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## 2011 Western Mass. Softball - Division I - Round 4 - Game 1 - Softball

Agawam vs. Amherst - Game Preview & News

Game Details

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<b>Agawam</b> (17-5-0) <b>0</b>	6/13/2011 3 p.m.	<b>Amherst</b> (22-1-0) <b>2</b>
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UMass Softball Complex, Amherst, MA

### Amherst repeats as Division I softball champions with 2-0 victory over Agawam

#### The Republican's Super 7

- Quianna Diaz-Patterson, Amherst
- Zoe Dillon-Davidson, Amherst
- Simone Frank, Amherst
- Cat McCarthy, Ludlow
- Emma Mendoker, Amherst
- Bri Moussette, Hampshire
- Reilly Wieners, Agawam

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Fran Sypek, June 13, 2011 11:19 p.m.

AMHERST – She had that look, a glare that only comes when someone is pitching with confidence and dogged determination.

It was almost as if Emma Mendoker was speaking to the Agawam softball team and saying, "OK, you beat me once, but it just isn't going to happen again."

It didn't.

Mendoker, the Massachusetts Gatorade High School Player of the Year, could finally break into a beautiful, wide smile once everything was said and done after Amherst won its second straight Western Massachusetts Division I softball championship with a 2-0 victory over Agawam on Monday afternoon at the University of Massachusetts Softball Complex.

Amherst (22-1) will play Milford, a 3-2 winner over St. Peter Marian in Monday's 13-inning Central Mass. final, Thursday at 4 p.m. back at UMass.

"There's a certain level we kind of get to at some point where (Mendoker) knows I'm kind of reading her mind, and we hit this place where everything starts to go really well like it did today," Amherst catcher Zoe Dillon-Davidson said. "When Emma gets into a certain mind-set, everything just clicks."

Last season, Amherst lost its only game when it bowed 1-0 to Milford in the state semifinals. That game came one day after the Hurricanes beat West Springfield 1-0 for the sectional title.

This season, Amherst's lone loss was a 2-0 decision to Agawam in the regular season. Amherst rallied from two runs down to eke out a wild, 3-2 victory over the Brownies in the teams' second matchup before claiming the rubber match Monday.

"It took a lot of mental toughness," Mendoker said. "Losing to them bothered me so much, but in the long run it was good for us because we knew we had to step up and play better."

This was a game befitting a championship final and, as expected, was dominated by a pair of outstanding pitchers. Both runs allowed by Agawam's Jess Colson in the first inning were unearned.

In 11 innings against Amherst this season, Colson did not allow an earned run.

But Mendoker was even better and the East Carolina-bound senior pitched yet another gem. She had help.

"It's been a battle against them," Amherst coach Kacey Schmitt said. "Emma pitched great and we got a couple of lucky breaks."

The Hurricanes turned two double plays and third baseman Simone Frank raced in and made a diving catch of a popup by Brittany Discher in the sixth inning.

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**WMass Scoreboard**

06/13 at 6 p.m. Baseball	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Final
<a href="#">Pioneer Valley (W) @</a>	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	<b>8</b>
<a href="#">Easthampton (L)</a>	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	<b>6</b>
<a href="#">Box Score   Recap</a>								
06/13 at 7 p.m. Baseball	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Final
<a href="#">Palmer (W) @</a>	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	<b>5</b>
<a href="#">Wahconah (L)</a>	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	<b>3</b>
<a href="#">Box Score   Recap</a>								
06/13 at 3:15 p.m. Girls Tennis	1st	2nd	Final					
<a href="#">Lenox (W) @</a>	-	-	<b>3</b>					
<a href="#">Notre Dame Academy (L)</a>	-	-	<b>2</b>					
<a href="#">Box Score   Recap</a>								
06/13 at 3:30 p.m. Boys Tennis	1st	Final						
<a href="#">Longmeadow (L) @</a>	-	<b>0</b>						
<a href="#">St. John's Shrewsbury (W)</a>	-	<b>5</b>						
<a href="#">Box Score</a>								
06/14 at 3 p.m. Softball	Time							
<a href="#">Wahconah @</a>	<b>3 p.m.</b>							
<a href="#">Hampshire</a>	UMass Softball Complex							
<a href="#">Box Score</a>								

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In 20 innings over three games with Agawam this season, Mendoker allowed just one earned run.

"We got beat by a great pitcher and a great team," Agawam coach Kathy Georgina said. "We definitely gave them a run."

Great teams tend to take advantage of what the opposition gives them and the Hurricanes vaulted to a 2-0 first-inning lead with their pair of unearned runs.

"We knew how important it was to come out and score early," Dillon-Davidson said. "We feel very confident in Emma's pitching and our defense."

Frank drew a one-out walk, went to second on a wild pitch and scored when Dillon-Davidson scored on a throwing error by Colson. Mendoker reached on a single and Dillon-Davidson scored the second run on a clutch, two-out single by Emma Ayers, who teamed with Frank to sing the national anthem prior to the game.

The drama continued into the seventh inning. Agawam's Maurisa Ollari, who was outstanding in the field at third base, led off with a sharp single to center and hard-hitting catcher Rielly Wieners singled to right to put the tying runs on base with one out.

Mendoker fanned Becca Fondakowski and got two strikes on the dangerous Jess Ushman. She then shook off Dillon-Davidson twice.

No, she did not want to throw her heated riser. Instead she had more trust in her curve and, sure enough, Ushman swung and missed for the final out.

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**Softball**

**Stats Leaders**

**Hits**

**Quianna Diaz-Patterson**

Amherst

**44**

**Home Runs**

**Janelle Gorman**

Hampshire

**7**

**Runs Batted In**

**Stephanie Godding**

Renaissance School

**34**

**West Springfield's Annie Pitkin**

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