

## LP-A Raiders Softball Return Core Of Players This Season

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Sports Writer



The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders softball team is another group waiting to get on the field and play. The Raiders are coached by Amanda Snyder, who is in her second year of coaching. She is assisted by Paige Johnson. One of Snyder's favorite things about softball is the weather and being outside, that is, when it cooperates.

The Raiders only lost one starter to graduation. They have already filled that spot. Last year the Raiders struggled with both fielding and hitting, especially in the beginning. They came away with only one win last season.

The team did grow last season though. They would get better at one aspect of the game at a time until finally, at the end, they pulled everything together. Snyder is hoping that this year the team can start strong and only get stronger.

There are 10 returning players. Starting pitchers will be senior Maria Miosek and junior Carli Ecker. Sophomore Etta Miosek will continue to be in the starting catcher position. Junior Kailee Lefebvre will play in the



The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders softball team members are, off to right, front row-Hannah Corradi, Allison Rohweller, Kelsey Thompson, Kiara Gullard, Kacynce Retz, Alexis Hernandez, Becca Melby; middle row-Lillie Clapsaddle, Isabel Varberg, Emily Thompson, Maddie Thompson, Tressa Retz, Raini Evans, Paris Roy, Myah Rosing; back row-Brynn Stalberger, Charisma Francis, Alexis Leining, Shadaisa Stalberger, Maria Miosek, Etta Miosek, Carlie Ecker, Kailee Lefebvre and Gabbi Munson. Not Pictured are Thea Mattson, Trinity Pare, Chloe How and Victoria Sheikh.

shortstop position. Sophomore Emily Thompson will play at center field. Senior Isabel

Vareberg will fill the right field spot. Junior Shadaisa Stalberger will be playing the first base role. Senior Charisma Francis will be covering third base.

"As the season goes on things always seem to change in some way, but it is helpful to have so many returning players this season," notes Snyder.

With so many returning players there are great leaders Snyder recognizes. Maria Miosek has been a great leader since she came onto varsity in eighth grade. She just seems to have a natural ability to lead and to be a great role model. Snyder hopes that continues for her as she graduates this year.

Her other two seniors,

Vareberg and Francis, are great role models for the players in school and practice. They have never missed a practice and give it all on the field.

Losing these three players next year is going to leave the team a big hole, but Snyder looks forward to see who will step up to fill it. She has watched these three girls grow over the last five years into great ladies who will go far in life.

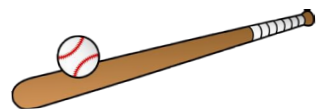
The Raiders are in the Pine-To-Prairie Conference. Snyder sees the NCE/UH Titans as always the team to beat. They have a great pitcher that really just seems to get into the girls' heads. They also make it hard for other teams to score runs.

The team's goal this season is to get more wins.

"We only came away with one win but more important than winning is I want to see growth from each girl as the season goes on," says Snyder.

The team took huge strides by the end of last year and if they can pick up where they left off, more wins should be in their future. They have talked a lot about getting ahead of the play, thinking of the next step and thinking beyond the play at hand. As they are batting they need to be thinking about the next swing as soon as the last one is finished. Snyder really wants the girls to have their heads in the game at all times.

"We need to build off the growth we made last year," concludes Snyder. "We came a long way and finally started to click as a team and with so many returning players I hope that growth continues."



## Go Raiders!

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