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## Milford @ Amherst - Softball

Milford vs. Amherst - Game Preview & News

### Game Details

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<b>Milford</b> (22-2-0)	6/16/2011 5:30 p.m.	<b>Amherst</b> (23-1-0)
<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>

## Amherst advances to Division I state softball title game with 3-0 semifinal win over Milford

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Fran Sypek, June 16, 2011 11:21 p.m.

AMHERST – The 2011 Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year was on top of her game.

The 2010 Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year was just a little off hers.

Amherst Regional High School took advantage of a rare bout of wildness by sophomore Shannon Smith and scored three third-inning runs to earn a 3-0 Division I state semifinal victory over Milford on Thursday at the University of Massachusetts Softball Complex. Emma Mendoker, the 2011 Player of the Year pitched a two-hit shutout with 12 strikeouts.

Amherst will play reigning state champion King Philip of Wrentham on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Worcester State University for the state championship. The Hurricanes are seeking their first state championship since 1978 – the only time a Western Mass. team has won a Division I state title.

“With everything that’s happened, this has been such a huge week,” Mendoker said. “It hasn’t hit me yet.”

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Last season, Milford beat Amherst 1-0 in the state semifinals, despite 16 strikeouts in eight innings by Mendoker. The Hurricanes have a knack for rallying around crushing tournament losses like they did this year when they beat Pittsfield – the team that eliminated them in 2009 – with a convincing 8-1 opening round victory.

Speed was a factor in this one, which lived up to its billing as a duel between the top two pitchers in the Commonwealth. Quianna Diaz-Patterson may have wreaked havoc with Smith's concentration after the UMass-bound senior stole three bases. She has never been caught stealing in her high school career.

"Speed can drive teams crazy and that's what Quianna did," Amherst coach Kacey Schmitt said.

Mendoker now has a chance to reach 1,000 career strikeouts. She has 992 in her three seasons at Amherst. She allowed only single base hits in the sixth and seventh innings.

"Emma was so focused," Diaz-Patterson said. "Emma just dominated this game."

The Hurricanes took advantage of Smith's lack of control and took a 3-0 lead in the third inning. Smith only gave up one hit, but she created her own problems when she walked three batters.

Diaz-Patterson drew a walk on a 3-2 pitch and promptly stole second. Simone Frank got her bat on the ball and beat out an infield single as Diaz-Patterson took third.

Zoe Dillon-Davidson walked and so did Mendoker to force in the game's first run. Brittany Deres, one of several unheralded players on the Hurricanes, drilled a two-run single to right to score both Frank and Dillon-Davidson and give Amherst a 3-0 advantage.

"Brittany's one of our unsung heroes, but the kids sure know how much she means to this team," Schmitt said.

Deres remembered getting a piece of some of Smith's offerings a year ago.

"This time, I got a bigger piece," she said.

Amherst had runners on second and third in the first inning, but the Hurricanes did not score. Diaz-Patterson led off the game by drawing a four-pitch walk off Smith. The state Player of the Year in 2010, seemed to struggle with her control early on.

Diaz-Patterson stole second and third. Her theft of third came on a throw back to the pitcher. But she did not get a good jump and had to retreat to the bag when Dillon-Davidson reached on a fielder's choice to second. Dillon-Davidson stole second without a throw.

Smith escaped trouble after she fanned Mendoker on a 3-2 pitch and got Deres to tap back to her for the final out of the first.

Milford (L) @	0	0	0
<a href="#">Amherst (W)</a>	0	0	0
<a href="#">Box Score</a>   <a href="#">Recap</a>			
06/16 at 4 p.m. Baseball			
Palmer (L) @	0	0	0
Hudson (W)	0	1	1
<a href="#">Preview</a>   <a href="#">Box Score</a>   <a href="#">Recap</a>			
06/16 at 2 p.m. Softball			
<a href="#">Turners Falls (W) @</a>	0	1	0
Quaboag (L)	0	0	0
<a href="#">Box Score</a>   <a href="#">Recap</a>			
06/17 at 5 p.m. Girls Lacrosse			
Longmeadow @			
Westwood			
<a href="#">Box Score</a>			
06/18 Baseball			
Minnechaug @			
Lincoln-Sudbury			
<a href="#">Box Score</a>			

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**Softball**

**Stats Leaders**

Hits

**Quianna Diaz-Patterson**

Amherst

**44**

Home Run

**Janelle Gorman**

Hampshire