

GATORS: Girls are young

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thing to the table about 60 other teams don't."

The Gators graduated four seniors off what was unquestionably one of the state's top teams, including Coastal Female Athlete of the Year Courtney Ellzey, now at the University of Mobile.

Darawich said he knows filling those shoes won't be easy. "We're looking for a sophomore group and maybe even a middle-schooler to jump in and really bring that same type intensity and willingness to compete into the program with us having lost four kids that embodied that."

Darawich said the bevy of tenth-graders he's counting on are too numerous to single out by name. But the players that rise to the top of the heap will have to support the effort of three stellar

seniors. Mattie Robertson (C/OF), Macy Holt (2B) and Hannah Lollar (CF) are the seniors who'll be looking to carry on the rock-solid reputation that is Satsuma softball.

"The program has a storied tradition," said Darawich. "There's multiple former players who are now college coaches. Pat Hicks is a legend around these parts and inside the state as far as her legacy goes in volleyball and in softball," he said of the now deceased iconic softball coach, whose 1986 team went 43-1 and was the first-ever team in any sport from the school to win a state title.

Darawich said getting to the state tournament last year was good, but ...

"Anybody that knows the kids inside the program, as well as myself and staff that surrounds it, knows we don't live on moral victories."

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