



43rd Annual Award of Honor



24th Annual Hall of Fame



NJSIAA Sports Awards Recognition Program



The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village
12:00 PM

March 27, 2022

NJSIAA Officers

Thomas Mullahey	President
Joseph Bollendorf	1st Vice President
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TRICIA POPOWSKI Hoffman HS Athlete - Softball

There's never been an athlete in New Jersey quite like Tricia Popowski. And in an age where most elite athletes specialize in their best sport, there may never be another like her again.

A 1987 graduate of Hoffman (now South Amboy) High School, she was awarded 12 varsity letters - four apiece in soccer, basketball and softball.

Her main sports were basketball and softball. On the hardwood, she scored 1,111 points for teams that went 114-5 during her career. At one point along the way, Hoffman was ranked No. 1 in the nation by USA Today. It won three Group 1 state titles with Popowski in the lineup, and she was also an All-State First Team selection.

She was even better in softball, and in fact put up some of the best hitting stats - by far - in state history. Her career numbers included 38 home runs, 39 triples, 37 doubles, 211 hits, 237 runs scored, 236 RBI and a .603 batting average. As a junior in 1986, she had an incredible 80 RBI and hit 13 home runs for the Group 1 state champs. In 1987, she hit .703. She was a four-time All-Group 1 player and two-time First Team All-State selection.

She continued to post astonishing hitting statistics during her four years playing at University of South Carolina, where she set a slew of records, including both season and career records in the following categories: games played, doubles, triples, home runs, runs and walks. She also set career records for RBI, hit by pitch and stolen bases. Popowski totaled 279 hits with the Gamecocks, including a NCAA-record 51 triples. She also struck out once in every 23.7 at-bats. She was later inducted into the school Athletic Hall of Fame.

She continued to play post-college, including three years with the famed Raybestos Brakettes, who won the 1992 ASA Women's Major Fast Pitch National Championship with Popowski in the lineup. In one game during that tournament, she set an ASA record for that event with five hits in one game. She also played three years with the U.S. National Team, winning several championships along the way.

In 1991, Power Flight, a worldwide bat manufacturer, produced and marketed two signature softball bats, the Tricia Popowski model, and the Scooter Popowski model, which used her nickname.

She remains active as a coach on the local club scene, and is a middle school teacher in Point Pleasant.