

State champs again! Softball back on top

FACTS & FIGURES

Final records

FALL '86

Football	7-2
Girls basketball	16-7
Golf	7-18

WINTER '87

Boys basketball	18-5
Volleyball	19-7-2

SPRING '87

Baseball	10-9
Softball	26-6
Boys track	2-5
Girls track	0-7

MVPs

Football: None chosen
 Golf: Terry Pant
 Girls basketball: Leigh Ross
 Boys basketball: Kent Waterford
 Volleyball: Leigh Ross
 Baseball: Doug Sanders
 Softball: Leigh Ross
 Boys track: Troy Goetz
 Girls track: Darlene Kelly

Tri-County Conference

CHAMPIONS

Football: Morenci, Summerfield, Whitmore Lake
 Girls basketball: Morenci
 Boys basketball: Whiteford & Morenci
 Volleyball: Morenci
 Baseball: Summerfield
 Softball: Whiteford & Morenci
 Boys track: Summerfield
 Girls track: Sand Creek

All-State

Leigh Ross, basketball, 1st team (AP); 2nd team (News, Free Press); softball, 1st team
 Rhonda Iott, softball, 1st team
 Jodi Kiefer, softball, 2nd team
 Jamie VanBrandt, softball, 2nd team
 Brad Nieman, basketball, HM (Free Press)



Jamie VanBrandt (above) was the winning pitcher in the state softball championship game, a 6-5 thriller over Bay City All Saints.

BOBCAT HEADLINES

- Leigh Ross, Rhonda Iott and Jodi Kiefer played on three state championship softball teams
- Whiteford built a 6-0 lead in the state softball championship game, then held on for 6-5 victory when Jami Stewart caught a two-out, two-on line drive in centerfield to preserve the win
- Troy Goetz, Bryan Pfaff, Chris DuPree and Brad Atherton qualified for the state meet in the 400 relay
- Joe Butz recorded a school record 172 tackles, an average of nearly 20 a game
- John Rice won the Region Coach of the Year honors in basketball

NUMBERS & NOTES

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Leigh Ross surpassed the 1,000-point level and was a repeat selection on the All-State squad for the 16-7 Bobcats.

FOOTBALL: After a 3-1 start, Whiteford lost five straight games. Chris DuPree and Troy Goetz gave Whiteford one of the best running games in the area as the two combined for more than 1,300 yards.

BOYS BASKETBALL: The District championship from the previous year carried over into the 1987-88 season, as the Bobcats jumped out to a 7-1 start and earned a spot in the Class D Top 10 rankings for the first time ever.

After being defeated by Morenci, 81-48, Whiteford regrouped and faced the last

undefeated Class C team in the state, Morenci, on Feb 20. The Bobcats never trailed, winning by a 71-62 count against the No. 5 ranked Bulldogs.

Juniors Brad Nieman (394), Scott Stewart (269) and Steve Harris (249) led the District champs in scoring for the season. Sophomore Chris DuPree came on to score more than 200 points while his brother, Scott, also made a large contribution to the 18-5 squad.

VOLLEYBALL: Sandy Clark's team won a District championship and 19 games on the season. Leigh Ross picked up the team MVP trophy.

SOFTBALL: It was another storybook season for Kris Hubbard's Bobcats, who

claimed its third state championship in four years. All-State choice and Region Player of the Year Leigh Ross had a sensational senior season, batting .468 and scoring an incredible 60 times. She had 12 doubles, three triples and seven home runs with a slugging percentage of .875. Jamie VanBrandt was the top pitcher, notching 21 of the teams' 26 victories. She also hit .400. Rhonda Iott was also All-State. She had 31 RBI with 23 sacrifice hits. Jodi Kiefer was a team leader and another .400 hitter from her catching position.

BASEBALL: Joe Butz (.397), Doug Sanders (.387) and Dave Ballert (4-1) were the leaders for the winning Bobcat baseball team.