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Prep girls athlete of the week: Paige Groom

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Paige Groom

Softball

PAIGE GROOM

POTTERVILLE senior

A great start: In the Vikings' first game of the season last week, Groom struck out 12 batters while throwing a no-hitter in a 2-1 win over Bellevue. The Broncos managed to get a run following a Potterville error. At the plate, the CMAC first team all-league selection went 2 for 3, scored a run and knocked in another. She holds a 3.95 grade-point average, and will be recognized as the school's salutatorian at graduation later this spring.

From coach Scott Joseph: "We haven't been outside at all (practicing), so I tried to tell her not to be too fancy. She got ahead of

a lot of girls early, and no one really hit the ball hard. She has come a long way as a pitcher. She's always had a live arm, but she doesn't trust her arm. Against Bellevue, she didn't try to overthrow. She threw a lot of strikes. When she does that, she's a tough girl to hit. She took up softball late, but she plays a lot of travel ball. After struggling early, the last two years she's really thrown well. Everybody on our team has improved, but you need a pitcher to be successful. She's made our program that much better. She's the leader of our team. As we go, she goes. And she's a great kid."

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