

GREENE COUNTY

Softball

A Special Supplement to the
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SPOTLIGHT 2021

Lady Wildcats hoping talent and depth make 2021 a breakout season

With returning starters and new young guns, GCHS feels it has the roster for a special season

By **RUSSELL TURNER**
Herald Staff

The Greene County Lady Wildcats went into last season with high hopes of making the playoffs for the first time during the Tyler Barham era. After a slow start the Lady Cats had started to live up to the expectations and had won 4-of-5 games when the season was cancelled.

It was an unfortunate way to end a season, but even after a nearly year-long hiatus from the field, GCHS is getting the 2021 campaign underway with even higher expectations. Barham did lose three future collegiate athletes to graduation, but his current roster is loaded with talent, experience and a hunger to win.

"I thought we were starting to get things going last year when the season was cut short," said Barham, who is 30-42 through his first four seasons leading the Lady

Wildcats' softball program. "That was disappointing, but outside of our control. We are excited to be getting the chance to play this year and are expecting good things."

"We have all the parts in place to be successful. We have three quality pitchers, experience throughout the roster and a good mix of young talent. If we can stay healthy I think we can show that we can have a special season."

Staying healthy has a different definition during a global pandemic as Covid quarantine is as much, if not more, of a concern as player injuries. That dynamic reared its ugly head already as the Lady Cats were shut down last week after a couple of players tested positive for coronavirus.

"We're excited about the opportunity to finally get back on the field, so we have been very vigilant with the precautions we have taken to avoid having exposures," Barham said. "It is frustrating, but hopefully we can put this early setback behind us and get back on track."

With five seniors, two of which have already signed with collegiate programs, and a talented supporting cast, Barham's team was excited to get the season underway. Like most of the



Photo by Russell Turner / Herald Staff

Greene County senior pitcher/first baseman Hannah Hillman is shown delivering a pitch during an intrasquad scrimmage earlier this year. Hillman, one of five GCHS seniors this season, is one of several multi-year starters on the squad, like junior shortstop CharLee Meadows (above, right). But, the Lady Cats will also have several younger players, like seventh grade left fielder Zamiah Knight (above, left), that will be everyday varsity players this season.

rest of the teams in the state, the Lady Cats saw their opening jamboree and planned outing at Pearl River Community College cancelled due to a winter storm. When they finally did get on the field against Pascagoula on Feb. 19, their potential was on full display as they pounded out 20 hits in just four innings and cruised to a 22-6 win.


Game two was different as

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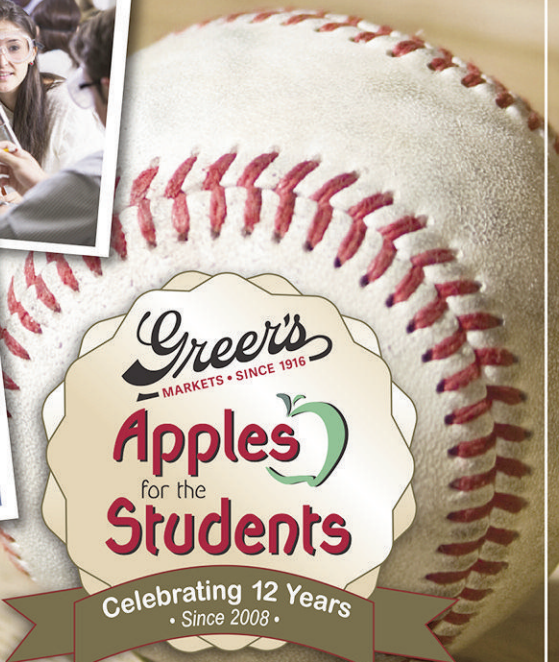

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