Junior High Softball

Members of the GCHS softball team from the county's junior high schools are (Seated, L-R) Katie Helton, Laken Pierce, Cadence Harvison, Emma Simmons, (Standing) Bayleigh Howard, Gracie Brown, Baleigh Keys, Erin Meadows, Layla Mcliwain and Lily Walley. The young Wildcats will play in a few junior high only games and also compete with the GCHS junior varsity team in those games.

Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Editor

Good game, good game

Sophomore CharLee Meadows and junior Kat Garrett are shown leading their team across the diamong to shake hands with Mize after a Wildcat win in the South Jones Jamboree on Feb. 15. The Lady Cats feel like they have a roster that could produce many more of these happy moments this season.

Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Editor

Defense

expected to see plenty of action. Freshman Breeze Jordan will spend a lot of time in right field this season and will also be the primary backup to Caver in junior varsity action. Barham says Jordan has good speed, a very strong arm and is learning to take good angles that allows her to get to balls a lot of other girls might not get to."

"We have 4-5 girls that will play big roles in the outfield," Barham said. "We really have improved with our technique and communication and I think we have one of the strongest outfields that I have had here at GCHS."

"Kayla Mazzocchi is our captain out there and is one of several good arms we have that should limit extra bases and get runners out at home on routine base hits. Hannah has really made the transition well to the outfield. Her arm strength and instincts are very good. Brooklyn is also a good defender who reads the ball off the bat very well and has good speed. She gives us another good option and we are expecting her to have a breakout year as a junior.

Sophomore Kamryn Helton will back up Meadows at third, while freshman Lisa Johnson is the No. 2 at shortstop and could be a regular contributor in the outfield. Freshman Jalon Walley will get time at second, while junior Gen Walley will see time at first base.

Each of those girls will see a lot of playing time during junior varsity action as well.

Pitching wise, Barham realizes he is lucky to have three solid options with varsity experience. Hannah Hillman is the team's ace after tossing 75.1 innings and posting a 9-5 record a season ago. Sophomore Charleigh Stewart was the No. 2 pitcher in 2019

and posted a 4-3 record with 38.2 innings under her belt. Freshman Taylor Brewer is another solid option. She pitched well in junior varsity action as an eighth grader and has been solid thus far.

"Hannah is our ace and will get the ball in big situations," Barham said. "She works well as a starter and in relief and we are blessed that we don't have to hang our hat just on her."

The other two have worked really hard and give us great options. Taylor and Charleigh bring different qualities.

Charleigh has made a big jump from her freshman year to this year and Taylor has a very quick motion and has the best velocity of the three. She can also command a variety of pitches."

Barham said he is focused on making sure his pitchers reduce the number of free bases they give up. He believes all three girls have the stuff to get the timely strikeouts, but also believes his defense is strong enough to make the plays behind them when they pitch to contact.