

# SPORTS

## Strikeouts hitting almost 400



Fastpitch pitcher Katie Weiss plays in 100 softball games every year.

VANCOUVER, WA — Life in the strike zone has been good for 17-year-old fastpitch pitcher Katie Weiss. During her four years at Columbia River High, she has struck out almost 400 players.

A 5-foot-11-inch senior, Katie had grown up with the sport, following four older sisters to the diamond. She started throwing when she was 12.

"When I started playing softball, it seemed like everybody wanted to be a pitcher," she remembers. "The first two years I pitched, I would just push the ball and try and get it across the plate," she remembers. With the help of a pitching coach, she's now able to zing pitches across the plate at 58 miles per hour.

"I don't like to think of myself as being up there because there's more pressure if I think I'm good," she says. But Katie's pitching numbers tell her story. Last year she sent 137 batters to the dugout with strikeouts. There is no Washington state fastpitch championship tourney, but her team has won the next best thing: three consecutive district titles. This year Katie's 8-0, including two no-hitters.

Columbia's coach Ed Maxwell says she is one of the best-ever Washington pitchers. "Katie's not only a good athlete, but also a great young lady. She enjoys life and can brighten up anybody's day," Maxwell says.

Katie plays softball year-round. During the summer she plays on a AAA girls' team that has gone to nationals the last two years. Each time her team finished in the top ten. "I think it's more fun to play an awesome team at nationals because you don't know much about them. That makes the game more of a challenge." And Katie is always up to a good challenge. Her next is playing college ball.



During the NBA All-Star game, fun-loving Magic Johnson (left) laughs with his good friend Isiah Thomas. Thomas plays for the Detroit Pistons.

## He's Magic on and off the court

Magic Johnson says he'd be having fun even if he wasn't playing basketball. "I was happy and life was fun before I had all this, so I know I would have been happy if I never got it," he adds.

Johnson is the Los Angeles Lakers' 6-foot-9-inch superstar. He joined the NBA after he led his Michigan State University team to the 1979 NCAA championship. He was a college sophomore at the time.

Right now, he's working on the Lakers' fourth NBA title. Johnson helped win the team's three titles in the past seven years. His ultimate goal, says Johnson, is not to set basketball records, but to make sure kids are happy.

Johnson spends a lot of time with kids. He sponsors a kids' reading program in his hometown of Lansing, Michigan, and has helped raise \$300,000 for the United Negro College Fund. Johnson spends the most time with kids at basketball camps. "I want to be visible and there for the kids so they can touch me and laugh with me,

so they'll know I'm real and not just a person on a screen."

Johnson says family and friends are most important to him. His dad, Earvin Sr., is Johnson's idol. Some of his best NBA friends are Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics, Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons and Mark Aguirre of the Dallas Mavericks.

### Magic's scorecard

- Named 1986-87 NBA Player of the Year.
- Named to All-NBA first team last four years
- In 1980 he was the first rookie to be named MVP in the NBA playoffs
- Named MVP again in 1982
- Led NBA in steals in '81 and '82
- He dished out the most assists in '83, '84 and '86
- He likes pizza, chicken and swordfish but doesn't like liver or cabbage
- His six-bedroom home in California has racquetball and basketball courts

## spectacular sports

Caryl Smith of George Washington High (Denver, Colorado) ran the girls 100 meters in 11.59 seconds for the USA's second-fastest high school girls' time.

The school district in Orient, Oregon, has punted football out of its middle school and kicked in a soccer program.

Janet Smith from Booker T. Washington High (Shreveport, LA) has the second best USA girls' discus throw with a toss of 167'9".

Christian Brothers Academy (Lincroft, NJ) has won its 500th boys' tennis team victory this season. In 25 seasons the school is 500-34.

Brian Shorter, a 6-foot-7-inch senior at Oak Hill Academy (Mouth of Wilson, VA), led his West team with 24 points to win the 10th Annual McDonald's All-American High School Basketball Game.



Brian Shorter, with the ball, meets a tall Sean Higgins at the basket.

## 2nd Annual Junior CROSS-COUNTRY Challenge

Monday, May 25th

FREE TO ALL BOYS & GIRLS

No experience needed

at Tualatin Hills Sports Complex  
Soccer fields N.W. 158th & Walker Rd.

### Schedule

2:00 p.m. Course opens, registration, clinic & warm-up

3:00 p.m. 5th & 6th grades: 1600 meter (1 mile)

4:00 p.m. 7th & 8th grades: 2000 meter (1.25 mile)

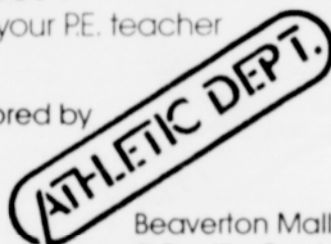
Ribbons to all registered finishers

Call the Athletic Dept. for entries

646-0691

or ask your PE. teacher

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