six-year absence, there's new hope in the Village that the tradition will enjoy a revival, as the team made its first appearance in Mankato since 2014. Though this year's trip ended in a heart-breaking 8-7 loss in the quarterfinals, the defeat didn't erase a tremendously successful season.

The Huskies broke through for their first section title since moving up to Class AAA in 2015, defeating Mahtomedi in a wild 21-11 game at Lexington Memorial Park on June 10. That win earned them a matchup in the state tournament at Caswell Park in Mankato on June 15 against the only team to defeat them in the regular season, Benilde-St. Margaret's.

The Red Knights jumped on top in the top of the first inning with an unearned run, but the Huskies struck back immediately in the bottom half on an RBI single by Tuscany Ballot. Neither team scored in the second, and it seemed like the game might settle in as the expected pitching duel between All-Metro honorees Ellie Peterson of the Huskies, and Tibby Hessian of Benilde.

However, the offenses picked back up in the top of the 3rd. The Knights strung together two walks and three hits to plate four, with the big blows coming on a two-run double by Michelle Doering and a two-run single by Iris Pflum to make it 5-1. Still, the Huskies made it clear they weren't going quietly, as a two-run double by Rachel Carter cut the lead in half at 5-3 at the end of three innings.

Benilde pushed across another unearned run in the fourth, this time without any hits in the inning. But for the third straight time,



Back row left to right: Head Coach Lamar Brendemuehl, Managers Kiera Turner, Josie Bogucki, June McGrath; Caitlyn Roshia, Sophie Welch, Annie Bauman, Anaya Boseman, Stella Kiemele, Assistant Coaches Jeff Tonkin, Melissa Brandenburg, Dirk DeWester. Middle Row: Ava LeBreck, Sofie Stendahl, Audrey Wilson, Violet Kachman, Violet Urdahl, Alex Korba, Kenzie Weber. Front Row: Rachel Carter, Annie Welch, Ellie Peterson, Tuscany Ballot, Anna McCleary, Lydia Marsolais. (Provided photo)

St. Anthony answered a Red Knight score with runs of their own. Eighth- and ninth-place hitters Lydia Marsolais and Stella Kiemele opened the inning with singles, before Kenzie Weber clobbered a 3-2 pitch to left for a game-tying three-run homer. Annie Welch then singled, moved to second on a wild pitch, and scored on a two-out double by Carter to give the Huskies their first lead at 7-6.

The bottom of the fifth would prove costly as the home team left runners at second and third without scoring. Those would end up being their final baserunners of the game. The Knights scored two in the top of the sixth on a walk and three singles, the latter two of which eluded Husky mitts by mere inches. Hessian retired the final

seven Husky batters.

Despite the loss, the Huskies finished the season with a 23-2 record, and set school records for stolen bases (75) and run differential (9-run average margin of victory). Three starters earned All-State honors: pitcher Peterson on the first team, second baseman Welch on the second team, and third baseman Ballot honorable mention. Welch set the school mark for batting average, hitting .593, while Ballot set new standards for walks (25), runs (46), and on-base percentage (.644). Welch reached the 100-hit milestone in her career, and Peterson notched her 300th career strikeout in the circle. Coach Lamar Brendemuehl earned his 300th win early in the season, and now has a record of 318-114 in 17 seasons.



Counter-clockwise from left to right: Stella Kiemele on the mound. Annie Welch up to bat. Rachel Carter hits an RBI double. Lydia Marsolais starts a rally.

(Photos by Sara Peterson)

## Don't just rely on Facebook!

Publicize your event in the Northeast and get 50,000 pairs of eyes—Free! Send your info to [Contact@MyNortheast.com](mailto:Contact@MyNortheast.com)

**OIL CHANGE**  
**\$24.95**  
Disposal Extra

Lube, oil & filter change. Check fluids. Up to 5 quarts 5W30 oil. Most cars/light trucks. Synthetic/Dexos additional. Expires 7/20/21

**Mr. Tire**

Mon-Fri 7am-7pm; Saturday 8am-4pm  
1227 Central Ave. NE  
(Central & Broadway)  
**612-623-3700**

**MATT'S TREE SERVICE**

QUALITY WORK AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

REMOVAL • TRIMMING • STUMP GRINDING  
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY BONDED & INSURED

BIG OR SMALL – WE DO THEM ALL!

VISA MasterCard

**612 706-8210**

ISA Certified Arborist on staff.

**4 GENERATIONS OF REAL ESTATE SERVICE NORTHEAST**

David Forsythe 612-720-1942 Brian Forsythe 651-707-7818

ST ANTHONY

**3217 31st Avenue NE**  
1-1/2 story stucco, 4BR+, detached 2-car and fenced yard with loads of perennials  
**\$395,000**

**NEW LISTING**

Well built & cared for home, easy walk to award winning St. Anthony middle & high schools. 10 yr new maple kitchen cabinets, granite counters & stainless appliances. Hardwood oak floors. 2 brick fireplaces, one with insert for max efficiency. Generous dining room, sliding doors to private rear deck. 1 BR on main, 2 BR up + office, guest BR lower.

**David Forsythe Edina Realty** **Brian Forsythe**  
Email: [davidforsythe@edinarealty.com](mailto:davidforsythe@edinarealty.com) Email: [brianforsythe@edinarealty.com](mailto:brianforsythe@edinarealty.com)