



The HCHS Lady Hornets Softball Team members for 2025 are, kneeling from left: Jordyn Waltrip, Lani Keller, Ella Volocko, Bella Kessans, Ava Riggs, Baylee Estes, Layla Sanders, Ryleigh French, Maddie Evans, Ashtyn Nugent, Jozlyn Carnes and Aubree Mosby. Standing: head coach Dwayne Wroe, coach Taylor Morris, Raylee

Johnson, Bella Bryant, JayLee Johnson, Madyson Higdon, Rebekah Wills, Ansley House, Maci Winkler, Zoey Wills, Audrey Carnes, Arlow Millay, Carolina Jones, Madison McManaway and coach Todd Keown.

# Young Lady Hornets are ready to win!

By Steve Wimmer

The HCHS Lady Hornets varsity softball team began its season last week and they look to again be district and regional contenders in 2025. Head coach Dwayne Wroe is in his 12th season at the helm and his team's have been the darlings of the HCHS sports programs for a while. Wroe's teams win over 20 games nearly every year, including 29 wins last season.

Hancock County was 11th District champions and 3rd Region runners-up in 2024, but they graduated five key seniors, including record breaking pitcher Lily Roberts.

Despite the losses in personal, the coach believes this young team can contend right away.

"You can't replace the very good seniors we had, but we have some good young players who have the capability to perform up to the level of the girls we lost" Wroe said. "We have several who got quality varsity experience last year at some crucial times, so that makes you grow up in a hurry."

Baylee Estes (senior) is the team's top returning player as she led the squad

in batting with an average of .460. She is the school's all-time leader in stolen bases and she hit four inside-the-park home runs last season.

"She's a senior leader and we look for her to help groom some of the younger players. She's a natural out fielder and a great hitter."

Estes will lead off and play center field. Her speed is obvious, and the coach has several others who can really run.

"Aubree Mosby hits behind Baylee and she's got speed, too. Ava Riggs has speed and we have girls capable of getting on base. We also have girls with speed coming off the bench who can pinch run, like Carolina Jones, Maddie McManaway and Lani Keller."

"In the past I would bunt a lot of girls over and try to manufacture runs, but anymore, with the way these girls hit, I don't bunt as much. We have nine girls who are capable of hitting the ball out of the park. And we can steal a base instead of having to give up an out with a bunt."

Quality hitting and good speed will be assets for the Lady Hornets all season,

but the team's success will often depend on the quality of pitching.

"You don't replace a Lily Roberts who averaged about 12 strike outs per game, so we're going to rely on a pitching staff this year. Bella Bryant (freshman) will see a lot of innings, along with Ryleigh French (8th grade), Riggs (junior) is coming along, Jordyn Waltrip (freshman) and Maci Winkler (7th grade) who can develop into a good pitcher down the road."

"We're going to try to pound the zone and work the corners. Hopefully we'll get a lot of easy ground balls and lazy fly balls and let our defense go to work."

The catcher will be freshman Madyson "Boom" Higdon. She showed what she's capable of last year when she blasted a home run in the regional tournament.

"She has the mentality where she wants to be back there. She wants to catch and I expect big things out of her. If she needs rest we can bring in Audry Carnes."

Carnes (sophomore) starts at first base. "She stepped in last year



Lady Hornets' short stop Jordyn Waltrip puts the tag on a base runner during Hancock County's first game and first win of the 2025 season.

and took the job at first base. She had some clutch hits and proved to be one of our better hitters."

Wroe will implement a platoon at second base, often depending on who's pitching at any given time.

"French, Mosby and Riggs can all play second base. And that's one of the things I like about this team... we have a bunch of girls who can play a lot of different positions, which allows us to do a lot of different things."

Waltrip will start at short stop. The freshman took over the position last year.

"She did a great job last year and she made a couple of diving catches during our scrimmage at

Bowling Green that were big time plays. She can hit for power, too."

Third base will be platooned by Bryant, Riggs and Mosby, depending on who is on the mound.

"Any team in the region would be happy to have any of them playing third base. They're all tough and they have to be because sometimes they get some shots hit at them. They're line drive hitters and good defenders."

Mosby or Riggs will play left field most of the time, with Ansley House (sophomore) in right field.

"Ansley is another player who can get hot at the plate. She's had probably

2025 LADY HORNET SOFTBALL		
3/17	Owensboro Christian V/JV	H 5:30
3/18	Henderson V/JV	A 6:00
3/20	Butler County V/JV	H 6:00
3/24	Meade County V/JV	H 5:30
3/25	Whitesville V/JV	H 5:30
3/27	Owensboro Catholic F	H 6:00
3/27	McLean County V/JV	Florida 9:00
3/30	South Laurel V	Florida 1:00
3/31	Talawanda V	Florida 3:00
4/2	Lewis Co. V	Florida 9:00
4/2	Reavis V	Florida 9:00
4/4	Central Hardin V	Florida 9:00
4/7	All A @ McLean County V	
4/11	Ohio County F	H 5:30
4/14	Ohio County V/JV	H 5:30
4/15	Apollo V/JV	H 6:00
4/17	Meade County V/JV	A 5:30
4/18	South Spencer V	A 1:00
4/19	Marshall County V DH	A 6:00
4/21	Castle V/JV	A 5:30
4/22	Owensboro V/JV	A 5:30
4/24	Muhlenberg County V/JV	H 6:00
4/26	Ohio County F	A 11:00
4/28	Owensboro Catholic F	A
4/29	Breckinridge County V/JV	H 5:30
5/1	Perry Central V/JV	A 6:00
5/2	McLean County V/JV	A 6:00
5/3	Owensboro Catholic F	A
5/5	Breckinridge County V/JV	A 5:30
5/6	Davess County V/JV	A 5:30
5/8	Tell City V/JV	H 5:30
5/9	Team Lauren Tourney V	A
5/10	Team Lauren Tourney V	A
5/12	Owensboro Christian V/JV	H 5:30
5/13	Ohio County V/JV	A 5:30
5/15	Whitesville V/JV	A 5:30
5/16	Muhlenberg County V/JV	A 6:00
5/19	District at Breck. County	

**Good Luck Hornets!**

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**GOOD LUCK HORNETS**

**Best of Luck  
Hancock County Hornets!**

**GOOD LUCK HORNETS!**

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