Saints Star Award
Nov. 23, 2026
St. Francis High School Softball Program

The Saints Star Award was established to publicly recognize St. Francis Area Schools staff, students, and community members at a School Board Meeting to highlight the positive and impactful work happening in the district. A listing of past Saints Star Award recipients can be found on the School Board website.

This month's honorees embody all the people this award was meant to recognize. We are proud to present the Saints Star Award to the students, staff and community members who contributed to the success of the 2026 St. Francis High School State Champion Softball Team and the program as a whole.

On June 5, the SFHS Softball Team defeated the #2 seed Byron High School by the score of 6-1 to claim the 2026 Class AAA State Championship. The Saints entered the State Tournament as a #5 seed and after defeating #4 Rock Ridge 4-0, went on to win 2-0 against #1 Sartell to advance to the championship game. Three runs in the first inning set the tone for the Saints in the title game, as they went on to total six runs on 10 hits.

Hailey Ausland, Sydney Borchert and Abigail Keding were named to the Class AAA All-Tournament Team. Sydney pitched every inning of the state tournament and finished her career with 72 wins and 992 strikeouts. Hailey went 3-for-4 with 3 RBI in the championship game and batted .500 for the tournament. Abigail was the lead-off hitter for the tournament and batted .333 with two runs scored and two RBI.

The Saints finished the season with a 18-9 record.

The head coach for the Saints last season was Carolyn Thompson. She was assisted by Kaitlyn Couteau, Katie Windsberger and Lindsey Jensen. Who are all staff members at the high school. Additional coaches in the program included Heidi Sanders, Kara Schwintek, and Bryan Lemke.

SFHS Activities Director Joan Johnson said, "It has been an absolute privilege to watch the tremendous growth of the St. Francis High School softball program over the past several years. Our student athletes have demonstrated extraordinary grit, finding ways to win close games and setting new individual and program records. Their relentless hard work and unwavering dedication to chasing a state title make our entire district immensely proud!"

To the players and coaches who could be here today and to those who couldn't, to the parents, the supporters, and the community - congratulations on the outstanding accomplishments of the 2026 St. Francis High School Softball Team!