

By ROY ALLEN

Seward assistant athletic director

Seward County softball sophomore first baseman Stephanie Mark was named a Capital One Second Team Academic All-American. Mark was the only junior college student-athlete in the country to be given the award and was one of just three sophomores to be named to the first or second team.

Mark was a First Team All-Region VI and First Team All-Jayhawk West selection for the Lady Saints this season. She led Seward County in batting average (.432), doubles (19), home runs (17), and RBI's (70) among other categories. While what Mark did in 2013 was impressive, it might be what she didn't do that was the most impressive. In 215 at-bats this season, Mark struck out just five times, including an amazing stretch of 114 straight at bats without a strikeout at the end of the Lady Saints regular season.

She leaves Seward County as the all-time leader in hits (174), doubles (45), and RBI's (122), shattering all of those marks throughout her sophomore campaign, and finished second all-time in career batting average (.447) and home runs (27).

An Ogden, Utah native, Mark went into the Spring 2013 semester with a 3.83 GPA and is an Engineering major.

The Capital One Academic All-American College Division Softball Team is comprised of student-athletes from across the country who compete for non-NCAA schools. To be eligible for Academic All-American consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information

director.