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Brentwood's season is perfect for Flint, teammates

BY KIMBERLEY A. MARTIN | kimberley.martin@newsday.com
9:23 PM EDT, June 13, 2009

WATERLOO, N.Y. - Not even Nicole Flint saw this coming.

The Brentwood senior never expected to reach the state final four, let alone pitch in the title game. But Saturday, she did what she's done all season - carry the Indians to victory.

Hours after pitching a perfect game in the state semifinal, Flint tossed a one-hitter and struck out eight to lead Brentwood to its first state Class AA championship in school history with a 4-1 victory over Fairport (Section V) at Waterloo High School.

"She's a tremendous pitcher, a tremendous leader," Indians coach Brian Lynch said. "We pick her up with the bats and she gives us everything we need on the mound."



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Brentwood (24-4) - which defeated North Rockland (Section I), 7-0, in the semifinal - took a 1-0 lead in the second inning of the championship game on an infield error. In the fifth, third baseman Kristen Flint drove in what would prove to be the winning run, ripping an RBI single to right centerfield.

"I just kind of stuck my bat out and prayed for the best," laughed Flint, Nicole's twin sister.

Two infield errors by Fairport (25-3) resulted in two more runs for the Indians.

Fairport's lone run was scored in the top of the sixth on pitcher Stacy Kuwick's home run over the centerfield fence. But the Red Raiders, who committed four errors, failed to score again, as Nicole Flint (who lost her bid for a consecutive perfect game in the fourth inning) retired the last four batters of the game.

"I don't think you can ever envision a state championship but you hope," Lynch said. "They set out on a mission and no one was going to stop them."

The team's nine seniors made sure they wouldn't leave Waterloo empty-handed.

"Nobody wanted to go home," Kristen Flint said. "No one wanted it to end."

Especially her sister.

"It's bittersweet because we just won the state championship, but it's my last game," said Nicole, who finished the season with three perfect games. "It's great to be able to play until the last game of the season. But I kind of don't want it to end."

A little bit of luck, lots of skill and even more team chemistry was all Brentwood needed. That, and of course, Nicole Flint.

"She had an amazing season," Kristen said. "I never would have thought she'd throw a perfect game against Bay Shore and then come upstate and throw a perfect game in the semifinal. It's crazy."

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