

# Softball season begins Monday

## First home game is March 19

**DALE CURRY**  
STAFF WRITER

Green County's softball team hits the road Monday for the opening game of the season at South Warren High School, just south of Bowling Green. Tuesday, they travel to take on Taylor County in another away game.

Both of those teams were in the state tournament last year, so the season starts with a great opportunity for the softball team.

"I like to play some of the best teams in the state," Head Coach Jeff Wright said. "I want to give our athletes the chance to see elite teams and to compete against them. They will remember this their whole lives."

Some of the players on the Dragons team have quality experience at the varsity level. Ava Hickerson and Kenzie Johnson are the only two seniors on the team. The two of them, along with Hazel Sharpe, played in all thirty games last season.

Hickerson will be starting again at first base with Johnson holding down the other corner of the diamond.

"We need for them to be the vocal leaders and the emotional leaders," Wright said. "They need to carry everyone else."

Hazel Sharpe is expected to be the starting pitcher in most of the games with Izzy Davis and Kaylee Sharpe filling in the gaps as needed on the mound.

"Hazel will be the one we depend on," Wright said. "She will have to be as solid as a rock."

Other players who saw considerable play last year include Marley Davis, Carrington Jewell, Hayli Milby and Faith Ray.

While the Dragons are the defending 18th District Tournament champions, Wright says that this team needs to learn early in the season how to win difficult games, rather than waiting until close to the end of the season.

"We need them to really focus on the game," Wright said of his players. "Madi (Corbin) knows what it is like to play high school softball and she sees that we have talent. She reminds the players what it was like when she played and how she has seen players on TV that she played against in high school."

Wright knows that in order for this year's team to be successful, they need to raise the team batting average from last year when the team average was .299.

"We've already talked about how we need to raise that team average several points so that we can be a threat at any time in the lineup," Wright said.

Last year the first four batters in the lineup were the only players who batted over .300 as the team struggled with their hitting.

"We have to have more intensity and more emotion on the field to be competitive," Wright said.

He went on to say that one of the goals this year is to get back to the All A State Tour-

nament.

In the 21-year history of the All A Tournament, the Dragons have won the region 15 times. Bethlehem has four championships, with Campbellsville and Fort Knox each claiming one championship.

"We had a very disappointing tournament last year," Wright said.

The Dragons lost to Bethlehem 16-4 in last year's tournament. The first game of this year's All A region is March 20 at Washington County with the winner moving on to play at Bethlehem on March 28 for the semi-finals and finals.

Even though this year's team has several experienced players, the team is still young. On the roster, in addition to the two seniors, will be six juniors, one sophomore, seven freshmen, two eighth graders and one seventh grader.

Hayden Garrett, one of the eighth graders, is handling the catching position, replacing Gracie Estes from last year.

"Garrett is tough as nails," Wright said.

"She hasn't backed down from any challenge."

The coach pointed out that this year's team is very athletic and that there are some players with good speed on the team.

"There are players on the team that I can substitute in because of their speed," he said.

The youthfulness will be challenged in the first game of the season at South Warren.

"They have five Division 1 signees this year," Wright said, "and their pitcher, a junior, is their best player."

But Wright pointed out that Green County had traveled to Ballard a few years ago when Ballard had four Division 1 signees and Green County came away with a win.

Wright is high on his team this year, but he also knows that there are some powerful teams in the 5th Region.

"Central Hardin is always good," Wright said. "North Hardin has a really good pitcher and that wins a lot of games in high school softball."

Wright added that Nelson County and Taylor County are also teams at the top of the region.

"I like this bunch of players," Wright said. "If I can get them to believe in themselves as much as I do, that will be good."

Wright is joined on the coaching staff by Russ Robertson and Corbin, both experienced assistant coaches.

The Dragons were scheduled to play Casey County in a scrimmage last night at home and they will play Clinton County tomorrow afternoon at 5 p.m. at American Legion Park. Those are the only two scrimmages prior to the season beginning Monday night.

Green County plays their first home game, Thursday, March 19 at 5 p.m. against the Russell County Lakers.

The Dragons have a 13-game winning streak against Russell County but have not played them since 2021. Last year, the Lakers were 13-16 for the year but this year their roster contains 11 seniors and juniors.



Carrington Jewell settles under a fly ball during a practice session last week at American Legion Park.

Photos by Dale Curry



Faith Ray slams a hit during batting practice last week. The softball Dragons have won the district tournament the last seven seasons.



Green County High School Head Softball Coach Jeff Wright leads his team during batting practice last week. Green County has a home scrimmage tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. against Clinton County.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mythological figure
- 5. Small amount
- 8. Play a role
- 11. River in Georgia and Alabama
- 13. Water in the solid state
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Fleece
- 17. Writer/actress Dunham
- 18. Behave in a way that belittles
- 20. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 22. Conceits
- 25. Slowed down
- 30. Nourishment
- 31. Midway between east and southeast
- 32. Fights
- 33. Comedienne Tyler
- 38. Standing operating procedure
- 41. Locks
- 43. Old
- 45. Song sung to one's lover
- 47. Whale ship captain
- 49. Moved quickly on foot
- 50. Volcanic craters
- 55. Large musical instrument
- 56. Liquefied natural gas
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Not closed
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Disfigure
- 63. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 64. Sleep

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. S. American plant
- 2. Soul and calypso song
- 3. Fruit of the service tree
- 4. Continent
- 5. Albania's capital
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Argues
- 8. Assists
- 9. Town in Galilee
- 10. Russian leader
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Wings
- 19. Not odd
- 23. Expression of creativity
- 24. Conceptualize
- 25. A digital tape recording of sound
- 26. Peyton's little brother
- 27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 28. Difference in potential
- 29. Owner
- 34. I (German)
- 35. Chinese conception of poetry
- 36. The world of the dead
- 37. Sign language
- 39. Coincide
- 40. Religious observance
- 41. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 42. Polite interruption sound
- 44. Texas ballplayer
- 45. Type of sword
- 46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Basic unit of a chemical element
- 48. Native American people in California
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Hebrew calendar month
- 53. Easily swindled person
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

Answers on 2B