

One Run Decision

Flint throws shut out in regional final

“One more out,” graduate Emily Flint thought, “One more.”

Flint was six and two thirds into the sub-state final game against East. Runners on the corners. One wild pitch would tie the game up at one. Flint wound up and threw. A ground-out ended it. She pitched a four-hit shutout to send Johnston to their sixth straight state tournament in the 1-0 win.

A perennial softball power, the team started the year ranked sixth. Coach Todd Merial knew that a lot of last year’s team was gone, but believed this group knew how to win.

“I was real pleased considering how many new faces we had in the lineup compared to the year before because we had a big number that graduated,” Merial said.

Led by star pitcher Flint, Johnston started out the season to a 24-8 record leading into the crosstown double header at Urbandale for the conference title. The girls ended up losing both and watching their rival celebrate winning the conference. Two straight losses right before substate could have been devastating to the team. Instead, it motivated them.

“They regrouped and they were ready to go when it came regionals time,” Merial said. “For them to be able to bounce back like they did, that was impressive. So yeah, they turned a negative at the end of the year into a positive.”

Two days later they ended the regular season with a 12-6 rout of Dowling Catholic. Then, they beat Lincoln in the second round of regionals. They thought they would be playing Waukee next, but East upset Waukee.

“The game (against East) is one of my favorite games I have ever played,” Flint said. She described it as intense. Junior Abbie Thilges hit in the only run of the game with a fourth inning double.

“We were working every day and pushing ourselves harder and harder until we finally got to hold the ticket punched poster and another state qualifier banner for the sixth year in a row,” Flint said.

A rough first inning against Valley and another loss ended their state title hopes, but the team had reached its goal. They had made it to Fort Dodge.

Graduate Alisha Rusch looks to the outfield after rounding first base during a game with East. Rusch hit .373 for the season with 38 hits, the second most on the team. (photo by Lennie Norris)



1. Graduate Emily Flint starts her windup during a game against Lincoln. Flint pitched 140 2/3 of the 240 innings pitched with an ERA of 1.59. She earned Honorable Mention All-State honors. (photo by Julia Merritt)

2. Trying to advance base runners, sophomore Chloe Fehn bunts down the left field line during the East game. Fehn had 30 hits on the season and a .319 batting average. (photo by Lennie Norris)

3. Graduate Emma Ford singles to centerfield in a game against Lincoln. Ford walked 21 times during the season, the most on the team. (photo by Julia Merritt)

4. Running full speed to home, senior Katie Frazier concentrates on touching the plate in the Lincoln game. She scored the run. (photo by Julia Merritt)

5. Between innings of the Lincoln game, graduate Kaylee Sly runs back from touching the fence. The players sometimes ran to keep warmed up. (photo by Julia Merritt)



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64 Softball

Story By: Staff
Captions By: Julia Merritt

Special Instructions



- Ankeny W 11-2
- Ankeny W 9-0
- DSM Hoover W 17-2
- DSM Roosevelt W 15-2
- Lewis Central W 10-0
- Boone W 4-0
- Southeast Polk L 2-5
- Mason City W 11-3
- Mason City W 5-4
- Ballard W 7-1
- Urbandale W 10-6
- Urbandale W 7-4
- Dowling Catholic L 2-3
- Dowling Catholic L 7-8
- Ames W 8-2
- Marshalltown W 9-0
- Marshalltown L 2-5
- Fort Dodge W 10-2
- Fort Dodge W 13-3
- Ankeny Centennial W 15-5
- Ankeny Centennial W 5-1
- Mason City W 8-3
- Davenport Assumption W 8-0
- Pleasant Valley W 4-1
- Marshalltown W 5-1
- Marshalltown W 9-0
- Cedar Rapids Kennedy W 18-5
- North Scott Eldridge W 8-7
- Fort Dodge W 20-1
- Fort Dodge W 9-1
- DSM Roosevelt W 17-2
- DSM Lincoln L 2-3
- Dowling Catholic W 8-2
- Dowling Catholic W 8-0
- Southeast Polk W 6-5
- DSM East W 7-3
- Waukee W 5-0
- DSM North W 15-0
- Sioux City East W 10-0
- Cedar Rapids Washington L 5-7

Marshalltown Tornado Relief



In early July 2018, a wave of tornadoes swept through Marshalltown, tearing through buildings and homes. Around 17 people were injured and many lives were affected from the tornado.

Senior Sophia Maras was reading news articles when she decided something needed to be done to help Marshalltown. She gathered the softball girls and started a charity car wash. They were able to raise \$700 and help the people of Marshalltown.



Mod By: Jaylin Thorn
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WORK ORDER

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Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

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