

# Pitching is key factor for Mobile Christian girls

*There's no doubt that Lady Leopards can hit*

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The one big thing that jumps out about Mobile Christian's softball roster is it includes six pitchers.

"We'll be as good as our pitching," said head coach Derek Walters. "We can hit and we scored a bunch of runs last season. We scored enough runs to win a bunch of games, but the other teams scored a lot of runs, too."

Mobile Christian scored quite a few runs during the 2018 season, beating the likes of McGill-Toolen 9-2 in the season opener, B.B. Comer 15-0, Murphy 12-0 and routing crosstown rival Cottage Hill Christian Academy 12-0. But the Leopards were on the losing end of some very tight games, including losing three one-run games

to Clarke County (6-5, 6-5 and 14-13), as well as Faith Academy (8-7).

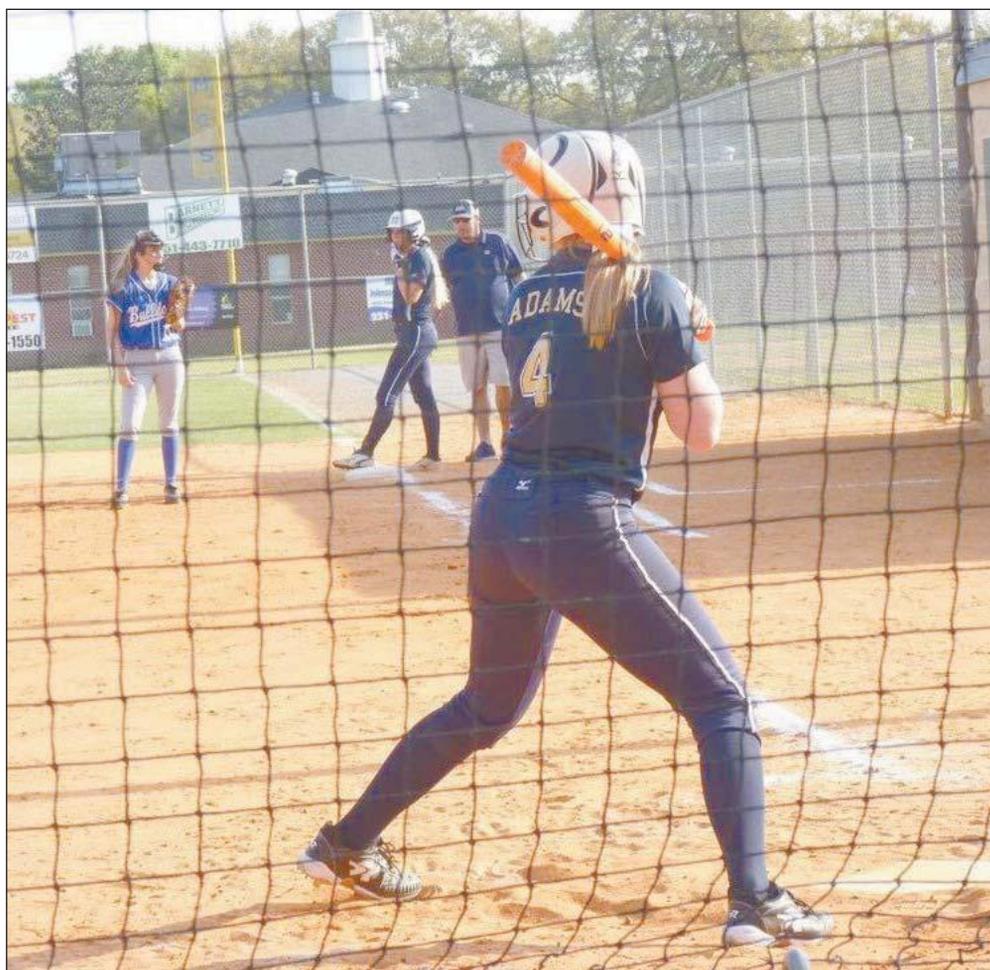
In addition, MC also was on the losing end of some lopsided games, including a 17-9 loss



Jordan Holcomb is the only senior on the MC pitching staff.

to Satsuma, a 10-4 loss to Baker and a 15-4 loss to UMS-Wright. That's why the Leopards went 12-16 overall last season, including a 4-2 mark in Class 3A, Area 1 play, and were ousted 15-0 by Providence Christian in last year's South Regionals.

One unusual thing about this season, though, is Mobile Christian is in a rare, two-team area (Class 3A, Area 1) along with Thomasville. Yet, the Leopards have a tough schedule, playing McGill-Toolen in the season opener on Feb. 18 and having games against other



Mobile Christian's Bess Adams, who has committed to UAB, is described by coach Derek Walters as "a tremendous hitter."

local powerhouses such as Mary G. Montgomery, Baker and Citronelle.

"There were four teams (in our area), including St. Michael and Bayside, but Bayside and St. Michael don't have teams," Walters said. "It's just us and Thomasville. We'll both progress to regionals, but typically Thomasville has a pretty good team. Thomasville has a good pocket of fast-pitch."

It is little wonder Walters' concerns for this year include finding a way to last through the season and get to the regionals again ... and beyond.

"We're hoping to stay healthy and

(lean on our) pitching," he said.

Of the six pitchers, only one — Jordan Holcomb — is a senior. Some of the other key pitchers include freshman Bell Neal and sophomore Lacy Baxter.

At other positions, key players include freshman shortstop McKenzie Busby, junior Bess Adams (who has committed to UAB) and freshman center fielder JaNiyah Boykin.

"We're looking for big things out of McKenzie," Walters said. "Bess is a tremendous hitter and JaNiyah is really fast."