

# SENTINEL SPORTS

*LaMeka Anderson leads Skyhawks into zone*

## Silverado sophomore has MVP season, hoping to carry fever into playoffs

By W.G. Ramirez  
Sentinel-Voice

She used to be a catcher. That was until she got tired of being on the negative end of the team's battery.

That's when LaMeka Anderson decided it was time to take the mound, just a couple of years ago.

"Meka is just a wonderful, safe-made pitcher," revealed Silverado head coach Chuck Pope. "She has worked really hard to become a pitcher."

Monday, the sophomore ace was named Most Valuable Player of the Class AAA Southern Conference regular season.

She finished the regular season 14-0, and with Silverado's other weapon Shana Singer (13-1) figured in, the two averaged less than one earned run and three hits per game.

According to Silverado's official scorekeeper, Anderson has only given up an earned run in one game the entire season.

"With Meka on the mound, the kids feel we'll find a way to win the ball game," Pope said. "Any competitive player will bring the kids up to their level, and

that's Meka."

"Meka encourages me because she just has fun doing it," added Singer, the team's eldest member.

Anderson was born in Las Vegas and grew up playing in Bobby Sox leagues, consistently achieving All-Star status behind the plate and in leftfield.

After the seventh grade though, she moved to Oklahoma to live with her mother. She continued to play softball, starring on the state's No. 3 ranked Stroud High School.

But after several visits back to Las Vegas and a glimpse of what Silverado's team was going to look like, Anderson decided she wanted to play for Pope.

"I knew what Coach had, I knew the girls that would be going here and I knew what we could do," said Anderson.

"Being that there are no seniors on the team and I have the experience from Oklahoma, there are times I feel like I need to step-up and push the younger girls on the team."

Anderson has a unique way of getting her point across during a tight game, especially if she's on the mound and in a bind.

"At that point there's a lot of pressure—hush, hush, hush—and you just break the ice," Anderson described. "(Then), you just laugh or something. It's just my way of thinking, 'yeah, I can do this.' It's just my way of breaking the ice."

At the same token, there are times that Anderson needs a wake-up call and could use a ice pick herself.

"I'll be in a tough situation and she'll come to the mound and sing to me," conceded Anderson about teammate Crissy Buck.

The sophomore shortstop does her rendition of rapper Warren G.'s "Regulate," returning the favor by breaking Anderson's ice.

At other times, Anderson can hear one particular voice from the stands, a voice that follows her from game-to-game, her father's.

Charles Anderson has no trouble telling you about his MVP daughter.

"She has a mean streak on the mound. She has the killer instincts. She has all those things that she needs to be a superstar, and I know she will be.

"Frankly I want her to be happy. For all the work she's put into this, all the time and dedication she puts into it, I want her to be able to receive something for that.

"She's striving to be number one, and she does that in everything she's been in. She's a little Miss. Perfectionist when it

comes to ball and stuff like that. So, all through her life I think she'll take that with her."

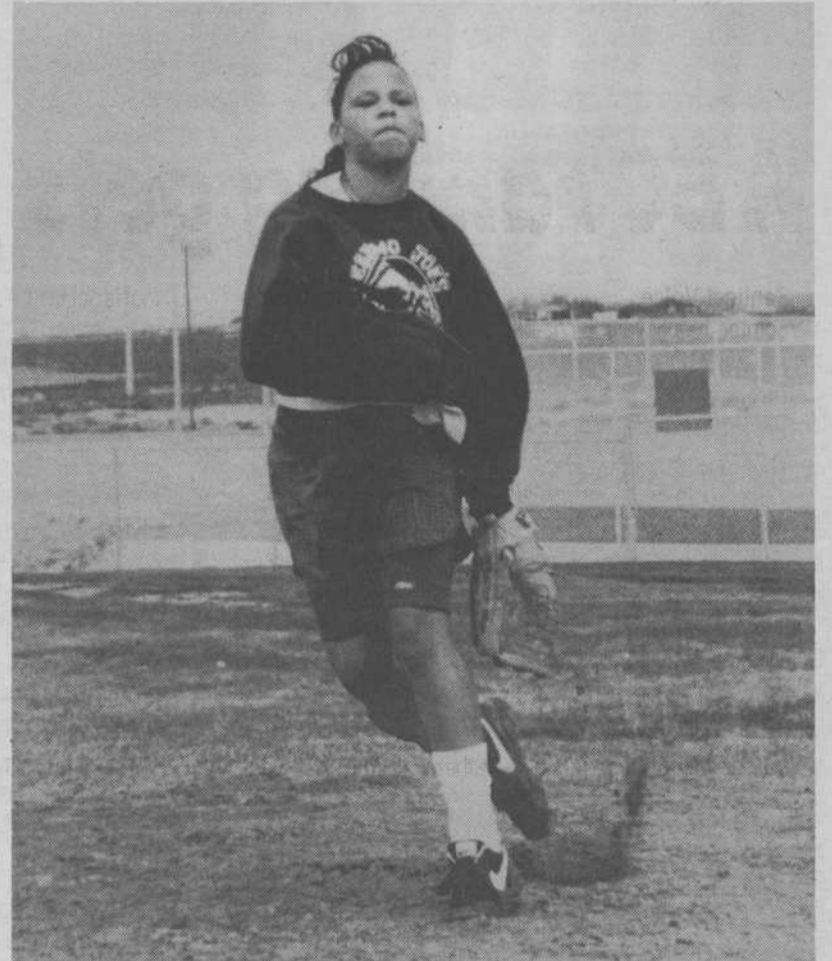
Anderson admitted that it can be tough to drain out all the noise from the opposing bench and the stands, but she did say that "out of everybody, I here his voice and Coach Pope's."

"She'll get angry at me," added her father, her Number one fan. "If she lightens up, I drive her. And if I don't, she'll get angry at me.

... I know that sometimes I might get her angry but she takes it out on the (mound)."

In the classroom, she has maintained a 3.5 grade point average and is looking forward to attending college. Right now, her interests include marine biology.

During the off-season, Anderson will spend time with the Las Vegas Gamblers, a



CLASS AAA SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER, SILVERADO'S LAMEKA ANDERSON

summer-league team that competes in tournaments around the country. Pope and is assistant coach Wendy Doran reverse their roles while guiding the Gamblers.

Despite the recent MVP award, Anderson said "It makes me feel good but I still haven't

reached my goal. To reach my goal, I'm gonna need my whole team. First, zone. Then state.

That doesn't mean Anderson is ruling out a setback either.

"If everyone on the team gives a 110%, and we played our hardest, the loss wouldn't mean as much."

## Silverado shocked in zone tournament

By W.G. Ramirez  
Sentinel-Voice

Sunrise Division champion Silverado hit a major road block in the form of Bishop Gorman's ace hurler Sarah Watters, Wednesday afternoon in the Class AAA Southern Conference softball tournament at Cheyenne.

Watters tossed a no-hitter at the Skyhawks, as the Gaels inched closer to a state tournament berth with a 4-1 victory.

"Sometimes when you don't get something that you really,

really want, it motivates you," commented Silverado coach Pope about Watters.

According to Gorman coach Jeff Wagonseller, Watters was slightly disappointed that she only received one vote for All-Sunrise honors.

Silverado's LaMeka Anderson took the first-team honor, yet Watters won Wednesday's battle, as Anderson suffered her first loss of the season.

"We have tremendous respect for them," said (See Zone, Page 22)

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