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Hogan, Moore share weekly 'Athlete' honor

By BOB MONTGOMERY, Bristol Press Correspondent

BRISTOL — Two standout juniors share "Athlete of the Week" honors in area scholastic sports.

They are Terryville softball's Ashley Hogan and St. Paul baseball's Ryan Moore.

The selection of Hogan comes on the heels of her outstanding play May 5-8, with statistics as follows: 8-for-13 batting, five RBI, two homers, seven runs and three stolen bases. On the mound, she won one game and earned the save in another.

For the season, she's 26-for-47 for a .553 bating mark, while posting a 6-2 pitching record and ERA of 0.096.

"I've worked in the Plymouth School District for 10 years and Ashley is, in my opinion, the most talented softball player to have come through Terryville High School," said Terryville coach Angie Suffridge.

"I can put Ashley any place on the field and she will get the job done. This year Ashley and Beth (Grimes) share the mound. ... When Ashley isn't pitching, she's playing shortstop, a position she has never played before but you wouldn't know it by watching her. She is fundamentally sound at every position she plays.

"As a junior, Ashley is one of the top three players in the Berkshire League. She ranks at the top in hitting and her on-base percentage is .600. Ashley is the type of player a coach wants at the plate when the game is on the line or at the mound with the game tied, bases loaded, two outs, and the count is full. She is one of the most focused players I have coached ... she's a kid who wants to win."

Asked what the highlight of the week was for her, Hogan said it was host Terryville's 6-0 win over league foe Lewis Mills on Tuesday. The two teams are battling for league supremacy at 9-3 and 11-2 respectively, and when asked if a team goal was to win the league, Hogan said, "Definitely."

When asked about personal goals, she responded as a member of a team.

"I always want to play good and help the team, it's more about the team and going far into the (state) tournament," said Hogan. "We made it to the semifinals last year and lost 1-0 in the bottom of the ninth against Lyman Memorial."

Moore, a standout three-sports athlete, has been selected for both his pitching and hitting (5-for-9) last week, too.

In facing No. 6 and host Plainville from the mound on Monday, Moore gave up but six hits and one earned run while striking out nine in getting a complete game win in a 4-2 St. Paul triumph.

Pat Holden, the very pleased St. Paul coach, commented after the game.

"Facing a line-up like theirs, there is no easy out one through nine," Holden said. "But Ryan was able to keep them off balance. He threw a high school baseball gem tonight."

Moore was pleased, too.

"It felt good," said Moore. "I knew they were a tough hitting team and I had to exploit their weaknesses. It was hard to pitch around them."

Two days later in a 5-4 loss to visiting RHAM, Moore, batting third and playing center field, led the Falcons with two runs scored, three hits and a stolen base.

Asked about the chance of St. Paul (4-10) making it to the state tournament, Moore was hopeful.

"We have to win the next four of six," said Moore. "If we play the way we did against Plainville, we could do it."

In closing, Moore asked to say a few words about coach Holden.

"He brings a lot of energy to the team and instruction," said Moore. "We have a lot of young kids who need instruction."