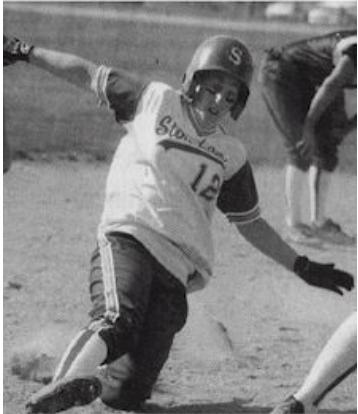


Hillary Puglia

2001 - Soccer, Basketball & Softball



"Only knows how to play sports at one speed—fast." This quotation personified Hilary as people at SHS began to see her play. Hilary was a 3-sport captain and star at Stoneham High leading the Spartans in soccer, basketball, and softball.

In soccer, where she had never played the sport until her sophomore year, she instantly became an outstanding goalie leading the team to a tournament berth. Her junior year, she led the team to another tournament berth with that same outstanding goaltending and garnered Middlesex League All-Star Honorable Mention. Her senior year she was named Middlesex League All-Star goalie.

Hilary's style of play in all sports was categorized best by Coach Chapman when she denied Hilary's request to play in the field in a lopsided win. "I wasn't afraid that Hilary would get hurt; I was afraid for the other team's players."

Hilary demonstrated that same aggressive style in basketball. During many games, Hilary was seen diving into the bench or under the stands for a loose ball. Her aggressive style kept the Spartans in many games. She was a leading scorer for the team as well as a top rebounder and playmaker.

It was softball that was her true passion and the sport she excelled in. In her freshman season at SHS, Hilary played center field, batted .434 and was selected as a Middlesex League All-Star. In her sophomore year, she switched to second base, batted .512, had a .960 fielding average, and defensively started four double plays. Stoneham made a deep tournament run losing to eventual champion Concord -Carlisle in Hilary's junior year, paced by the "hit sisters" (Jennye Nolan and Hilary) and strong pitching. She hit over .500 with a couple of home-runs. Her senior year, she hit over .600 and added a few more home runs. She was a 4-time Middlesex League All-Star, league MVP, and a Boston Globe and Boston Herald All Scholastic.

Hilary went on to complete a very successful four-year career with the UMASS Amherst Softball Program. Along with 3 Atlantic 10 Championships, she was the 2004 Atlantic 10 and New England Intercollegiate Softball Coaches Association Player of the Year. Her senior year, she hit .341, had 11 home-runs, and was named UMASS Female Athlete of the Year. When college ended, she continued playing in the National Pro Fast Pitch League with the Akron Racers who would go on to win the 2005 NPF Championship her rookie season. Hilary currently resides in Stoneham.