

Softball

The bat of Blomberg

Wisconsin commit has hit 29 home runs for Wildcats in less than three seasons

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Senior Hilary Blomberg can be a difference-maker with one swing of the bat. That's why she may go down as one of the most prolific home run hitters in the history of the Verona softball program.

Blomberg has smashed 29 home runs – and counting – in less than three years with the Wildcats. Two years ago, she led the state with 16 home runs. Blomberg, a University of Wisconsin commit, has hit seven home runs and has 23 RBIs this season in 14 games. She is fifth in the state in home runs this year, one away from tying four other leaders.

She always seems to find a way to put the barrel of the bat on the ball. Blomberg didn't want to be renowned as just a power hitter. She has proved that she is one of the top overall hitters in the state. She is hitting .585 this season and hit .600 last year.

There is a lot that has gone into her developing into one of the premier hitters in the state. It's more than just swinging for the fences. She follows a stringent approach and is selective in hitting her pitch at the plate.

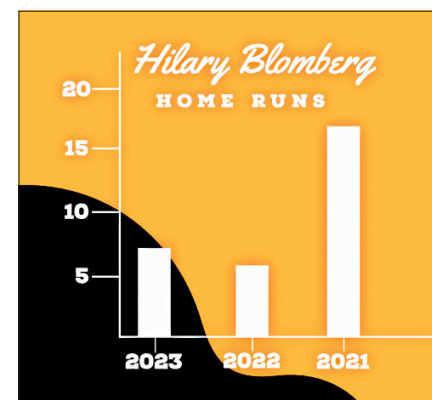
"I started using my legs and hips more so it (swing) wasn't all arms," she said. "I just found out how to use all of my body's power and not just arms."

When Blomberg comes up to bat, she places her feet about shoulder width apart with a slight bend of the knees as she crowds

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Photo by
Brian Marse

Verona senior Hilary Blomberg hits a third inning two-run home run against Waunakee on April 24, in Verona. Blomberg has hit 29 home runs as a Wildcat, including seven this season.



Graphic by Jack Miller

Wildcats extend win streak to nine games

Verona sweeps doubleheader from Janesville Craig

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Senior Hilary Blomberg hit three home runs to power the Verona softball team to a doubleheader sweep of Janesville Craig on Friday, May 5, at Verona Area High School.

Blomberg put a cap on a big week, in which the Wildcats extended their winning streak to nine straight games. Verona (12-4, 11-2 Big Eight) is one game behind Sun Prairie East in the hunt for a conference championship. Verona will host Sun Prairie East on Thursday, May 11, in Verona. It was a stretch of five straight home games and the Wildcats took advantage of the home-field advantage.

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“My mom helped push us further. She made it fun and was a good coach. Both my mom and dad would get me in softball camps ... they wanted me to learn everything, so I could pitch, catch and hit.”

Hilary Blomberg, Senior

Girls soccer

Verona rolls by Janesville Craig

Wildcats tied atop Big Eight with Madison West

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Both Verona senior Jenna Albert and sophomore Molly Armstrong scored two goals to power the Wildcats to a 7-0 Big Eight win over Janesville Craig on Thursday, May 4, at the Verona Area Soccer Stadium.

Verona (10-1, 5-0 Big Eight) scored four goals in the first half and rolled from there.

The Wildcats outshot the Cougars 19-1. Verona is tied with Madison West atop the conference.

“Our goal is to win conference again,” Albert said.

Armstrong said the other goal is not to give up a goal in conference play.

“It was a comeback to get the vibes up and show everyone, yeah we lost, but we are ready to come back and get going again,” Armstrong said.

Verona, ranked sixth in the Division 1 Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association state poll, then stymied Homestead 5-0 on Saturday, May 6, in the La Crosse Invitational.

Verona's game with Cedarburg, ranked sixth in Division 2, was rained out.

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Girls track and field

Wildcats run to Spartan title

Verona finishes first at Spartan Invitational with 152 points

JACK MILLER
Digital sports editor

The Verona girls track and field team won six events – including three relays – en route to winning the Spartan Invitational on Friday, May 5, at Mansfield Stadium in Madison.

Freshman Jady Gilbert won the 300-meter hurdles to help Verona to third at the Wild-Card Invitational on Tuesday, May 2, at Sun Prairie East High School.

Spartan Invitational

Verona racked up 152 points to finish first at the eight-team invitational. Stevens Point (119.5) and host Madison Memorial (102) took second and third, respectively.

Individual first-place finishes for Verona included junior Lilly Wepking in the 100 dash (12.86), junior Lexi Remiker in the 3,200 (11 minutes, 57.94 seconds) and sophomore Liz den Daas in the pole vault (9 feet, 9 inches).

The Wildcats also won the 400, 800 and 1,600 relays.

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Photo by Kevin Tebear

Verona's Lexi Remiker won the 3,200 at the Spartan Invitational on Friday, May 5, at Mansfield Stadium in Madison.



Photo illustration by Jack Miller