

SPORTS

All-Area Softball

Player of the Year



KARSON TUCK
WALKERSVILLE
JUNIOR ■ CATCHER

■ Had an amazing year at the plate, batting a county-best .661 with four homers, 12 doubles, five triples and 28 RBIs. In 74 at-bats, she only struck out twice.

■ Has the ability to excel at several positions. This year the Lions needed her behind the plate, and she didn't disappoint. She only gave up one stolen base and picked off eight baserunners. Her play helped the Lions reach the Class 2A State semifinals.

Coach of the Year



FRANK HUSSON
URBANA

■ With only three seniors on the roster, the Hawks had to rely on a load of young players. The youth movement didn't hold them back. Urbana reached the state tournament for the first time since 2000. The Hawks were even competitive in the Class 3A State semifinals, falling to Franklin, 7-4, in eight innings.

■ Urbana went 14-5 and knocked off quality county teams like Linganore — which was swept by the Hawks — and Thomas Johnson.

First Team

 KIM ANDERS LINGANORE SENIOR ■ PITCHER ■ Had a 0.56 ERA and 114 strikeouts in 84.3 IP en route to winning nine games; Batted .380	 JADE BOWINS THOMAS JOHNSON JUNIOR ■ INFIELD ■ Tough leadoff hitter who hit .548 and struck out just once; Excellent fielder and baserunner	 CASEY BURTNER MIDDLETOWN SENIOR ■ INFIELD ■ She ranked among the area's regular-season leaders in average (.486) and homers (2)	 JOY FRY LINGANORE SENIOR ■ OUTFIELD ■ Led the Lions with a .491 average and 13 RBIs	 STEPHANIE HUDLOW DAMASCUS SENIOR ■ OUTFIELD ■ Aside from batting .521, she was also a quality fielder who made just one error	 KRISTEN JUENGER URBANA SOPHOMORE ■ CATCHER ■ Big hit for the state semifinalist, hitting .433 with 2 HRs, 9 doubles, 3 triples and 22 RBIs
 VICTORIA LINTON THOMAS JOHNSON SENIOR ■ PITCHER ■ Had a 1.47 ERA, struck out 80 in 61.7 IP and won seven games; Batted .419	 ELLY MCCARTHY BRUNSWICK SENIOR ■ INFIELD ■ Batted a team-high .500; was a superb shortstop and alert baserunner	 STEPHANIE MCGRATH CATOCTIN SENIOR ■ OUTFIELD ■ Batted .385 and finished with 24 stolen bases for the MVAL Aristocrat champion	 ERIN MCCNALLY WALKERSVILLE SENIOR ■ PITCHER ■ Returning first-leaguer who went 14-4 and batted .460 to help the Lions make the states	 KATY MCCNALLY WALKERSVILLE SENIOR ■ INFIELD ■ Batted .424 and was a standout first baseman for the state semifinalist Lions	 ALEXA MURPHY URBANA FRESHMAN ■ PITCHER ■ Was clutch in regional playoffs, throwing a no-hitter and two three-hitters; Went 7-2 with 1.69 ERA

Second Team

Position	Name	School	Grade
P	Megan Alexander	Damascus	Senior
C	Shelly Blank	TJ	Junior
OF	Alli Chew	Linganore	Senior
OF	Michelle Clapp	TJ	Junior
OF	Cassie Clayborne	Damascus	Sophomore
IF	Tori Conrad	Walkersville	Freshman
C	Katie Denell	Damascus	Senior
IF	Kristen Fraley	Linganore	Senior
P	Megan Peomroy	Catoctin	Junior
IF	Erin Poffenberger	Frederick	Senior
C	Jenilyn Powers	Brunswick	Senior
IF	Jordyn Russo	Middletown	Junior
IF	Katie Sebbane	Urbana	Freshman
OF	Annie Wickett	Tuscarora	Sophomore
IF	Katelyn Wilkes	Urbana	Senior

Honorable Mention

Brunswick—Becky Kaler, **Catoctin**—Jess Little, Jamie LeCote, Megan Olson, Shannon Kelly, **Damascus**—Alli Part, Tori Daggan, **Linganore**—Ashley Crawford, Lauren Schatz, **Middletown**—Andi Christ, Kelli Thomas, **MSD**—Claire Tucker, Michelle Mansfield-Hom, Christy Hediger, **St. John's**—Mason Kersey, Abby Tighe, Meagan Deluzio, Kat Famoso, **TJ**—Jennifer Featherstone, Angela McDowell, **Tuscarora**—Kelsey Young, Vanessa Tarver, Ashley Buffano, Emily Wilson, **Urbana**—Rosalie Wilks, Nikki Lunn, Stephanie Murphy, **Walkersville**—Nikki Wamert, Jessica Cooper, Taylor Hudak.

It's official: the Ravens are Harbaugh's team now

A year ago, Ravens coach John Harbaugh was a rookie, leaving us to wonder how he was going to take control of this team. With such strong player personalities, the question was when this was going to become Harbaugh's team. After several minicamps and a rookie camp that was completed last week, it's official now. This is Harbaugh's team.

All you have to do is look at the recent camps and the offseason weight program. Most of them were highly attended and included such veterans as inside linebacker Ray Lewis and safety Ed Reed. When that happens, it's a reflection on the coach and his ability to impose his work ethic upon the players.

In years past, there was little doubt this was Lewis' team. But the Ravens have gradually taken away some of his control, and rightfully so. As a superstar gets older and his abilities start to diminish, he should relinquish some of his power. Lewis' was taken away, but in a decent and honorable manner. A lot of it was stripped away during offseason contract negotiations when Lewis failed to command a big payday on the open market.

This is still Lewis' defense, and it should be. He is the catalyst — and will be until he either retires or wears another uniform. There will be some tests for Harbaugh in the coming season, and he still has to deal with some feisty veterans. He still needs to improve how he talks to players. But at least now they know how far they can go before Harbaugh reels them in. Harbaugh has laid a solid foundation, and he has drafted players willing to adhere to his policies. It's Harbaugh's team.

No need for Reed experiment

I read recently that Ravens offensive coordinator Cam Cameron thought about using Reed as a wide receiver last year because of injuries to receivers Demetrius Williams and Derrick Mason and tight end Todd Heap.

I'm glad that idea never got off the drawing board. Cameron did an excellent job working with the material he had last season and was creative with the trick plays and the unbalanced line. But if he had used Reed as a receiver, and he had gotten hurt, that would have significantly damaged the defense. Reed was one of the best playmakers in the NFL

McClatchy Commentary

By **MIKE PRESTON**
The Baltimore Sun

last season despite struggling with neck and shoulder injuries. As a receiver, he would have been exposed to greater risk.

Sometimes, these offensive coordinators have a tendency to outsmart themselves when they are tinkering in the laboratory.

Regaining explosiveness is key for Heap

The biggest problem facing Heap is trying to regain explosiveness. The Ravens' offense is built on timing patterns. They don't do a lot of head-faking and juking when they run routes because they want to get to a certain spot as soon as possible. Without explosiveness, Heap has been slow getting off the line of scrimmage. That has to change before he becomes Pro Bowl-

caliber again, especially in this offense.

Gerard learns from Landry

Rookie safety-cornerback K.J. Gerard has been impressive, and it's interesting that the veteran to have the most impact on Gerard has been fellow safety Dawan Landry. Reed has taught Gerard, and Gerard likes being in the same huddle with Lewis.

But Landry draws most of his attention.

"Not only does he have a strong work ethic on the field, but he is quite impressive off the field, as well," said Gerard, a free agent from Northern Arizona. "I wasn't aware of him before I got here, but he is a first-class person all the way around."

Foxworth learns to 'play like a Raven'

Here's an interesting story about new Ravens cornerback Dominique Foxworth: Apparently, Foxworth got off to a slow start at the first Ravens minicamp. He must have thought he was still playing for the Denver Broncos because he was playing soft coverage on the

Ravens' receivers.

Neither Harbaugh nor new defensive coordinator Greg Mattison had to say a word to Foxworth. A couple of veterans on defense reminded Foxworth that he was playing for the Ravens and not Denver. They told him he had to pick up his game, and to attack, instead of being attacked.

Foxworth got the message, and the coaching staff has been pleased with his play ever since. Coaches like to use a lot of clichés, but there is truth to the term "play like a Raven" when it comes to defense.

Next man up? Look for Gooden

I already have my choice for the Ravens' breakout player in 2010: inside linebacker Tavares Gooden. It's a shame he missed 11 games last season, his rookie year, with an ankle injury and had to go on injured reserve.

But you have to like his enthusiasm. He plays as hard in practice as he does in games, and that puts him in the same classification as Lewis and defensive tackle Kelly Gregg when it comes to work ethic.

Give him another year in the weight room, and he could become a beast.