

Team picks two seniors as honorary captains

By Jan Schultz

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When Coach Denise Smith looks over the stats from this year's high school softball season, she can't help but smile.

That's because all of those areas a coach wants to see improvement from year to year—team batting average, hits, RBIs, walks, runs scored—happened during the just-completed 2013 season.

And, all of those areas where the coach wants to see the numbers drop, like errors and strike-outs, did, as well.

The team completed its season earlier this month with a district runner-up finish. It's only the second time the Lady Longhorns have come home with some softball district hardware.

This year's 12-15 finish is the fourth best season record since the program started at Chase County in 2000.

And, it came after just three wins last year and no wins the two years previous before that.

Here are a some comparisons from this year to last year's stats:

Team batting average—Improved from .220 last year to .257 this year.

Team hits for season—122 last year, 173 this year.

Slugging percentage—.258 last year, .321 this year.

Walks (team)—105 last year, 123 this year.

Strikeouts (team)—180 last year, 159 this year.

Two Chase county players batted over the .300 mark, led by senior Jodi Koellner who finished with a .346 for the season. Freshman Josie Peterson had the second best average on the team at .319.

Five others also bettered the .250 batting average mark, including Anna Bauerle, Claire Kuenne, Abbi Vetter, Ally Vrbas and Katelyn Wheeler.

Individually, Koellner also had a lot of the top marks offensively. She led the team in hits (27), homeruns (4), RBIs (33) and slugging percentage (.538).

Vrbas led the team in stolen bases (37) and walks (25).

Starting pitcher Anna Bauerle also improved her earned run average (ERA) this season. Last year, she finished with a 10.72, dropping it considerably to 6.67 this season.

Coach Smith said the big improvement in her team this season has a lot to do with experience at the positions.

Unlike previous years, five of the six infielders this year played the same position the year before.

"They are more aware of things with experience, things make more sense and it makes them more effective," she said.

She has a lot to say about her senior class of six players, too.

"Whatever we asked them to do they never complained," she said.

And, individually, Smith said the big improvement seen in Anna Bauerle's pitching can be attributed to all the extra work she put in, including time in the weight room.

“She is a hard worker, and had a big impact when she joined the program” three years ago, Smith said.

The team realized a lot of additional talent, too, when the six freshmen came on board this fall. Three of them, Destiny Reinke, Katelyn Wheeler and Josie Peterson, were the starting outfielders.

Five of the team’s starters will be back next year, and Smith is hopeful that all 14 of this year’s underclassmen will be back, infused with some new freshman players and possibly other upperclassmen who may start playing.

“It would be nice to have the same number of 20 out again next year,” she said.

Smith added that the team’s success this season can also be attributed to strong fan support from parents, grandparents and others.

“It was a lot of fun to play with a good crowd there,” she said.

“We to share our district second place with so many more people. It was exciting,” she said.

The team set a number of season and career records, listed below.

Homeruns—Jodi Koellner set both new season and career records with four and five, respectively. Old record was one homer held by Koellner, Shanna Carter and Tabitha Russell.

Stolen bases (season)—Ally Vrbas with 37, breaks record of 36 held by Erica Pirog in 2007.

RBIs (season and career)—Koellner 33 and 63, breaking season record of 19 held by Michaela Space (2012) and career record of 42 held by Tabitha Russell (2005-07 seasons).

On-base percentage—Anna Bauerle with .462, breaking old record of .436 held by Kacia Smith (2011).

In addition to the local records, Chase County also earned some state recognition this year, tying a Class C state record for most runs scored in one inning at 19.

The Lady Longhorns tied St. Paul for the record when they scored 19 runs at districts in the opening game with Southern Valley.

Team captains

After the season concluded this month, the players voted on honorary team captains for the year and selected two seniors, Anna Bauerle and Ally Vrbas.

The team’s starting pitcher and catcher will be formally recognized in May at the all-sports end-of-year banquet.

Coach Smith said each girl was asked to vote on their choice for team captains based on team spirit, their ability to inspire and motivate fellow players, mental determination and positive attitude.

Smith said the selections do not have to be seniors, but any member of the team is eligible who exhibits those qualities.

Softball team ends with improved stats; fourth best record

2013 CCS softball end of season statistics									
Delaware Valley State					Statistics from 2013 season				
South Alton	1	0	0	0.2	00119	Delaware Valley	001	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	20	40	7	0.35	00120	Delaware Valley	002	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	30	50	10	0.50	00121	Delaware Valley	003	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	40	60	15	0.375	00122	Delaware Valley	004	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	50	70	20	0.286	00123	Delaware Valley	005	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	60	80	25	0.313	00124	Delaware Valley	006	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	70	90	30	0.333	00125	Delaware Valley	007	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	80	100	35	0.35	00126	Delaware Valley	008	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	90	110	40	0.364	00127	Delaware Valley	009	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	100	120	45	0.375	00128	Delaware Valley	010	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	110	130	50	0.385	00129	Delaware Valley	011	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	120	140	55	0.393	00130	Delaware Valley	012	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	130	150	60	0.4	00131	Delaware Valley	013	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	140	160	65	0.406	00132	Delaware Valley	014	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	150	170	70	0.412	00133	Delaware Valley	015	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	160	180	75	0.417	00134	Delaware Valley	016	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	170	190	80	0.421	00135	Delaware Valley	017	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	180	200	85	0.425	00136	Delaware Valley	018	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	190	210	90	0.429	00137	Delaware Valley	019	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	200	220	95	0.432	00138	Delaware Valley	020	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	210	230	100	0.435	00139	Delaware Valley	021	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	220	240	105	0.438	00140	Delaware Valley	022	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	230	250	110	0.44	00141	Delaware Valley	023	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	240	260	115	0.442	00142	Delaware Valley	024	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	250	270	120	0.444	00143	Delaware Valley	025	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	260	280	125	0.446	00144	Delaware Valley	026	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	270	290	130	0.448	00145	Delaware Valley	027	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	280	300	135	0.45	00146	Delaware Valley	028	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	290	310	140	0.452	00147	Delaware Valley	029	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	300	320	145	0.453	00148	Delaware Valley	030	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	310	330	150	0.455	00149	Delaware Valley	031	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	320	340	155	0.456	00150	Delaware Valley	032	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	330	350	160	0.457	00151	Delaware Valley	033	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	340	360	165	0.458	00152	Delaware Valley	034	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	350	370	170	0.459	00153	Delaware Valley	035	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	360	380	175	0.461	00154	Delaware Valley	036	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	370	390	180	0.462	00155	Delaware Valley	037	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	380	400	185	0.463	00156	Delaware Valley	038	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	390	410	190	0.464	00157	Delaware Valley	039	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	400	420	195	0.465	00158	Delaware Valley	040	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	410	430	200	0.465	00159	Delaware Valley	041	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	420	440	205	0.466	00160	Delaware Valley	042	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	430	450	210	0.467	00161	Delaware Valley	043	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	440	460	215	0.468	00162	Delaware Valley	044	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	450	470	220	0.468	00163	Delaware Valley	045	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	460	480	225	0.469	00164	Delaware Valley	046	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	470	490	230	0.469	00165	Delaware Valley	047	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	480	500	235	0.47	00166	Delaware Valley	048	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	490	510	240	0.471	00167	Delaware Valley	049	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	500	520	245	0.471	00168	Delaware Valley	050	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	510	530	250	0.472	00169	Delaware Valley	051	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	520	540	255	0.473	00170	Delaware Valley	052	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	530	550	260	0.473	00171	Delaware Valley	053	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	540	560	265	0.474	00172	Delaware Valley	054	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	550	570	270	0.474	00173	Delaware Valley	055	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	560	580	275	0.475	00174	Delaware Valley	056	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	570	590	280	0.475	00175	Delaware Valley	057	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	580	600	285	0.476	00176	Delaware Valley	058	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	590	610	290	0.476	00177	Delaware Valley	059	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	600	620	295	0.477	00178	Delaware Valley	060	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	610	630	300	0.477	00179	Delaware Valley	061	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	620	640	305	0.478	00180	Delaware Valley	062	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	630	650	310	0.478	00181	Delaware Valley	063	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	640	660	315	0.479	00182	Delaware Valley	064	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	650	670	320	0.479	00183	Delaware Valley	065	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	660	680	325	0.48	00184	Delaware Valley	066	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	670	690	330	0.48	00185	Delaware Valley	067	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	680	700	335	0.481	00186	Delaware Valley	068	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	690	710	340	0.481	00187	Delaware Valley	069	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	700	720	345	0.482	00188	Delaware Valley	070	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	710	730	350	0.482	00189	Delaware Valley	071	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	720	740	355	0.483	00190	Delaware Valley	072	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	730	750	360	0.483	00191	Delaware Valley	073	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	740	760	365	0.484	00192	Delaware Valley	074	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	750	770	370	0.484	00193	Delaware Valley	075	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	760	780	375	0.485	00194	Delaware Valley	076	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	770	790	380	0.485	00195	Delaware Valley	077	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	780	800	385	0.486	00196	Delaware Valley	078	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	790	810	390	0.486	00197	Delaware Valley	079	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	800	820	395	0.487	00198	Delaware Valley	080	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	810	830	400	0.487	00199	Delaware Valley	081	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	820	840	405	0.488	00200	Delaware Valley	082	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	830	850	410	0.488	00201	Delaware Valley	083	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	840	860	415	0.489	00202	Delaware Valley	084	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	850	870	420	0.489	00203	Delaware Valley	085	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	860	880	425	0.489	00204	Delaware Valley	086	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	870	890	430	0.49	00205	Delaware Valley	087	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	880	900	435	0.49	00206	Delaware Valley	088	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	890	910	440	0.49	00207	Delaware Valley	089	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	900	920	445	0.491	00208	Delaware Valley	090	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	910	930	450	0.491	00209	Delaware Valley	091	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	920	940	455	0.492	00210	Delaware Valley	092	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	930	950	460	0.492	00211	Delaware Valley	093	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	940	960	465	0.492	00212	Delaware Valley	094	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	950	970	470	0.493	00213	Delaware Valley	095	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	960	980	475	0.493	00214	Delaware Valley	096	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	970	990	480	0.494	00215	Delaware Valley	097	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	980	1000	485	0.494	00216	Delaware Valley	098	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	990	1010	490	0.494	00217	Delaware Valley	099	00000000	0
Ernie Edwards	1000	1020	495	0.495	00218	Delaware Valley	100	00000000	0