

Senior makes mark on mound for Potterville



Brian Calloway, bcalloway@lsj.com 5:25 p.m. EDT June 5, 2015



(Photo: Matthew Dae Smith | for the Lansing State Journal)

There's something about being on the mound in tight situations that resonates with Sam Traver.

For the Potterville senior pitcher, it's the spot on a baseball diamond where he's most comfortable.

Traver found himself in a few tight situations last weekend when his strong outing on the bump helped Potterville to an extra innings victory over Fowler in a district final. He will hope to again deliver on the mound Saturday when the Vikings try to extend their season by capturing a Division 4 regional title on their home field.

"I live for those games," said Traver, who will pitch at Grand Rapids Community College next year. "I love the under pressure, runner on third, tie game. That's my favorite part. Even if you fail that just makes you a better

ball player."

Traver did all his pitching in last week's district final with the contest scoreless. He struck out 20 in his 10 innings of work to help position Potterville for what eventually was a 1-0 victory in 12 innings.

Traver described that start as one of his best in what's been a dominant spring where he's set Potterville's single-season school record for wins with 11. Traver has struck out 159 this spring and Vikings coach Lance Beasley said he has compiled enough punch outs in his career to end up in the MHSAA record book.

"I wouldn't take anybody else's pitcher anywhere else," Beasley said. "I think we've got the best guy and a lot of teams know that too."



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[LSJ prep athlete of week: Potterville's Sam Traver](#)

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Pitching has always been a passion for Traver, who sports an ERA under 0.50. He's been boosted by a fastball that was clocked as high as 88 miles per hour last summer while playing for East Lansing Post 205.

"As corny as it seems, I still have the dream of playing major league or professional baseball or the highest baseball I can get to," Traver said. "That's always been my number one priority. Even as a kid, I used to in the winter ball up a sock and throw it at my door in my room. I just worked on pitching all the time and 24/7. I never had a ball out of my hand."

Traver still carries that mentality to the ballpark daily as he tries to do his part on the mound and at the plate to help Potterville continue its state tournament run.

"He's a perfectionist in everything that he does on the baseball field and he's constantly looking for a way to get better," Beasley said. "He never feels like he's at his best. I think he knows he's played well, but I don't think he's ever comes off a game and felt he did everything right. There's always something he can look at it and tries to do better."

Contact Brian Calloway at bcalloway@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter [@brian_calloway](https://twitter.com/brian_calloway) (http://twitter.com/brian_calloway).

SATURDAY'S REGIONALS

BASEBALL

DIVISION 1 AT GRAND LEDGE

Holt vs. Howell, noon

DIVISION 2 AT EATON RAPIDS

Eaton Rapids vs. Portland, 10 a.m.

DeWitt vs. Fowlerville, noon

DIVISION 3 AT LANSING CATHOLIC

Pewamo-Westphalia vs. Lansing Catholic, noon

DIVISION 4 AT POTTERVILLE

Potterville vs. Breckenridge, 10 a.m.

SOFTBALL

DIVISION 1 AT GRAND LEDGE

Holt vs. Howell, 10 a.m.

DIVISION 2 AT EATON RAPIDS

DeWitt vs. Owosso, 10 a.m.

Lakewood vs. Portland, noon

DIVISION 3 AT CLINTON

Dansville vs. Napoleon, 10 a.m.

DIVISION 3 AT LANSING CATHOLIC

Laingsburg vs. Lansing Catholic, noon

DIVISION 4 AT POTTERVILLE

Fowler vs. Coleman, 10 a.m.

Morrice vs. Merrill, noon

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