



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: SPORTS WRITING

DIRECTIONS & RULES

You are a staff member of the Abraham High School's The Standard (Middleland, Ill.). Your editor has assigned you to cover the 2018 IHSA Softball State Finals at the Eastside Centre in East Peoria, Illinois, on June 9, 2018.

You are to write a story based on the results of the Class 4A State Championship game between Plainfield North High School (Plainfield, Ill.) and Rock Island High School (Rock Island, Ill.). You will start by viewing film from the game. The film has been edited at some points for time. The film will begin in the top of the seventh inning. Plainfield North trails 2-0 and is coming to bat.

The film will start with the first pitch of the inning. The ensuing prompt pages contain a number of quotes from players and coaches from both teams that can be included in your game story. Final game stats and team information are provided on the subsequent pages.

In addition to a well-written and organized article, judges will be looking for the use of an interesting lead that pulls the reader into the story, accurate details about the information given, and proper style and mechanics. At the top of your document, type "School Code: ####" with your individualized code numbers. Type the final word count at the bottom of the story before turning it in. The word limit will be 400 words. You are permitted to use an AP Stylebook and dictionaries. Type the final word count at the bottom of the story before turning it in.

Start Time: 11:30 AM

Work must be complete: 1:00 PM

Submitted stories will be run through plagiarism software. If any submitted stories are flagged for plagiarism, the competitor and advisor will be alerted and given a chance to review and refute the flagged work prior to a decision on disqualification by a games committee.



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GAME LINK

Game video posted at:

<https://www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series>

QUOTES

Rock Island head coach Chris Allison: "What a softball game and what an effort by both teams. Plainfield North scratched and clawed for everything. What a credit to their coach and their kids. Our girls have been fantastic all season long. They earned this.

"Ashley (Peters) did what she does in the circle. She spotted pitches and her velocity usually makes up for it when she doesn't. Credit them for threatening in the seventh. Its hard to go through a line three times and get everyone out. They adjusted and loaded the bases, but Ashley stepped up when it counted."

"Getting a lead in a game like this is huge for confidence. We put pressure on them with the singles by Delaney (Kelley) and Madison (Michaels), and then capitalized on the error to grab the lead. Their pitcher threw a rise ball that stayed flat and Lauryn (Stegall) made her pay with the home run. That ended up being the game-winning run, so it was massive. She is so strong and has come up with big hits all season long."

Plainfield North head coach Kelly Ash: "You just have to tip your hat to their pitcher and their team. We couldn't get anything going against her all day, but our kids didn't get down and never lost faith. They nearly tied it in the seventh. Stegall is as good of a slugger as we have seen. That was on me. You don't want to get too cute with no outs, but we shouldn't have thrown her anything near the plate. Our pitcher was pretty darn good too and how about Kaelin's homer...that is senior leadership right there, trying to will us to victory. I am so proud of my kids, they have set a new standard for our program.

Rock Island's Ashley Peters: "I made it closer than I wanted to in the 7th inning. Credit to their girls, they fouled off pitches and extended at-bats until I made mistakes. There was a second of doubt after the bases were loaded, but I just stepped off, took a deep breath, re-focused, and knew I was going to get the next batter out. I was spotting all my pitches pretty well through the game. One of the (7th inning hit by pitches) slipped and the other I just ran a little further inside then I wanted. It was such a relief to see that final out be caught. I am so proud of these girls. We made program history!"

Rock Island's Lauryn Stegall: "She threw me a rise ball that didn't break and I kept my eight back and was able to drive it out of the park. I just wanted to do anything I could to help my team.

Plainfield North's Kaelin Callow: "She left a fastball over too much of the plate and I was able to get around on it and take it over the fence. She is a great pitcher, she didn't make very many mistakes today. We felt like a team of destiny. I thought for sure we were going to win as soon as I hit the homer and then when we loaded the bases, I was sure it would happen. It's ok though, we made history."

Plainfield North's Greta Thompson: They made a few more plays than us. I wish I had made a few more pitches, but its not supposed to be easy in a state championship. I wouldn't trade this team or season for anything.



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BOX SCORE

4A Championship
Plainfield North vs Rock Island
Jun 09, 2018 at East Peoria, Ill. (EastSide Centre)

Plainfield North 1 (32-6)

Player	ab	r	h	rbi	bb	so	po	a	lob
Lexi Siwek 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Ryan Shaughnessy rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Sam Mallinder ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Kaelin Callow 1b	3	1	1	1	0	2	6	0	0
Alie Kennedy dp	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Elizabeth Auriemma pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bailey Weck 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Hailey Kuriger lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1
Greta Thompson p	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Brittany Knox pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jenna Dunbar c	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Jillian Gardner pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madi Keay cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	23	1	3	1	2	7	18	6	6



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: **SPORTS WRITING**

Rock Island 2 (32-5)

Player	ab	r	h	rbi	bb	so	po	a	lob
Sophia Thomer cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ashley Peters p	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Lauryn Stegall ss	3	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	0
Delaney Kelley 2b	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	3	0
Madison Michaels 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	5	2	2
Abbie Bush c	3	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Cassidy DeMeyer pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercedes Hantz pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emma Spurgetis lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Raghen Walker dp	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Heather Motley 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Mackenzie Melody rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	24	2	4	1	2	3	21	7	6

Score by Innings		R	H	E			
Plainfield North....	000	000	1	-	1	3	2
Rock Island.....	000	101	X	-	2	4	1

E - Weck; Thompson; Kelley. LOB - Plainfld No. 6; Rock Island 6. 2B - Mallinder.
HR - Callow; Stegall. HBP - Thompson; Dunbar. SH - Weck. SB - Brt. Knox;
Thomer.

Plainfield North	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	wp	bk	hbp	ibb	ab	bf	fo	go
Greta Thompson L,23-3	6.0	4	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	24	26	8	7

Rock Island	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	wp	bk	hbp	ibb	ab	bf	fo	go
Ashley Peters W,19-4	7.0	3	1	1	2	7	0	0	2	0	23	28	8	5

Win - Peters (19-4). Loss - Thompson (23-3). Save - None. HBP - by Peters
(Thompson); by Peters (Dunbar).



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: SPORTS WRITING

Umpires - HP: Fred Schlessinger 1B: Michael Stephenson 3B: Scott Garrey
Start: 2:20 pm Time: 1:32 Attendance: 300
Weather: Cloudy, 80

PLAY BY PLAY

Plainfield North starters: 1/3b Siwek; 2/rf Shaughnessy; 16/ss Mallinder; 21/1b Callow; 11/dp Kennedy; 13/2b Weck; 18/lf Kuriger; 17/p Thompson; 7/c Dunbar; 10/cf Keay;
Rock Island starters: 15/cf Thomer; 44/p Peters; 12/ss Stegall; 11/2b Kelley; 28/1b Michaels; 7/c Bush; 10/lf Spurgetis; 1/dp Walker; 3/3b Motley; 23/rf Melody;

Plainfield North 1st - Siwek out at first 1b to 2b. Shaughnessy struck out swinging. Mallinder struck out swinging. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Rock Island 1st - Thomer singled up the middle. Peters lined out to lf. Thomer stole second. Stegall struck out swinging. Kelley walked. Michaels fouled out to c. 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 2 LOB.

Plainfield North 2nd - Callow struck out swinging. Kennedy walked. Weck popped up to 3b. Kuriger struck out looking. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Rock Island 2nd - Bush grounded out to 2b. Spurgetis grounded out to 3b. Walker popped up to ss. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Plainfield North 3rd - Thompson struck out swinging. Dunbar out at first 1b to 2b to 1b. Siwek grounded out to p. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Rock Island 3rd - Motley grounded out to 1b unassisted. Thomer flied out to lf. Peters popped up to ss. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Plainfield North 4th - Shaughnessy lined out to ss. Mallinder doubled to right center. Callow struck out looking. Kennedy walked. Weck reached on an error by 2b; Kennedy advanced to second; Mallinder advanced to third, out at home 2b to c. 0 runs, 1 hit, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Rock Island 4th - Stegall struck out swinging. Kelley singled. Michaels singled down the lf line; Kelley advanced to second. Bush reached on a fielder's choice; Michaels out at second ss to 2b; Kelley advanced to third. DeMeyer pinch ran for Bush. Spurgetis reached on an error by p; DeMeyer advanced to second; Kelley scored, unearned. Walker grounded out to 3b. 1 run, 2 hits, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Plainfield North 5th - Bush to c for DeMeyer. Kuriger flied out to cf. Thompson struck out swinging. Dunbar flied out to rf. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Rock Island 5th - Motley grounded out to 3b. Thomer grounded out to 2b. Peters flied out to lf. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Plainfield North 6th - Siwek popped up to ss. Shaughnessy flied out to lf. Mallinder popped up to 1b. 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: **SPORTS WRITING**

Rock Island 6th - Stegall homered to left center, RBI. Kelley walked. Michaels flied out to rf. Bush reached on a fielder's choice; Kelley advanced to second on an error by 2b. DeMeyer pinch ran for Kelley. Hantz pinch ran for Bush. Spurgetis popped up to p. Walker struck out swinging. 1 run, 1 hit, 1 error, 2 LOB.

Plainfield North 7th - Kelley to 2b for DeMeyer. Bush to c for Hantz. Callow homered, RBI. Kennedy singled to center field. Auriemma pinch ran for Kennedy. Weck grounded out to p, SAC; Auriemma advanced to second. Kuriger grounded out to 2b; Auriemma advanced to third. Thompson hit by pitch. Brt. Knox pinch ran for Thompson. Brt. Knox stole second. Dunbar hit by pitch. Gardner pinch ran for Dunbar. Siwek fouled out to 3b. 1 run, 2 hits, 0 errors, 3 LOB.

TOURNEY HISTORY, ROSTER & STATS

Plainfield North

This is the first state tournament appearance for Plainfield North.

Rock Island

This is the first state tournament appearance for Rock Island.



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: **SPORTS WRITING**

ROCK ISLAND ROCKS (31-5)

Head Coach: Chris Allison

Career: 94-39 in 4 seasons

No.	Name	B	T	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
1	Raghen Walker	R	R	1B-3B	5-11	So.
2	Ali Dillender	R	R	OF	5-6	Sr.
3	Heather Motley	R	R	IF	5-4	So.
5	Kaiah Miles	R	R	OF	5-7	Jr.
6	Jacey Upton	R	R	P	5-5	Sr.
7	Abbie Bush	R	R	C-IF	5-7	Jr.
8	Mercedes Hantz	R	R	C-3B	5-5	Jr.
10	Emma Spurgetis	R	R	OF	5-7	Jr.
11	Delaney Kelley	R	R	2B	5-10	Jr.
12	Lauryn Stegall	R	R	SS-P	5-8	Jr.
15	Sophia Thomer	L	R	CF	5-4	Sr.
23	Mackenzie Melody	R	R	OF	5-7	Jr.
25	Janey Harris	R	R	3B-1B	5-8	Jr.
27	Cassidy DeMeyer	R	R	OF	5-6	Fr.
28	Madison Michaels	R	R	1B	5-8	Jr.
30	Jada Harris	R	R	OF	5-6	Jr.
44	Ashley Peters	L	L	P-1B	5-8	Jr.

HITTING STATS

Name	G	AB	R	H	RBI	Avg.	2B	3B	HR
Abbie Bush	34	89	18	28	17	.315	4	0	2
Ali Dillender	19	23	15	4	3	.174	2	0	0
Mercedes Hantz	23	23	5	8	4	.348	2	0	0
Janey Harris	22	44	9	13	13	.295	4	1	3
Delaney Kelley	34	94	20	39	32	.415	3	0	0
Mackenzie Melody	26	52	15	16	13	.308	4	1	4
Madison Michaels	28	75	14	25	16	.333	5	0	0
Heather Motley	14	19	3	6	4	.316	0	0	0
Ashley Peters	33	114	28	57	29	.500	14	2	2
Emma Spurgetis	33	80	29	34	21	.425	6	2	3
Lauryn Stegall	33	108	32	49	50	.454	11	2	13
Sophia Thomer	33	107	35	32	6	.299	1	0	0
Raghen Walker	21	47	6	22	7	.468	5	0	0

PITCHING STATS

Name	G	W-L	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Ashley Peters	26	17-4	139.2	86	20	10	200	1.00
Lauryn Stegall	14	21-1	70.1	64	18	19	59	1.79



2022 IHSA VIRTUAL JOURNALISM SECTIONALS: **SPORTS WRITING**

PLAINFIELD NORTH TIGERS (32-5)

Head Coach: Kelly Ash

Career: 58-10 in two seasons

No.	Name	B	T	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
1	Lexi Siwek	L	R	CF-3B	5-5	Sr.
2	Ryan Shaughnessy	L	R	RF	5-5	Jr.
7	Jenna Dunbar	R	R	C	5-4	Sr.
10	Madi Keay	L	R	OF	5-10	Sr.
11	Alie Kennedy	R	R	C-1B	5-8	Sr.
12	Jillian Gardner	R	R	OF	5-5	Sr.
13	Bailey Weck	R	R	IF	5-6	Jr.
15	Brittany Knox	R	R	2B	5-6	Sr.
16	Sam Mallinder	R	R	SS-P	5-7	Jr.
17	Greta Thompson	R	R	P-1B	5-8	Sr.
18	Hailey Kuriger	L	R	OF	5-8	Sr.
19	Kaylee Piven	R	R	SS-LF	5-9	Sr.
21	Kaelin Callow	R	R	2B-1B	5-9	Sr.
26	Elizabeth Auriemma	S	R	OF	5-4	Sr.
31	Abbey Fitzgerald	R	R	P-1B	5-10	Jr.

HITTING STATS (entering championship game)

Name	G	AB	R	H	RBI	Avg.	2B	3B	HR
Elizabeth Auriemma	31	14	29	5	2	.357	0	0	0
Kaelin Callow	36	106	19	37	27	.349	9	0	3
Jenna Dunbar	24	51	8	11	11	.216	1	3	1
Abbey Fitzgerald	21	19	1	5	5	.263	2	0	0
Jillian Gardner	13	15	1	3	2	.200	1	0	0
Madi Keay	25	54	9	11	8	.204	1	1	0
Alie Kennedy	32	68	11	23	12	.338	8	0	3
Brittany Knox	20	20	6	4	3	.200	1	0	0
Hailey Kuriger	31	54	19	25	11	.463	3	0	0
Sam Mallinder	35	118	21	48	33	.407	9	3	3
Kaylee Piven	27	80	16	20	6	.250	2	0	0
Ryan Shaughnessy	36	104	39	45	25	.433	7	4	3
Lexi Siwek	36	111	37	44	25	.396	7	2	2
Greta Thompson	36	105	7	33	23	.314	10	0	2
Bailey Weck	28	42	16	12	10	.286	2	0	2

PITCHING STATS (entering championship game)

Name	G	W-L	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Abbey Fitzgerald	10	1-1	22.2	17	5	6	11	1.54
Sam Mallinder	13	7-2	65.1	70	24	8	49	2.57
Greta Thompson	24	22-2	146.2	122	39	69	142	1.86



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SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

Please follow the instructions below carefully, as this will be very important in our ability to receive, process, and distribute your work for judging.

1. Determine how you are going to get your work to your advisor (email, school network, flash drive, etc.).

2. You will need your Sectional Code & School Code to name your files. If you don't know your codes, you can find them on the email attachment or at:

www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Journalism/2022-State-Series

3. Output your story as a PDF. The name of your PDF file should be your Single Digit Sectional number – Event Category – Four-Digit School Code.

Example below:

1 – Sports Writing – 1234

4. Submit the file to your advisor and confirm they received it.