

Boyd leads U-M pitching staff

BY KEN VOYLES

For Jan Boyd transferring from Eastern Michigan University to the University of Michigan is the best thing that has happened to her athletic career since she was voted all-league honors as a senior at Salem High School.

Boyd, a junior at U-M and 1979 graduate of Salem, is one of two star pitchers the Wolverines hope to use effectively during this weekend's Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) World Series on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

The Wolverines will open the double elimination tourney, involving 13 of the top teams in the country, tomorrow night. U-M is rated fourth among the teams.

Boyd, a right-hander, is 12-3 thus far for U-M. She hopes to start tomorrow but knows if she doesn't she will get at least one chance on the mound before the tourney ends on Sunday.

Among the teams Boyd might face are the top three rated teams, Texas A & M, University of California at Berkley and the University of Utah. U-M is currently 29-12 overall.

"The whole team is really excited. I can't believe we're going to the national championships. We never thought at the start of the year this would happen to our team," Boyd said Monday before leaving for the tourney.

Boyd was an all-league pitcher in her senior year at Salem. Her squad won districts that year. Boyd played three years under Salem coach Livi Way, but wasn't a pitching starter until her junior season. She also played basketball at Salem.

"This is the first time U-M has gone anywhere for softball. I hope it doesn't end early," said Boyd.

After graduating from Salem, Boyd spent two years at EMU in Ypsilanti. "I got to pitch a lot in my freshman year at Eastern," she said. "As a sophomore I wasn't given the opportunity to pitch so when the chance to transfer to U-M came I jumped at it."

Boyd said she was unhappy not pitching her second year at EMU. At five feet four inches in height and 115 pounds she was considered to small by her coach to continue pitching.

"I always wanted to pitch softball in college but never thought I might pitch in nationals," she said. "Our team has really been good this year. We give a lot of credit to our coach."

U-M is coached by Bob DeCarolis. "I get a lot of support at home from my dad (Robert) and my coach at U-M. He showed me various pitches and helped me work on the ones I already knew."

Boyd says her favorite pitch is the rise pitch. She said, "I don't overpower hitting. I'm most confident with my rise pitch." Boyd also throws a drop pitch, a change up and an occasional fast ball.

To reach the world series the Wolverines had to win the AIAW regionals the weekend of May 8-9. In the regionals U-M defeated Northern Illinois, then;

knocked off Central Michigan University. CMU came back to win the next game and force another match between the two teams.

U-M won that game 4-0 behind Boyd's three-hitter. Boyd also pitched the other win over CMU that weekend.

This year Boyd has pitched 18 games, started 15 and completed 12. She has pitched 101 innings, given up 60 hits, 15 runs, 21 walks and struck out 64. Her ERA is 0.42.

Boyd also plays summer softball under her father with Oasis Golf Course. Her parents live in Plymouth Township.

Rock women runners gear for regions

Salem High's women's track squad geared up for regionals this Friday with a strong third place finish at the Redford Union Relays on Saturday.

The Rocks scored 50 and a half points while Farmington Mercy won the relays with 60 points and Westland John Glenn was second with 56.

Salem scored three first places during the weekend event.

The threesome of Dawn Johnson, Ann Glomski and Kelly Bemiss won the long jump relay with a combined total of 43 feet 10 and a half inches.

Cheri Muneior, Karen Tanski and Sue Remer were first in the discus relay. Muneior broke her own school record set last week with a toss of 113 feet nine inches, while Tanski threw 98 feet and Remer 80 feet 10 inches.

The 440-yard relay of Glomski, Mary Dazer, Bemiss and Johnson clocked 51.7 seconds for Salem's other first place.

The Rocks were fifth in the four mile relay as Lisa Trahey, Ruth Ettinger, Kim Lybarger and Pam Hodge clocked 26:57.

Glomski, Dazer, Bemiss and Johnson clocked 1:49.4 for third place in the 880-yard relay, while Lori Grissom, Carol Lindsay, Shelly Simons and Lybarger clocked 10:16 for third in the two mile relay.

Johnson scored a third in the 100-yard dash, 12 seconds, while Grissom, Simons, Glomski and Lybarger clocked 4:18 to tie for sixth place with Redford Union in the mile relay.

On Friday, regionals will be held at Brighton High School with field events slated to start at 3 p.m. and running events at 6 p.m.

Earlier last week the Rocks defeated Suburban Eight League foe Belleville, 78-45.

Salem coach Scott Kurtz said he expects his 440 and 880-yard relays to do fairly well. He added that Johnson had a good chance in the 100 or 220 dashes, Muneior in the discus and Glomski in the long jump.

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