

SportsFolio

Souhegan Softball Seniors Lead the Way into the Playoffs

The Souhegan Sabers softball team (12-4, #3 Seed) winners of 10 out of their last 11 games cruised into the playoffs with an efficient 2-0 win over a gritty Trinity squad on Senior Day to end the regular season. Seniors Val Mukai and Abrie Davis led the way offensively and Senior Cori Sousa had a busy day making 6 unassisted put outs at first base. Hannah Cochran had another strong performance in the circle for Souhegan aided by the Sabers stingy defense. Hannah threw hard, kept the ball down and mixed speeds to keep Trinity off balance. The win capped a 3-0 week, which included 2 highly charged wins over rival Milford and last years champion Con Val. The wins exorcised the ghosts from 2 losses earlier in the season and has the Sabers heading into the playoffs the hottest team in the division.

The season started out with a 8-0 win over Hollis/Brookline where freshman Hailey Yabroudy got her Sabers career started in the circle with a complete game shutout victory. Sam Allen set the pace for the offense with a wicked shot deep to right field for a HR that would be the first of many for this power hitting team. Cassidy Alger had an outstanding day on defense at 2B fielding all 7 chances cleanly including a nifty back hander on a hard shot to her left with runners on to end the threat and preserve the shutout. Souhegan then battled Goffstown (#2 seed) for 12 innings, 4-4 after 7, on a cold and windy day in a battle of wills before it slipped away. Kaley Ahern had 2 nice hits including a double giving the Sabers chances to win but Souhegan just couldn't push the winning run across in extra innings. Next up Portsmouth, who battled the Sabers hard but the Sabers held on for a 7-6 win where they fended off a 7th inning rally stranding Portsmouth's tying and winning runs on 2nd and 3rd with 2 strike outs to end the game.

Then darkness fell with an ugly loss to Milford followed by a late inning collapse against Con Val.



2014 SHS Softball Team

Val Mukai had a grand slam late to tie the game but Milford took advantage of opportunities for the win. Against Con Val, Lauren McCormick and Abrie Davis hit back to back HR's but it wasn't enough as the Sabers let this one go. This was gut check time. How they responded to this adversity would determine what kind of season they were going to have and what kind of TEAM they would be. Coaches and captains and all team members rallied around each other, flushed it, and got to work. They each took personal responsibility, no one laid blame and they focused on getting their job done.

They responded with a mercy win over Lebanon 19 to 2. Ali Canavan and Sam Allen had monster days. Ali had 3 solid hits and scored and Sam Allen was not to be denied going 5-5 with 2 doubles and 4 runs scored. They then rolled over a

vastly improved Oyster River 9 to 2 highlighted by the speed of Jordan Catanuso who had a double and 2 singles scoring a run and the power of Cori Sousa who had 2 big hits and scored.

Having refound their footing, confidence building, next up was John Stark, Coe-Brown and Goffstown who were a combined 22-2 at the time. Put up or shut up time. Go big or go home! John Stark was up 3-2 in a well-played game going into the top of the 7th when the Sabers came to bat with the top of the order coming up. Val "super clutch" Mukai led off with a double, Lauren McCormick, Abrie Davis and Sam Allen all followed with singles, scoring 3 and giving Souhegan a 5-3 lead. John Stark went quietly in the bottom frame for their first loss of the year. Coe-Brown (#1 seed) proved to be beatable but not just yet as they held off the Sabers 11-7 for

what would be the Sabers last loss of the season. Kaley Ahern pitched in with 2 hits and driving in runs but the Sabers gave them too big a lead early and their valiant attempt at a comeback came up short. Next game Goffstown (9-1 at the time). In their best all around effort of the year behind HR's by Abrie Davis, Lauren McCormick and Hannah Cochran plus a big day from Corrie Sousa who went 2 for 3 with 2 walks and 2 runs scored, the Sabers won 16 to 6 to bring their record to 6-4. Hannah mystified Goffstown for 6 strong innings and Hailey came in to finish them off 1-2-3 in the 7th to end it.

Hollis Brookline hosted Souhegan and was seeking revenge for the early season loss. A fired up HB squad jumped to 5-0 lead but Souhegan chipped away at it. Jordan Catanuso was giving HB nightmares all day with a double and 2 singles helping Souhegan get back into the game. The score was all knotted up at 7-7 in the top of the 7th when Val Mukai and Lauren McCormick had seen enough and took matters into their own hands and with 2 runners on base Val hit a 3 run bomb and Lauren followed up with a deep shot to LF that is still in orbit giving Souhegan the lead to stay in an 11-7 Souhegan win.

Wins against Pembroke and St. Thomas Aquinas got the Sabers to 9-4. Abrie "going going gone" Davis has been having another outstanding year leading the team in HR's had clutch hits in both games including a 3 run HR in the 3rd against St. Thomas Aquinas and she ripped a single down the LF line with Lauren and Val on for the 5-4 walk off win against Pembroke.

On another nasty day (cold, windy and

just a little mist) Souhegan went to Milford to see Jimmy Rines and his plucky band of dirt devils. The game lived up to the hype. If you like scoring, attend a Milford / Souhegan game. Strange things happen to otherwise good teams when they play each other. In a reversal of the first meeting, Souhegan jumped out to a big lead and let Milford back in the game after a series of unfortunate events. Milford tied the game in the bottom of the 6th setting the stage for one more round of offensive heroics from the black and gold. Lauren "moonshot" McCormick and Abrie Davis went back to back in the top of the 7th to provide Souhegan with the 2 run margin of victory. Milford failed to score in the bottom of the 7th and Souhegan was now battle tested and 10-4.

Last years champions Con Val is always tough and you have to bring your best to beat them. With the score tied 3-3 in the top of the 7th Cassidy Alger ignited the Souhegan bats with a hard shot down the LF line. The bases were loaded for Sam Allen who crushed one into the gap to give Souhegan a 6-3 lead. Hailey Yabroudy finished them off in the bottom of the 7th without any

excitement for Souhegan and came away with her 5th complete game and 7th win of the season.

In the circle, Hannah Cochran (5-0) and Hailey Yabroudy (7-4) are as strong as any pitching tandem in the division. They have been solid and steady keeping the opponents off balance by mixing speeds and breaking pitches and letting their defense do their job and keeping the Sabers in every game long enough for the offense to get it done. Hannah and Hailey have both said they pitch relaxed and with confidence knowing that the Sabers play as a team and that all their teammates have each other's back.

The team spirit is epitomized by the Team Manager Sarah LaFleur, an excellent athlete and softball player, who is focusing on her primary sport soccer this spring but wanted to do what she could to help and be a part of this team. Instead of taking a roster spot and playing time and showing up when she didn't have a conflict she chose to be the Team Manager and not play. She's been at pretty much every game and has been at most practices. "Why should I be able to take playing time away from someone who is fully committed to the team when I can't be". What a class act.

The Sabers Softball team is led by Senior Captains Abrie Davis, Val Mukai, Corie Sousa and Junior Captain Kaley Ahern. The Head Coach is former Souhegan stand out Andrea Crocker who is assisted by Tony Doucet and Rick (Papa Bear) Crocker. The Souhegan Sabers softball team is heading into the playoffs battle ready and full of confidence. Go SABERS!!!

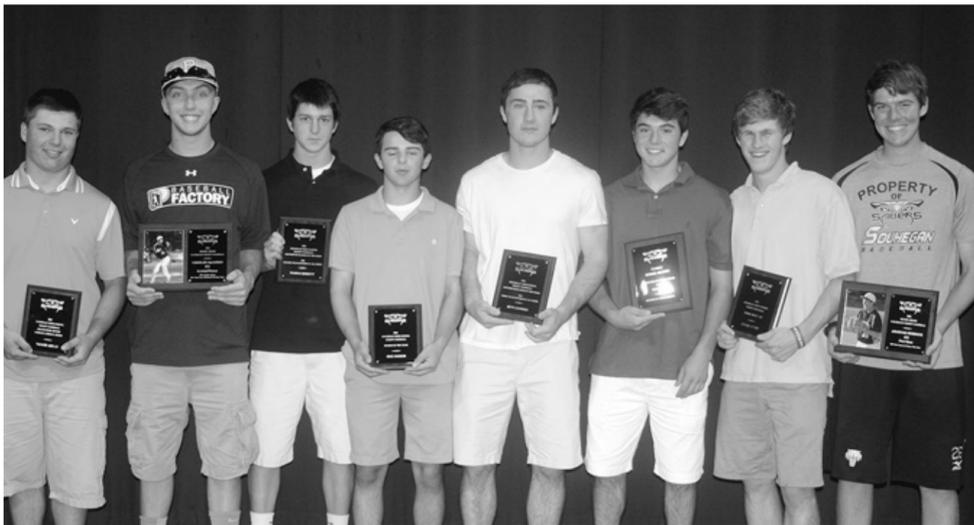


Seniors Val Mukai, Cori Sousa and Abrie Davis after completing a 12-4 season. They have been great leaders on and off the field.

Souhegan High School Baseball Celebrates 2014 Season at Awards Banquet – Honors Outstanding Contributions

(L to R): Tucker Aiello - Graduating Senior Underclassman Award
Chandler Mackenzie - 2014 Coaches' Award And 2014 Third Team Division II All State Team
Thomas Bennett - Defensive Player Of The Year And 2014 Second Team Division II All State Team
Mike Mancini - Rookie Of The Year
Seth Learned - Offensive Player Of The Year And 2014 First Team Division II All State Team
Sam Bannon - Sportsmanship Award
Stevie Upton - Theme Award - 212
Jonathan Robinson - Most Improved Player Of The Year

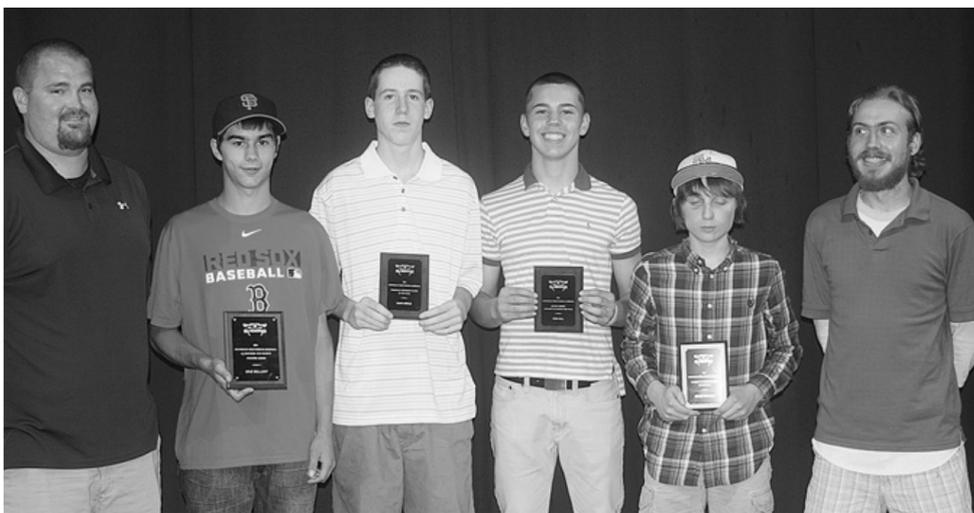
Missing from photo
Keith Mackenzie - Tim Richard Appreciation Award



(L to R): Seniors Bryce Knight - Chandler MacKenzie - Jonathan Robinson

(L to R): Junior Varsity Coach Robert Stump
Lyle Bellamy - A J Hinners Sub Varsity Coaches Award
Davis Biddle - Freshmen Offensive Player of the Year
Ryan Hill - Junior Varsity Offensive Player of the Year
Ethan Trzepacz - Freshmen Defensive Player of the Year
Freshmen Baseball Coach Neil Topliffe

Missing from photo
Alex Girard - Junior Varsity Pitcher of the Year



SHS Baseball Player of the Week

Each week, the Souhegan baseball team names a Player of the Week. In addition to demonstrating outstanding baseball skills in practices and games, the individual is a role model on and off the field.



THE TENTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK (week of May 26, 2014) for the 2014 season is presented to Jonathan Robinson. Jonathan is a senior, first baseman. Jonathan has been outstanding throughout the season. He has been instrumental in scooping and reaching and saving numerous throws throughout the season. His outstanding gloves continues to save the Saber infielders. Jonathan is an outstanding teammate. He will do anything to assist his teammates in any and all situations. He is a great teammate.