

Kelsy Kannegiesser leads New Ulm all over diamond

By Shane Frederick, Mankato Free Press Staff

NEW ULM — Kelsy Kannegiesser went to New Ulm softball coach Kristi Andersen Loose before the season started and said that she wanted to try playing a position other than pitcher in order to prepare for her college career at the University of St. Thomas.

The proposition made the coach more than nervous. After all, Kannegiesser was a first-team All-State selection a year ago.

Andersen Loose still gave the senior most of the innings in the circle but moved her to third while getting junior Sydney Schuck into the mix.

“It worked like a charm,” Andersen Loose said.

Not only did the eighth-ranked Eagles win the Section 3AA crown, ending Pipestone Area’s six-year run, but Kannegiesser still ended up All-State — as a third baseman. It was the first time she played the position, and she committed just two errors there.

“Have you seen her play?” her coach said. “She’s just remarkable. ... She’s just beautiful over there. She looks like she’s played there her whole life.”

Kannegiesser led New Ulm with a .527 average while hitting nine home runs, 11 doubles and three triples. She also drove in 57 runs. As a pitcher, she compiled 113 strikeouts over 85 innings and had a 1.06 ERA.

“It was a big transition,” Kannegiesser said. “Last year, I pitched almost every game. But it’s been nice, having those little stretches where I can relax and let my arm feel a little better. And we trust Sydney.”

Schuck had a 0.98 ERA and 70 strikeouts over 78 innings.

New Ulm (21-3) is at state for the sixth time but first since 1997 when it took second at state and Andersen Loose was a junior shortstop on the team. The Eagles have come close in recent seasons, falling to Pipestone four times in the last five section finals before this year.

“It feels so good to get over that,” Kannegiesser said.

Said senior first baseman Jill Gareis, an honorable mention All-State pick: “We’ve come so close; four of the last five years we’ve been in that situation. It feels great to come out on the other side for once.”



New Ulm senior Kelsy Kannegiesser pitched most of the innings for the Eagles this season but made All-State based on her hitting and play at third base. Pat Christman