

SJ Sports Awards finalists unveiled



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Kennedy senior Bishop Mitchell competes in the 100-meter dash in the Regis Twilight Track and Field Meet at Regis High School in Stayton on May 5.

BILL POEHLER
STATESMAN JOURNAL

There are some big names that will be on hand for the Statesman Journal Sports Awards, and not just names like Mia Hamm and Joey Harrington.

This is a full list of all the nominees in all categories for the July 6 event at the Salem Convention Center.

From the three finalists in each category, one will be awarded the athlete of the year for each high school sport, and the event will be capped off by the awards for coach of the year, male athlete of the year and female athlete of the year.

In addition, the 2017 version of the Capitol Cup will be awarded to the top high school sports program in the Mid-Valley based upon a point system of results from throughout the school year. The race for the Capitol Cup is so tight, we can't say who the final schools are for the prestigious award.

STATESMAN JOURNAL SPORTS AWARDS

* **What:** Statesman Journal Sports Awards

* **When:** June 6, 2017

* **Where:** Salem Convention Center

* **Tickets:**
www.statesmanjournal.com/sportsaward

Nominees must reserve their tickets at <http://stjr.nl/nominee>

For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, go to StatesmanJournal.com/SportsAwards.

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Boys athlete of the year

Tanner Earhart, senior, Dallas
Teagan Quitarano, junior, Sprague
Bishop Mitchell, senior, Kennedy

Girls athlete of the year

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PHOTOS BY MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Kennedy's Emily Frey slides into home for another run against Gaston in a first-round playoff game on May 24 at Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel. Kennedy defeated Gaston 15-2 after five innings.

Kennedy opens with barrage



Kennedy's Rebecca Pranger runs for home plate in a first-round playoff game against Gaston.

No. 1 seed dominates 2A/1A softball tournament opener

GARY HOROWITZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

MT. ANGEL - No. 1 seed Kennedy opened the OSAA Class 2A/1A state softball tournament with plenty of offensive firepower.

The Trojans (18-5) pounded out 13 hits en route to a 15-2 first-round victory over No. 16 seed Gaston on May 24 at Kennedy High School. The game was called after the top of the fifth inning due to the 10-run rule.

Kennedy took command early by scoring four runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Trojans also had four-run innings in the second and third, staking junior pitcher Tressa Riedman

to a 12-0 lead.

Riedman didn't allow a base runner until the fourth inning.

"Scoring a lot of runs and a great defense behind you just helps you pitch your best," said Riedman, who helped her own cause with a towering solo homer in the fourth inning.

Kennedy, the Tri-River Conference champions, hosts No. 9 seed Monroe on Friday in the state quarterfinals.

"We hit well today," Kennedy coach Walt Simmons said. "We hit a little better today than we have overall and the bottom of the order came through."

Senior right-fielder Rebecca Pranger

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Alex Molloy of Silverton to play softball at Hamline

BILL POEHLER
STATESMAN JOURNAL

SILVERTON - Most people, especially those who play warm weather sports, are afraid of going to college in cold weather states.

Alex Molloy embraced it. When she visited Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota in December the weather was sunny and clear the first day she got there. It changed fast.

"I was staying with one of the softball players, I just went out and went, oh my goodness," Molloy said. "I loved it. I love the snow. In the summer it gets really hot from what my coach said."

Molloy signed a Celebratory Signing Form May 23 to play softball at Hamline. The senior pitcher was second-team

all-state selection as a sophomore and twice has been a first-team all-Mid-Wilamette Conference selection.

Of course softball was an important factor in Molloy deciding on Hamline, but so was the area in which she plans to study.

She is majoring in psychology with a focus in neural rehabilitation, something that hits home for her.

"My brother (Austin), he got a really bad concussion his freshman year playing baseball and he had to go up to OHSU and he actually met with a neural rehabilitation psychologist, and that's what made me want to become one when I was able to see how she was able to help my brother," Molloy said.

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BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silverton senior Alex Molloy, center, signed to play softball at Hamline University on May 23.