

The Atlantic softball team had one of their best seasons yet with a conference championship, a trip to State, and a record of 30-7. This was all thanks to the hard work and dedication given by all 17 girls on the varsity roster. Many players had nothing but motivation to get better after a tough 2-3 loss in a Regional final game against West Marshall last season.

Second baseman Reagan Pellett said, "We all took the loss very hard and I think that's why we were all so willing to put in so much work in the off-season. Every single one of us has been hitting, fielding, working on mechanics or even playing on a club team to improve our game and get back to where we wanted to be."

The team also had some new faces in the dugout to help them reach their goals. They gained two new coaches: Molly O'Hara and Derek Handel who gave up their summers to help out the team. O'Hara was an assistant coach who worked with pitchers among other responsibilities.

Handel acted as a volunteer coach focusing on players' hitting technique. "They were fun to have around this year because I could ask Molly about pitching things and Derek for help with hitting things," senior pitcher Ally Anderson said. A blend of hard work, an amazing coaching staff and team camaraderie led the Trojans to a season that will never be forgotten.

Story by Reagan Pellett

OUR ROAD TO DODGE

Photo Credit: Hannah Alff



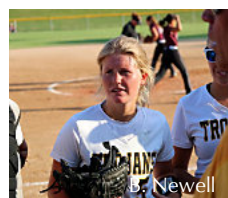
A. Anderson



A. Handel



A. Deby



B. Newell



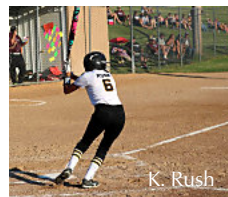
R. Pellett



M. Waters



O. Engler



K. Rush

HAWKEYE 10 ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

A total of eight Trojans earned Hawkeye 10 All-Conference honors this season. Representing first team are seniors Ally Anderson and Alexis Handel along with junior Baylee Newell and freshman Alyssa Derby. Coming up right behind them are sophomores Reagan Pellett and McKenzie Waters who both earned second team. Rounding out most of the Trojan lineup is junior Karsyn Rush and freshman Olivia Engler both earning honorable mention. Anderson and Handel were both named first team All-State at the end of the season. Both girls will play ball at the collegiate level.



GIDDY UP

Coach Terry Hinzmann motivates his players in a huddle before they grab their bats and head to the batter's box. Hinzmann earned his 200th career win this season as well as a second trip to the State tournament.



STRETCH TO MAKE THE CATCH

Freshman Olivia Engler stretches for a ball thrown by third baseman Alexis Handel. Engler made her debut at first base just nine games into the season in a home game against the Shenandoah Fillies. Engler was involved in volleyball, softball, speech, choir, and show choir. She said her favorite thing about playing first base was catching the ball on most of the plays to get outs for her team.



WATERS SLIDE

Sophomore McKenzie Waters slides safely into third base during a conference match up vs. Shenandoah. Waters monitored the outfield in center field and hit a consistent .350 all season long all while scoring a whopping 22 runs for the Trojans in one season. "My favorite part of the season was being able to be conference champs and make it to State with my best friends," she said.

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TRIM LINE

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