

The Next Phenom?

By Greg Schmidt

August, 2002

There might be another superstar in the making beginning this fall at Mounds View High School. His name: Adam Weber. His game, or maybe more appropriately, his games are any sport put in front of him. The 6-2, 190 pound incoming freshman has already gained the attention of varsity baseball skipper Brad Tullberg and varsity grid general Jim Galvin. Technically, Weber has already competed with other high school athletes when he competed on the track team this spring.

“He will practice with us at the start of the season and I foresee him being a varsity player,” Galvin said. The second year coach said Weber will see time at running back “and down the line as our quarterback.”

Tullberg is also anticipating great things and hasn't ruled out varsity action for Weber, even with the difficult challenge of facing varsity pitching.

Said Tullberg last month: “Right now as a 14-year-old — he certainly is physically more mature than any 14-year-old around, but for football it's an easier transition for him . . . he's physically in that group [with the older kids on the gridiron]. He's the real deal.”

And on the diamond? “He'll have to earn his spot. He'll start at the freshman level and we'll see if he's ready,” Tullberg said. “The two freshmen that have come up have been scholarship baseball players. It's a big step for a young kid.” The two players Tullberg is referring to are Steve Grasley ('00) and most recently Andy Peters ('02), the only two freshman pitchers to play for the varsity in at least 25 years.

Weber, who turned 15 a week ago, is a right-handed pitcher (43-IP, 5-1, 2-S, .16 ERA, 56-SO, 10-BB) and has been clocked in the high 70's. He's also shown great speed in the outfield and incredible prowess at the plate batting .465. Of his 33 hits, 20 were for extra bases.

“I think he's a superb athlete and if he keeps developing his skills he already has, he's going to do well at Mounds View,” Tullberg said.

Weber recently completed his summer season with the Shoreview Area Babe Ruth 14-year-old all-star team. The squad finished as state runnerup. Shoreview came out of the winner's bracket only to be swept by East Tonka, which feeds the Excelsior Legion program.

Weber pitched a 4-0 shutout against East Tonka earlier in the tournament. In the second game of the championship round Weber took a 3-2 loss that ended Shoreview's season at 34-3. All three runs were unearned.

Said Shoreview assistant Ty Herman: “I think there's no doubt as an athlete he has more potential than anybody because the thing about him [unlike the typical young phenom], is this kid is continuing to develop. He has a much better attitude and he realizes this summer was 14-year-old baseball and not the big leagues — he realizes he has to keep working and no one works harder. This kid is working out 12 hours a day [on a variety of sports].”