



**SOFTBALL** Text by Steve Gorton

**CLASS 8A-7A-6A FIRST TEAM**

**SHANNON ALLEN**  
Cooper City senior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .459 BA, .524 OBP, .703 slugging pct., 25 R, 17 RBI  
**Comment:** The four-year starter, who smacked a grand slam against McArthur, helped Cowboys win district title and reach regional semifinals.

**BRIDGET BLOUNT**  
Pembroke Pines Charter junior. **Pos.:** OF  
**Stats:** .439 BA, 20 RBI  
**Comment:** One of the team's leaders and best hitters, the versatile right-fielder helped the 2012 6A state champs reach the state final.

**RACHEL COLLINS**  
St. Thomas Aquinas junior. **Pos.:** SS  
**Stats:** .417 BA, 35 H, 29 R, 14 SB, 0.925 OPS  
**Comment:** The two-year starter, who led Raiders in hitting, had an RBI double in sixth inning for lone run in 7A championship.

**LEXI DIEMMANUELE**  
Cypress Bay sophomore. **Pos.:** OF  
**Stats:** .494 BA, 31 R, 38 RBI, 5 HR, .792 slugging pct.  
**Comment:** Speedy center fielder, also first-team pick last year, was the Lightning's leader in runs. Also had 22 triples and 13 stolen bases.

**VICTORIA GONZALEZ**  
Pembroke Pines Charter senior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .467 BA, 6 HR, 20 RBI  
**Comment:** Also first-team pick last year, versatile second baseman was team's top hitter before season-ending knee injury in regional final. Signed with Palm Beach Atlantic.

**MADDIE GOTT**  
Cypress Bay junior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .383 BA, 30 RBI, .400 OBP, .632 slugging pct., .886 fielding pct.  
**Comment:** The second baseman, a three-year starter, was 4-for-4 with a home run in regional semifinal vs. Taravelle and hit three-run HR in win vs. American Heritage.

**KATIE KALASUNAS**  
Westminster senior. **Pos.:** P  
**Stats:** 16-5, 1.58 ERA, 112 Ks, 426 BA, 20 R, 1 HR  
**Comment:** The four-year starter, who has signed with Coastal Carolina, was the Wildcats' heart-and-soul, the team's ace and best offensive player.

**MEGHAN KING**  
St. Thomas Aquinas junior. **Pos.:** P  
**Stats:** 12-4, 0.83 ERA, 120 Ks  
**Comment:** In the team's final three games, King pitched 23 scoreless innings while allowing just five hits. She has verbally committed to Maryland.

**SARAH MALONEY**  
Cypress Bay junior. **Pos.:** P  
**Stats:** 11-3, 1.36 ERA, 120 Ks  
**Comment:** The team's ace and three-year starter led the Lightning to the Class 8A final.

**SAMANTHA SHARKEY**  
St. Thomas Aquinas senior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .333 BA, 9 RBI, 0.897 OPS  
**Comment:** The second baseman, a four-year starter, had game-winning hit in ninth inning of 1-0 walk-off win against Harmony in state semifinals.

**BETHANY WILLIAMS**  
Cooper City junior. **Pos.:** C  
**Stats:** .373 BA, .560 OBP, .627 slugging pct., 14 RBI, 23 R  
**Comment:** An All-State player last year, Williams, with prodigious power, had an intimidating presence at the plate and behind for Cowboys.

**KAITLYN WOODRUFF**  
Archbishop McCarthy senior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .547 BA, .715 OBP, 18 RBI  
**Comment:** The shortstop, a four-year starter, was the Mavericks' top hitter and run producer, using her speed on the bases to help create offense.

**SECOND TEAM**

Claire Blount	Pem. Pines Charter	Fr.	P
Stephanie Chaiser	Archbishop McCarthy	Sr.	C
Stacy Collins	Monarch	Soph.	INF
Olivia Gott	Cypress Bay	Sr.	C
Sommer Grzybek	Cooper City	Fr.	INF
Hailey Leonard	Douglas	Sr.	INF
Fallon McLaughlin	Cooper City	Sr.	OF
Madison Mihok	Monarch	Jr.	INF
Erica Nori	St. Thomas Aquinas	Sr.	INF
Megan Obier	West Broward	Soph.	INF
Stephanie Sobolewski	St. Thomas Aquinas	Sr.	OF
Jessica Trana	South Plantation	Soph.	INF
Alex Voss	Coral Springs	Soph.	INF

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**Archbishop McCarthy:** Jillian Depalo, Kaitlyn Ortigas, Alena Spelman, Elzabeth Vozquez; **Baldwin:** Margaret Mott; **Bay County:** Kayla Taylor; **Bradford:** Jennifer Stinson; **Calhoun:** Taylor Smith; **Central:** Britany Holder, Ashley Larson, Morgan Noonan, Jessica Williams; **Chapman:** Katelyn Taylor; **Clay:** Taylor Smith; **Clay County:** Taylor Smith; **Collier:** Taylor Smith; **DeSoto:** Taylor Smith; **Duval:** Taylor Smith; **Flagler:** Taylor Smith; **Franklin:** Taylor Smith; **Hamilton:** Taylor Smith; **Harney:** Taylor Smith; **Jefferson:** Taylor Smith; **Leon:** Taylor Smith; **Levy:** Taylor Smith; **Liberty:** Taylor Smith; **Lake:** Taylor Smith; **Lake County:** Taylor Smith; **Lake Wales:** Taylor Smith; **Madison:** Taylor Smith; **Maitland:** Taylor Smith; **Melbourne:** Taylor Smith; **Merritt Island:** Taylor Smith; **Monroe:** Taylor Smith; **Neptune:** Taylor Smith; **Orange:** Taylor Smith; **Osceola:** Taylor Smith; **Ozama:** Taylor Smith; **Polk:** Taylor Smith; **Putnam:** Taylor Smith; **St. Johns:** Taylor Smith; **St. Leonards:** Taylor Smith; **St. Lucie:** Taylor Smith; **St. Volusia:** Taylor Smith; **Seminole:** Taylor Smith; **Sumter:** Taylor Smith; **Talbot:** Taylor Smith; **Union:** Taylor Smith; **Volusia:** Taylor Smith; **Wakulla:** Taylor Smith; **Washington:** Taylor Smith; **Wesley Chapel:** Taylor Smith; **Wesley Springs:** Taylor Smith; **Wetumpka:** Taylor Smith; **Yamhill:** Taylor Smith; **Yulee:** Taylor Smith.

**COACH OF THE YEAR**

**BRYAN BAUCOM**  
St. Thomas Aquinas  
**Record:** 22-5  
**Comment:** In his 19th year, Baucum led the Raiders to their first state championship since winning back-to-back in 2002-03 and was named the state's Coach of the Year by Florida Dairy Farmers. St. Thomas defeated Tampa-Freedom 1-0 in the 7A final. Season highlights included winning the prestigious Kissimmee Classic and rallying from a 6-1 deficit in the fifth inning to beat Cooper City 5-6 in the regional semifinals, which really took a whole team effort for us to get through," Baucum said. "They were unselfish. It was a team that was not worried about their stats," Baucum added. "There was an ego problem. Just a great group of kids to be around every day."

**GWEN SVEKIS**

8A-7A-6A Player of the Year  
St. Thomas Aquinas junior

**Season highlights:** St. Thomas' superb catcher batted 407 with 34 RBI, 9 HR and 19 extra-base hits with a 1.351 OPS. In the season opener, Svekis hit two home runs against eventual 8A state-runner up Cypress Bay. She was named top offensive player of the Blue bracket in the Kissimmee Classic, going 3-for-12, including 3-for-3 with a HR in the championship against Ocoola. In the playoffs, she was 10-for-23 with three doubles, four home runs and 13 RBI, as well as an on-base-plus-slugging percentage of 1.568. Svekis said she was motivated by matching the greatness of teammate, pitcher Meghan King. "I really give a lot of credit to my team because we really were like a family this year, and when you have all that support, you feel more free to try your hardest because if you make a mistake, everyone's there to back you up."

**Comment:** Svekis, a University of Oregon commitment, was behind the plate for all but three of the team's 173 innings this season and was also an imposing presence offensively. "She played her best in the big games and she handled the game very well behind the plate. We had full trust in her," said St. Thomas coach Bryan Baucum. "She's one of those special kids that don't come around very often. We haven't had a kid like that since Claire Sue in 2000." Svekis, a three-time first-team selection, finished second in the state for Dairy Farmers Class 7A Player of the Year.

**I GIVE HATS OFF FOR MY ATHLETIC SUCCESS TO:** "... my family because my sister is my best friend and always supports me, my mom has given me more help and motivation than I could ever dream of, and my dad never lets me get complacent and has helped me so much with setting up my future on and off the field."

**JENNA GOODRICH**

5A-4A-3A-2A Player of the Year  
American Heritage sophomore

**Season highlights:** The pitcher, who finished 14-3 with a 0.83 ERA and 129 strikeouts, fired a two-hitter against Englewood-Lemon Bay in a 5-1 regional final win that propelled the Patriots to the Class 5A state semifinals. She allowed just five hits in the 2-0 semifinal loss to St. Johns-Creekside, but a bloop single scored both runs. She was impressive in both the Gulliver Prep SlamFest and Park Vista tournaments. "I really enjoyed myself. I had a great team that backed me up throughout the whole season," said Goodrich, who is interested in Florida and Oklahoma. "I definitely thought this was my best year I've ever played. I really love the girls at Heritage and the coaching staff. I couldn't ask for anything more."

**Comment:** In her first season at Heritage after transferring from Archbishop McArthur, Goodrich emerged as the team's ace due to an injury to Alyssa Enrique and the departure of another top pitcher before the season. The extensive workload was "very surprising," Goodrich noted, but something she embraced. "I never thought I would have as many innings as I did. It was a blessing." Goodrich was at her best when her go-to pitch, her changeup, was working. "She was one of the big reasons we got to where we did," Cooper said. "She competed at the highest level all year long and we're proud of her. On the mound, she was very tenacious. You couldn't shake her." He added, "She was a good teammate and hard worker, all the things that somebody's player of the year should be."

**I GIVE HATS OFF FOR MY ATHLETIC SUCCESS TO:** "... my grandpa because he was always so supportive of me and came to all of my games. He passed away two years ago and it was a very tragic event for all of my family. He is still my No. 1 fan."

**CLASS 5A-4A-3A-2A FIRST TEAM**

**GIANNA ARRIZURIETA**  
American Heritage senior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .516 BA, 25 RBI, 21 R, 10 doubles, 12 RBI  
**Comment:** A three-time first-team selection, the third baseman had four RBI in the district championship and helped lead Patriots' run to state semis.

**ASHLEY BELANS**  
American Heritage junior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .451 BA, 31 RBI, 23 R, 4 HR, 6 SB  
**Comment:** The shortstop, a three-year starter and Florida International commit, led the Patriots in runs scored and batted in.

**HEATHER BRAMOS**  
Coral Springs Charter senior. **Pos.:** P  
**Stats:** 14-5, 1.81 ERA, 144 Ks  
**Comment:** Four-year starter, who has signed with Broward College, was steady force in pitching circle as Panthers reached new heights as program.

**SHELBY GILREATH**  
Calvary Christian senior. **Pos.:** C  
**Stats:** .638 BA, 4 HR, 33 RBI, 19 R  
**Comment:** The six-year starter helped lead Calvary to a district title and smacked two home runs in a 3-3 regional quarterfinal win.

**CASEY HUBER**  
Coral Springs Charter sophomore. **Pos.:** OF  
**Stats:** .518 BA, 29 RBI, 32 R, 22 SB  
**Comment:** The lefty slap-hitter, a first-year starter, hit third in lineup, led Panthers in steals and tied for team lead in RBI.

**GABRIELA MARTINEZ**  
University School senior. **Pos.:** C  
**Stats:** .556 BA, 35 R, 29 RBI, 10 doubles, 3 HR, 17 SB, 307 slugging pct.  
**Comment:** Also first-team pick last year, the Sun's top hitter and four-year starter was a stellar mainstay behind and at the plate.

**SECOND TEAM**

Sarah Angulo	American Heritage	Sr.	C
Casey Cruzpino	Pine Crest	Jr.	C/DH
Gina Dalgie	Pompano Beach	Sr.	INF
Linette Flores	University School	So.	P
Jenna Ghibaudo	University School	So.	INF
Meagan Lantz	North Broward Prep	So.	INF
Madeline McGuire	Pompano Beach	Jr.	INF
Danica McCabe	Cham-Madonna	Jr.	P
Lauren Newmark	American Heritage	Jr.	C/INF
Melissa Rini	American Heritage	Fr.	OF
Brianna Stella	Coral Springs Charter	Fr.	OF
Alba Valdes	Highlands Christian	Jr.	INF
Jackie Yao	Cham-Madonna	So.	OF

**HONORABLE MENTION**

**American Heritage:** Jessie Brown, Madison Gabry, 97Kia Casaday, Alyssa Enrique; **Calhoun:** Cameron Chang, Tina Deibel, Sarah Hancock, Katelyn Nevels, Mia Web; **Chambers:** Savannah Moore; **Chapman:** Taylor Smith; **Clay:** Taylor Smith; **Clay County:** Taylor Smith; **Collier:** Taylor Smith; **DeSoto:** Taylor Smith; **Duval:** Taylor Smith; **Flagler:** Taylor Smith; **Franklin:** Taylor Smith; **Leon:** Taylor Smith; **Levy:** Taylor Smith; **Liberty:** Taylor Smith; **Lake:** Taylor Smith; **Lake County:** Taylor Smith; **Lake Wales:** Taylor Smith; **Madison:** Taylor Smith; **Maitland:** Taylor Smith; **Melbourne:** Taylor Smith; **Merritt Island:** Taylor Smith; **Monroe:** Taylor Smith; **Neptune:** Taylor Smith; **Orange:** Taylor Smith; **Osceola:** Taylor Smith; **Ozama:** Taylor Smith; **Polk:** Taylor Smith; **Putnam:** Taylor Smith; **St. Johns:** Taylor Smith; **St. Leonards:** Taylor Smith; **St. Lucie:** Taylor Smith; **St. Volusia:** Taylor Smith; **Seminole:** Taylor Smith; **Sumter:** Taylor Smith; **Talbot:** Taylor Smith; **Union:** Taylor Smith; **Volusia:** Taylor Smith; **Wakulla:** Taylor Smith; **Washington:** Taylor Smith; **Wesley Chapel:** Taylor Smith; **Wesley Springs:** Taylor Smith; **Wetumpka:** Taylor Smith; **Yamhill:** Taylor Smith; **Yulee:** Taylor Smith.

**SHEA MELTON**  
American Heritage senior. **Pos.:** OF  
**Stats:** .431 BA, 21 RBI  
**Comment:** The four-year starter, who has signed with Broward College, was a potent lefty in the lineup and steady presence in center field.

**ERICA PAVLO**  
Cardinal Gibbons junior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .459 BA, 34 RBI, 28 H, 24 R, 7 HR  
**Comment:** One of the county's top sluggers, Pavlo, a five-year starter, hit a walk-off home run against University School in a district game.

**KAYLA SCAPERROTTA**  
Coral Springs Charter freshman. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .485 BA, 45 R, 20 RBI, 16 SB  
**Comment:** The two-year starter and five-tool player, who was the Panthers' leadoff hitter, flourished in her first year playing shortstop.

**ERIN SUNDOOK**  
Pompano Beach junior. **Pos.:** C  
**Stats:** .413 BA, 16 RBI  
**Comment:** A second-team pick last year, the lefty and her teammates traveled to Suncoast and pulled off the regional quarterfinal upset. Verbal commitment to Miami-Dade College.

**DAKOTA VILLELLA**  
American Heritage senior. **Pos.:** INF  
**Stats:** .434 BA, 22 R, 33 SB, 11 RBI  
**Comment:** The second baseman, a four-year starter who has signed with Nova Southeastern, was among team's top hitters and major threat on bases.

**NICOLE WHITE**  
Cardinal Gibbons senior. **Pos.:** INF/P  
**Stats:** .509 BA, .619 OBP, 130 Ks  
**Comment:** The pitcher and shortstop, a four-year starter headed to College of Central Florida, was a versatile asset, boasting a 22-game hitting streak.

**COACH OF THE YEAR**

**MARK MONTIMURRO**  
Coral Springs Charter  
**Record:** 23-7  
**Comment:** In his first year at Charter, Montimurro, a four-time previous Sun Sentinel Coach of the Year (2001, 2003-05) led a team with just one senior (pitcher Heather Bramos) to the regional finals for the first time in program history. Charter defeated North Broward Prep to win the district title, its first since 2005, and also won one of the championship brackets in the Gulliver Prep SlamFest tournament. "We wanted to change the mentality because the program had sort of been foundering in neutral. We thought if we were able to get over the district championship hurdle, win a tournament on the way, and advance deep into the playoffs, it would open a door down the line for us to achieve elite status, which is our ultimate goal," Montimurro said. "We want to be thought of in the same light as Heritage, St. Thomas and Pine Charter and I think we're on our way to doing that. We're just a couple of pieces away."