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CASHTON EAGLES CONFERENCE



PITCHER OF THE YEAR
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Schroeder named 2023 Pitcher of the Year

By Zach Rastall
Sports Writer

If you're going to win a conference championship, having a reliable presence in the circle for your softball team is obviously always a good place to start. The Cashton Eagles had that and then some for a campaign that saw them capture their first conference title since 2017.

Cashton sophomore Sarah Schroeder made life miserable for opposing batters throughout this spring, earning herself the honor of being named the 2023 Scenic Bluffs Pitcher of the Year.

"Sarah put a lot of time in this offseason to become the pitcher she is today," said Cashton head coach Clint Kramer. "She improved her accuracy while increasing her velocity. She has also developed a couple more pitches."

Schroeder was also one of three Cashton players to be named to this year's All-SBC first team, joined by the senior duo of shortstop Chelsie Paulsen and catcher Grace Leis. This was Paulsen's second straight appearance on the all-conference first team and the first for Leis, who was a second-team selection in both 2021 and 2022.

Rounding out the all-conference first team this season were Bangor senior shortstop Nora Tucker, Bangor senior outfielder Emma Fortier, Brookwood junior pitcher Vanessa Anderson, Brookwood sophomore catcher Deanna Wallace, Hillsboro senior shortstop Lily von Falkenstein, Hillsboro sophomore third baseman Michelyn Hansen (the 2023 SBC Player of the Year) and Wonewoc-Center junior outfielder Kelsey Justman.

Cashton junior third baseman Sydney Helgerson garnered her first career all-conference honors by landing on the All-SBC second team. The Eagles' honorable mentions for this year were junior Keona Mickelson and sophomore Sami Kleba.

Cashton won the 2023 conference championship with a 12-2 league record that left them one game ahead of Brookwood and its 11-3 mark in second. Hillsboro finished in third with a 10-4 conference record, Bangor was fourth at 9-5, Wonewoc-Center followed in fifth at 6-8, New Lisbon and Necedah each went 3-11 to tie for sixth and Royall was 2-12 to finish in eighth.

Butzler named 2023 Player of the Year

By Zach Rastall
Sports Writer

Cashton's Connor Butzler solidified his place as one of the best baseball players in the Scenic Bluffs Conference in 2022. His continued excellence and further progression only continued during his junior campaign this spring, resulting in him earning the SBC's top individual honor.

Butzler was named the 2023 Scenic Bluffs Player of the Year, capping off a superb spring where he played a key role in the Eagles posting a winning record for the seventh straight season. Butzler, who is both a pitcher and a versatile infielder for Cashton, also earned his second consecutive first-team all-conference selection. He was previously a second-team All-SBC pick as a freshman in 2021.

Joining Butzler among this year's group of first-team honorees was Cashton senior pitcher/third baseman Jack Kleba, who made the second team as a junior and was an honorable mention as a sophomore.

Joining that duo on the all-conference first team this season were Bangor junior pitcher/infielder Chase Horstman (the 2023 SBC Pitcher of the Year), Bangor sophomore infielder Bryce Peterson, Bangor junior outfielder Sam Cropp, Brookwood senior third baseman Evan Klinkner, Hillsboro senior catcher Billy Stekel, New Lisbon junior pitcher/first baseman Colin Schroeder, Royall junior catcher Tucker Wildes and Royall junior shortstop/pitcher Gunnar Wopat.

Representing Cashton on the all-conference second team in 2023 were a pair of players who saw time at both catcher and pitcher: senior Jacob Huntzicker and freshman Drew Butzler. Huntzicker previously earned his first all-conference honors last year as an honorable mention.

Rounding out the second-team selections were Bangor sophomore pitcher/infielder Eli Tucker, Bangor freshman outfielder Bryce Anderson, Brookwood junior shortstop Brady Hansen, Hillsboro sophomore outfielder Joseph Cairns, Hillsboro junior first baseman Isaiah Stokes, Necedah junior utility player Sam Rattunde and New Lisbon senior pitcher/catcher Carson Friske, Royall junior second baseman Tyrus Wildes and Wonewoc-Center sophomore pitcher/shortstop Reid Byrdy.

Cashton's picks among the all-conference honorable mentions for this season were the junior duo of Ethan Klinkner and Henry Brueggen.

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