



Perspectives on athletics

A seasonal review of the Perspectives Charter School Sports Program

Volume 2, Issue 3, July 2012

Perspectives baseball making its mark

Perspectives made baseball history on two of its campuses this spring.

The coop baseball team representing both Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy and Perspectives Joslin won the first varsity conference title in either school's history by finishing first in the Chicago Public Schools' Carlton Fisk Conference.

The Wolves, with a turnout of 16 players, were 10-0 in the conference and 15-6 overall behind seniors Joshua Wagner, Robert Simpson, Derodte Wright and junior Aaron Easton. Easton, sophomore Chris Katz and freshman Jack Pratt are top returnees for next season, when head coach Cletis Nichols hopes for a deep run in the postseason playoffs.



"Aaron is the player to watch," Nichols said. "He has good speed and is a solid hitter and fielder."

The Perspectives Leadership Academy/Perspectives High School of Technology baseball team faced a daunting task this season, moving up to the challenging Chicago Public Schools' Ernie Banks Conference after winning

lower-level league titles in 2010 and 2011.

Still, the Warriors finished 6-7 and tied for fourth place in their new conference as well as 10-19 overall.

"We played a tough schedule this year, non-conference as well as the conference schedule," head coach Lacey Rogers said.

Team leaders included seniors Steven Colyer, Robert Robinson, Devonte Barker and Jermaine Scott and sophomore Steven Robinson.

Rogers praised the development of his freshmen and sophomores and added about next season: "My goal is for our team to go out and compete every game."

Teaching lessons on and off the court

A good coach is simply a good teacher.

Stefan Fisher understands this perfectly. That makes him a perfect fit at Perspectives Charter Schools, where the character development program, A Disciplined Life, applies to athletics as much as it does academics.

"My coaching philosophy is derived from my educational philosophy, which is to provide a positive and motivating environment where

student-athletes are supported and nurtured to reach their potential," said Fisher, who is the head varsity girls basketball coach at Perspectives Leadership Academy/Perspectives High School of Technology and the college counselor at those schools.

"My goal is to develop their talents and abilities to become not only the best athletes they can be but also the best people they can become."

Fisher, in other words, wants to

win but not sacrifice his or Perspectives' principles to do it. That's why the Positive Coaching Alliance and the WNBA's Chicago Sky recognized him as an honorary captain at a Sky game last season.

The PCA named Fisher a Double-Goal Coach – one who not only strives to win but also teaches character education and life lessons through sports.

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PLA/PHS track program makes successful run

The Perspectives Leadership Academy/Perspectives High School of Technology boys and girls track teams had another strong season, qualifying athletes for the state meet in seven individual events and two relays.

Both teams have now competed at the state meet for four consecutive years.

The boys team finished third in the Class 2A Robeson sectional meet behind senior Michael Fort, who placed first in the discus throw and second in the shot put, and junior Christopher Randolph, who was first in the high jump and second in the triple jump.

Senior Spencer Williams qualified for state by finishing second in the 400-meter dash, and junior Lonnie Washington made it with a runner-up finish in the 100.

Senior Jovannie Spears qualified for the girls Class 3A state meet by finishing third in the 400 at the St. Ignatius sectional. She also qualified in the 4x400 relay. Darshay Wallace, another senior standout, also ran on that relay team.

Head coach Rod Stephen said his goal for next year is to con-

tinue to build on his program's growing tradition.

Perspectives Middle Academy added to the track success at the Auburn Gresham campus, with 8th-grader Sirlaurence King qualifying for the city championships in the 1600 run and with the 7th/8th boys 4x100 and sprint medley relays qualifying as well.

Head coach Tristan Roche's goals for next season include getting more young male and female athletes to join the program "as we only return two 7th-graders, Robert Dupont and Alston Phillips."

Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy fielded its first varsity teams in boys and girls track this season. It continued to compete at the middle school level as well.

Top competitors included sophomores Cyrenthia Clark and Jahleel Griffin.

The season highlight, head coach Jesse Hardy said, was "watching the kids overcome the various fears of competition and excel." His main goal for next season is to increase participation at all levels.

Softball rebuilding with young talent

The Perspectives Leadership Academy/Perspectives High School of Technology softball team had just two returning players but made good progress despite a 2-15 record.

Jasmine Williams' pitching was one of the team's bright spots even though the senior had never played softball before. Other top players included junior India Allen, senior Diamond Noble and freshman Shekinah Richmond. Captains were seniors Keri Tate and Sydnie Griffith.

"They really came together as a team," said head coach Susie Mazur, whose goals for next season include recruiting more underclassmen and posting a .500 record.

Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy and Perspectives Joslin offered varsity fast-pitch softball for the first time this spring. The schools fielded a coop team.

About the Newsletter

This newsletter's author is **Barry Temkin**, who retired in 2008 from the Chicago Tribune and is volunteering in the Perspectives Charter Schools athletic department. He spent his last 20 years at the Tribune writing a high school sports column that covered hundreds of schools, including Perspectives.

Lauren Camplin, a DePaul University journalism major, did the newsletter's layout and production.

Joslin girls soccer to return with promising foundation

When you start from scratch, progress trumps wins and losses, so the brand new Joslin girls soccer team had a successful season despite a 0-3 record.

According to coach Rachel Urista, a dozen players remained committed to the program despite the abbreviated schedule.

Senior goalie Shannon White was team captain and MVP.

Urista is excited that sophomore defenders Gisselle Galan, Kiya Hampton, Naomi Hernandez, and Lauren Chan will all return next

season, as will promising freshmen Shamaree Campbell and Samantha Villanueva.

Urista's goals for next season include increasing participation and continuing to build a strong foundation for the program.

"The girls this year had strong spirits, worked hard and learned the foundational soccer skills that will help us have a great season next year," Urista said.

The Joslin Middle School team finished 0-3-1 but made solid progress, according to coaches

Kenneth Borre and Jennifer Dominic

"After earning our first tie this year, we're excited to work to get our first win next year," Borre said.

Top players included 7th-grader Kieko Delaney, who had 16 saves in goal in one game, and leading goal-scorer Stephanie Maltos, an 8th-grader.

"This team was full of spirit, solidarity and unprecedented Panther enthusiasm," Borre said.

PCS summer camp programs extend variety

Off-season improvement helps breed sports success, which is why the continuing growth of Perspectives Charter Schools' summer camp program should produce better athletes and winning teams.

PCS has increased the camp offerings at its Auburn Gresham campus to virtually all the sports offered there. Scheduled for this June, four-day camps were to take place in football, volleyball, baseball, fast-pitch softball, cheerleading and track and field. Basketball is a two-week camp.

Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy and Perspectives Joslin also have jumped on the summer camp bandwagon, offer-

ing a new basketball camp June 18-21 at Taylor Park.



All Perspectives camps are for girls and boys entering 5th through 9th grades this fall. Reg-

istration is free, and each camper gets lunch and a camp shirt.

Varsity head coaches run all the camps, which are sponsored by the Chicago Youth Sports Alliance.

"We're very excited about the expansion of our summer camp program," PCS athletic director Vinay Mullick said. "We think it's a great opportunity to keep our students active in the summer and also a great opportunity to build our athletic programs.

"We're looking forward to growing the camps each year."

Perspectives 16-inch softball teams find success

The Perspectives Middle Academy coed 16-inch softball team finished with a strong 4-1 record that included three shutout victories.

Other highlights, head coach Ron McBride said, included “how the team came together and helped each other get better.” Top contributors included 8th-graders Antonio Allen, Charles Comell and Hakeem Adebimpe.

“This is a great opportunity for those students that have not made

it in the more popular sports,” McBride said of the 16-inch game, “and as a year-ending sport helps to keep students focused in class.”

The Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy Middle School 16-inch team also was 4-1, thanks in part to the work of 8th-graders Anthony Holiday and Raekwon Bradley and 7th-grader Brandon Williams.

“Highlights were seeing the kids improve and learn the game of 16-

inch softball, which is a Chicago thing, and just having fun with my group of kids,” head coach Floyd Urrutia said. “It was a great season, a great group.”

Joslin Middle School finished 1-5 in 16-inch softball. Top contributors included 8th-graders Aneysia Simmons and Trenton Stillwell and 7th-grader Destiny Gardner.

“Great attitudes,” head coach Jonathan Daniels said of his team.

Fisher goes beyond the game

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Fisher joined the team captains at center court before the game to be recognized.

“It was really quite an honor,” he said. “Educators rarely get an opportunity to receive the accolades they deserve, and I was very appreciative.”

Fisher began his education career in 1985 as a 5th-grade teacher and has taught and been a principal in Chicago-area and Milwaukee-area elementary, middle and high schools since then. He came to Perspectives’ Auburn Gresham campus in 2007.

He has extensive experience as a coach and athletic director, which has made him a valuable resource for Perspectives’ many young coaches.

“They are often very well-versed in game strategies and practice drills,” Fisher said, “so my goal is

to share with them lessons I have learned to help them become more successful in bringing out the best in their student-athletes.

“I try to share with them tips on effective communication, motivational strategies and some of the side responsibilities that come with being an effective coach and educator.”

PCS athletic director Vinay Mullick believes that Fisher’s role as a mentor makes his own job easier.

“He has just been a great resource to Perspectives as a whole,” Mullick said. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and he’s always willing to help and mentor others and share his lessons learned through his career to help make Perspectives better for all our students.

“He’s very committed to what we’re doing, and we are very lucky to have him aboard.”

Joslin receiver commits to NIU

Perspectives Joslin senior Leroy Bridges III has accepted an invitation to join the Northern Illinois University football team as a non-scholarship walk-on.



Bridges, a receiver who has attended Perspectives since 7th grade, will be the first PCS alumnus to play NCAA Division I football. He also was the first Perspectives player to receive all-city football honors.