

Wildcat girls a talented group

BY MARK R. KENT
mkent@thecallnews.com

CITRONELLE — A year ago, the Citronelle Lady Wildcats were 10-12 against everyone not named Jackson High School, and their body of work earned them a three-game trip into the state regionals.

Unfortunately, Citronelle was 0-5 against Jackson, losing twice in the regular season, twice in the area tournament (in which they finished as runner-up and qualified for the regionals) and in the elimination game of the regionals.

But despite the lack of experience — the 2019 Lady Cats have no seniors — head coach Kelsey Cooper has high hopes for this year's squad.

"I really feel that this team has a lot of talent, maybe as much talent as a Citronelle team has ever had," Cooper said.

Pitching will be the responsibility of Desiree Denmark and Madison Fra-

zier. "They will be used one as much as the other," Cooper said. "And Desiree was a varsity player with us last year as an eighth-grader."

There are three positions where competition continues heading into the season — first base, catcher and right field. Megan Roberts and Hannah Parnell will share duties at second, while Frazier will play shortstop when she isn't pitching or in the outfield. When Frazier pitches, look for Jenna Lankford at short.

Roberts and Parnell are each contenders at third base as well.

The outfield has three possibilities for left and center field, with Frazier, Denmark and Courtney Roberts, who played varsity as a seventh-grader a year ago, in the mix for an outfield spot.

This team has six juniors, three sophomores and 14 more players in both varsity and JV who are freshmen or younger. What this means is that whatever success the teams achieves

this year, Cooper will have them all back in 2020 as well.

Two members of the basketball team, Lee Ann and Victoria Brock, are prospects for the varsity as well. Lee Ann Brock, a junior, should have a spot, while younger Victoria, a freshman, will get an opportunity to make the varsity. Both Brocks and Lankford are basketball players, and Cooper is assistant coach to Carol Turner in that sport.

The batting lineup will feature Frazier at the top of the lineup, with Parnell and Denmark hitting in the power spots.

This is Cooper's third season as head coach of softball. She is an alumnus of Mary G. Montgomery High School and a graduate of the University of West Alabama.

Citronelle opens on the road at Millry on Feb. 19, with the home opener Feb. 26 against Greene County, Miss., of Leakesville.



19085 Main Street South
Citronelle, AL 36522
Office: (251) 866-2700
Cell: (251) 454-1585

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