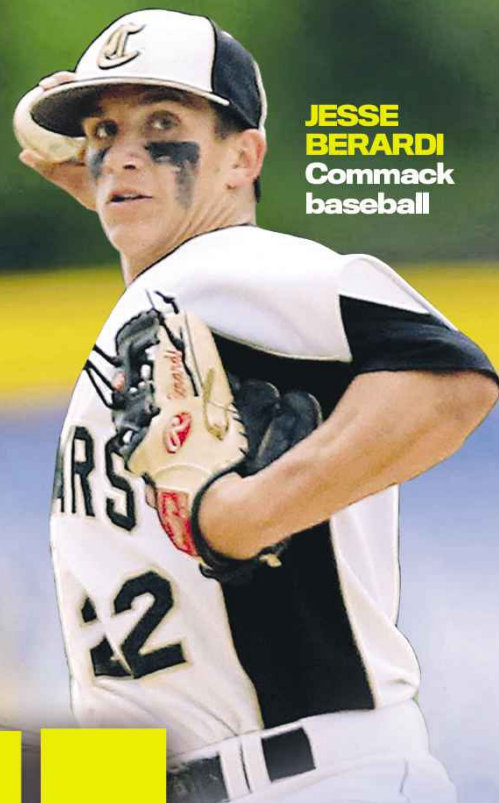




KERRI SHAPIRO
East Meadow
softball



JESSE BERARDI
Commack
baseball

LI'S Finest

NEWSDAY'S ALL-LONG ISLAND TEAMS

NEWSDAY ANNOUNCES THE **MARCUS HENRY** AWARD **B3**

SOFTBALL

BY MIKE GAVIN | michael.gavin@newsday.com
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Kerri
Shapiro
East Meadow

LI PLAYER OF THE YEAR

KERRI SHAPIRO
East Meadow, pitcher, Sr.

It's been documented that, at the beginning of the season, Kerri Shapiro wrote her goals on the mirror in her bedroom as self-motivation and checked off each goal as she attained it. She accomplished everything on that list, and her banner season culminated with the first state championship in the history of the East Meadow softball program.

Now Shapiro can add another accomplishment: being named Newsday's Player of the Year.

With an arsenal that extends to six pitches, and velocity of up to 63 mph, Shapiro went 19-2 with a

1.12 ERA and struck out 186 batters in 156 innings while playing in Nassau's top ability based conference this season. She also batted .455 with four home runs and 23 RBIs.

Bound for Lynn University (Boca Raton, Fla.), the two-time All-Long Island selection tossed a shutout in the state semifinals against Clarence, then allowed just one run on three hits and also homered in the state final against Liverpool.

"What has she meant to us?" East Meadow coach Stew Fritz asked. "I use one word to describe her: comfort. When I penciled her in, I knew good things will happen. She strikes fear in opponents. She is the player of the year!"

SUFFOLK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FRANCESCA CASALINO
Half Hollow Hills West,
pitcher, Sr.

Was so spectacular this season that a fan club was created called, "The Fran Club." The Yale-bound pitcher went 20-4 with a 0.65 ERA and 318 strikeouts in 161 innings. She also hit .439 with seven homers and 24 RBIs to lead Half Hollow Hills West to its first county championship in program history. She tossed four shutouts in the post-season, one of which was a perfect game, and another that came in a thrilling 1-0, 10-inning semifinal victory. Casalino concluded her three-year career with a 50-11 record, 714 strikeouts in 426 innings, and a .471 batting average.



JUDY WALKER

THE ALL-LI TEAM

STEFANIE APLIN

Smithtown East, catcher, Sr.
A leadoff hitter who could go the opposite way and find the gaps, the Georgian Court-bound catcher recorded a .609 average with two home runs and 28 RBIs. Proved to be one of the best defensive catchers in the county with her blocking ability, strong arm and quick release.

KRISTEN ARBITER

MacArthur, catcher, Sr.
Became a focal point of the offense for the Generals, and she thrived. A line-drive hitter with power to all fields, she hit .529 with three home runs and 32 RBIs. Behind the plate, she didn't allow a passed ball all season.

SARAH CORNELL

Clarke, pitcher, So.
She may be only a sophomore, but she has already struck out 732 batters. This season, with an overpowering fastball, she went 12-6 with a 1.18 ERA and 234 strikeouts in 133 innings. She tossed five shutouts, including two no-hitters, and struck out 20 batters in a win over county champion Carey.

PAIGE JULICH

Kings Park, shortstop, Sr.
The third and final Julich sister to come through the Kings Park softball program. The University of Rhode Island-bound shortstop hit .432, blasted seven home runs with an .824 slugging percentage, and demonstrated tremendous range in the field.

KRISTA KING

Kellenberg, second base, Sr.
The only member of all three of Kellenberg's state championship teams. The Adelphi-bound leadoff hitter was the catalyst atop the lineup once again this season, hitting .509 with 32 runs. She didn't strike out once, and finished her career with just three strikeouts in 306 at-bats.

SAMANTHA MARRONE

Sachem East, centerfield, Sr.
The LIU Post-bound outfielder was a threat at the plate where she slapped, bunted and hit to the gaps to finish with a .577 average with 32 runs atop the lineup. In the outfield, she showed tremendous range and a powerful arm, throwing out four baserunners at the plate.

CLAIRE MCNAMARA

Oceanside, shortstop, Jr.
Hit .444 with two home runs and 19 RBIs while leading Oceanside to the county championship series. Struck out just once and made only two errors in 97 attempts this season. Went 4-for-4 in Game 1 of the semifinals and scored the go-ahead run on an RBI double by her twin sister, Megan.

ASHLEY MELENDEZ
Island Trees, first base,
pitcher, Jr.

A versatile player who helped guide the Bulldogs back to the county championship series by hitting .434 with seven home runs and 28 RBIs. Great at stretch plays and picking balls out of the dirt at first base. She also took the ball when needed, going 4-1 with two saves and a 1.08 ERA.



The All-Long Island softball team. Front row, from left, Sarah Cornell, Clarke, Krista King, Kellenberg, Claire Travis, East Meadow and Samantha Marrone, Sachem East. Middle row, left, Catherine Vaughn, Hauppauge, Claire McNamara, Oceanside, Kristen Arbiter, MacArthur and Kerri Shapiro, East Meadow. Back row, left, Carey coach Anthony Turco, Aileen Reilly, St. Anthony's, ToniMarie Valeriano, Mepham, Stefanie Alpin, Smthtown East and Ashley Melendez, Island Trees.

AILEEN REILLY

St. Anthony's, pitcher, Sr. The CHSAA pitcher of the year, bound for Gettysburg College, guided the Friars to the top seed and the league championship game. A power pitcher with great command, she went 17-3 with a 1.45 ERA and 164 strikeouts in 147 innings. Also a solid contact hitter with extra-base power, she batted .362.

CLAIRE TRAVIS

East Meadow, shortstop, Sr. Emerged as one of the best power hitters on Long Island this season with a county-high eight home runs, including a towering solo blast off Francesca Casalino that proved to be the difference in the Long Island championship. Bound for LIU-Post, she hit .487 with 25 RBIs and 11 stolen bases.

CATHERINE VAUGHAN

Hauppauge, centerfield, So. A versatile talent who combined power with speed. At the plate she hit .415 with six home runs, 29 RBIs, and two winning hits. On the base paths, she swiped nine bases. In the outfield, she covered plenty of ground, including a game-ending leaping grab to send Hauppauge to the county final.

TONIMARIE VALERIANO

Mepham, pitcher, Sr. Armed with a devastating screwball, the two-time All-Long Island selection went 12-6 with a 1.69 ERA and 172 strikeouts in 125 innings. Bound for Queens College, she also hit .492 with two home runs and 20 RBIs, including a go-ahead three-run home run in a win over state champion East Meadow.

NASSAU COACH OF THE YEAR

ANTHONY TURCO

Carey Inspired the Seahawks with the motto "Good to Great." With the help of players like Jenna Turato and Brianna Pinto, he guided Carey to a 21-3 record on the Nassau Class A championship.

SUFFOLK COACH OF THE YEAR

TIFFANY ROWAN

Sayville The two-time coach of the year led the Golden Flashes to a third straight Long Island championship and within one victory of a state Class A championship.

ALL-LI SECOND TEAM

- ALEXIS ALVINO**
Division, C/2B, Jr.
- KRISTINA BALSANO**
Connetquot, 3B, Sr.
- TAYLOR CURRAN**
Plainedge, C, Sr.
- SOPHIE DANDOLA**
Seafood, P/3B, Fr.
- SOFIA EVANGELISTA**
St. John the Baptist, P, Sr.
- KATE FINNEN**
Plainedge, SS, Sr.
- VANESSA JUENGERKES**
Islip, P, Sr.
- OLIVIA KACZMAREK**
Sayville, C, Jr.
- ANNIE KENNEDY**
Rocky Point, P, Sr.
- KELSEY LARSON**
Long Beach, SS, Jr.

- JESSICA LODATO**
Commack, 2B, Sr.
- MEGAN MCNAMARA**
Oceanside, OF, Jr.
- ALYSSA MONTEVERDE**
West Islip, P, Sr.
- BERNADETTE MULLANE**
Holy Trinity, 1B, Sr.
- KATHERINE PIORKOWSKI**
Kellenberg, P, Jr.
- MARISSA RIZZI**
Eastport-South Manor, P, So.
- MARISA SAN ANTONIO**
East Meadow, OF, Sr.
- RACHEL SIEBER**
Massapequa, SS, Sr.
- JENNA TURATO**
Carey, P, Jr.
- DOM ZUMMO**
St. Anthony's, CF, Sr.

JOSEPH D. PASCOP