

Two Harbors, Silver Bay U18 Girls Share Softball Ups & Downs

By John Sandstrom

A softball player can be a successful hitter and still fail more often than they succeed. They can field almost every ground ball, but it is that one they miss that bothers them.

Monday night, Silver Bay hosted Two Harbors in U-18 softball action. I asked a number of players on both teams to tell me about their high points and low points this season.

Here are some examples:

- Two Harbors senior Isabelle Tokvam says, "I am disappointed if people don't put forth their best effort. On the other hand, I remember how much fun I have playing summer ball and seeing our team become closer."
- Silver Bay's Danika Thompson says her frustration is the feeling she gets when she is pitching and walks someone. "The best part of softball comes from getting to be with my friends."
- Casey Underdale of Two Harbors comments, "The worst feeling for me is when I do something wrong even though I know the right way to do it. But then I realize I get to be with my friends and I feel better."
- Brooke Velcheff from Silver Bay says "I

feel bummed when I can't throw as well as I want to. The happy part is the ritual we outfielders have before each inning."

- Ava Fosness from Two Harbors says that she gets bummed in summer softball "when we can't seem to get in a groove but the good side of summer ball is that it is laid back and relaxing."
- Ava's younger sister, Olivia, said "I am mad at myself if I make a mistake like bobbling a ground ball, but the best part is the game itself. It is always exciting to get to bat."
- Silver Bay's Chloe McWatters says she gets down on herself when she makes a late decision whether or not to swing at a pitch. "The best part is that I get to play with people who are fun and encouraging."
- Finally, Silver Bay senior Liv Hoff said that she gets down if people get complacent and don't work as hard as they can, but the high point is that she appreciates being inspired by her coaches.

Whether it is a sport or any endeavor in life, there are plenty of ups and downs. Maybe a lesson is to enjoy each success as they come our way. I think Silver Bay won both games Monday night, but I don't remember any details. I think everyone was just happy to be playing alongside their friends!

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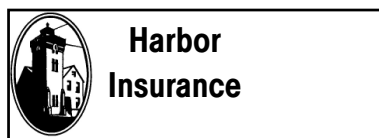
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