



GOLDTHWAITE LADY EAGLES SOFTBALL: Britni Roberts - Freshman, Mia Herrera - Sophomore, Makayla Miles - Freshman, Jaycie Chapman - Junior, Athena Vanderlaan - Sophomore, Dakota Sutherland - Senior, Jenna Fincher - Freshman, Jessica Horton - Senior, Kelly Ables - Junior, Bayleigh Hicks - Senior, Reagan Switzer - Sophomore, Maggie Tupin - Sophomore, Jessica Vanegas - Sophomore. (not pictured, Macy Seward and Jadyn Deweese)

New Coaches, Same Power

By Madison Lewis
The Goldthwaite Eagle

With a new head and assistant coach, the Goldthwaite Lady Eagles softball team is likely to face some challenges. However, head coach Rylee Jones is hopeful for a great season.

“I expect some of our challenges will be starting to develop the new players and help them fill some of the roles that the seniors held last year,” Jones said.

Last season, Jones was a student coach. She helped keep books and offered advice when needed. Now she takes on the role of head coach for the first time.

“I think its a big challenge especially with a new assistant coach as well,” Jones said. “I think that because I was here last year, that will help a lot.”

Nine players are returning this season, including seniors Bayleigh Hicks and Jessica

Horton.

“I looking forward to getting closer to my teammates and playing my last year to the best of my ability,” Hicks said.

Hicks has played softball on and off since she was little and started her high school softball career in her sophomore year.

“I want to be a threat in the batter’s box and continue to improve in outfield,” Hicks said about her goals this season.

Hicks acknowledged that unity in a team doesn’t always come easy.

“You can’t have any selfish players,” Hicks said. “Every time you work defense or offense you have to think about the team as a whole and be intentional with lifting up your teammates.”

Horton commented on the fact that both her coaches are new this season.

“Having new coaches is

different because not only are you trying to play a game you’re trying to figure out their coaching style. It is important to count on the new coach making good decisions,” Horton said.

Horton has been playing since she was four years old.

“Knowledge of the game is important and trusting that everyone needs to do their job. It’s important to do your job and fill in the gaps where they need to be filled,” Horton said about a successful team.

Jones said her coaching style is more about a player’s future than just the game.

“I’m more about the players developing for their future and helping them learn how to use the things they learn in sports in everyday life. I’m tough on them but I want them to learn and take the initiative to learn,” Jones said.

Jones also commented on what unity looks like in a

team.

“Understanding that being an athlete doesn’t just mean your athletic but it also means your selfless and willing to be coached,” Jones said. “You want to do good for the team, not just yourself. If they can understand all of that they will be a better part of the team as a whole,” she said.

Jones’s ultimate goals for the team are to win district and to make it past bi-district.

“But really, I just hope that

we can help to start building a stronger program,” Jones said. “For the players and the community to see it as a real sport and something that they want their kids to be a part of and they want to be a part of. And for opposing teams to want to be like our program and like our team.”

For seniors Bayleigh Hicks and Jessica Horton, this season won’t be an easy one, as it will be their last.

“I will miss the energy be-

tween me and my teammates both on and off the field regardless of how well we played. We always have fun,” Hicks said.

For Horton, the connection of softball with her dad will be the hardest to leave behind.

“I’ll miss the aspect of having something I really enjoy and sharing something with my dad. I’ve loved having him as my personal coach and softball was our common ground,” Horton said.

Local News in the Palm of Your Hand



GoldthwaiteEagle.com

Supporting All Area Teams



WILSON

Heating & Cooling

Serving Mills & Surrounding Counties Since 1976

325-648-3661

408 Miller in Goldthwaite

TACLA001494C • TECL 19287

CRYSTAL DOWELL

Family Nurse Practitioner

Crystal Dowell, Family Nurse Practitioner, is at Coryell Health Mills County Clinic full time, taking walk-in and same day appointments. Crystal has been in the nursing field for over 20 years, having earned her Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas - Arlington and her Master’s of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) from South Unviersity. Crystal grew up in Goldthwaite and enjoys spending time there with her husband and four chuldren.

SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS

ACCEPTS WALK-INS

Accepting All Insurances Including Medicare | Medicaid | Tricare | Baylor Scott & White Healthplan | Self-pay



Coryell
HEALTH
MEDICAL CLINIC
MILLS COUNTY

WHERE YOU ALWAYS FEEL AT HOME

1510 Hannah Valley Rd. | (325) 648-2263 | CoryellHealth.org