

on THE UPSWING

The softball team had a new attitude, with eight seniors and more freshmen than usual. The girls grew closer and learned to play for each other, not just for themselves. Stronger bonds were made and their softball performance improved with them. By the end of the season, everyone was sad that it was over, but happy that it had happened.

Seniors hit a home run with leadership

After multiple years of losing seasons and a parade of coaches, the upperclassmen on the team decided it was time they take action and bring the team together in order to have the best season the team has ever had.

"I think some of my upperclassmen have really shined as leaders," coach Elizabeth Wilson said.

Throughout the season, the girls learned to win and lose as a team, which helped them in the end.

"I would say this year, we're a lot more together. We're playing for each other instead of ourselves. And we've had to get past a couple of issues, but we stayed as a team." Madeleine Stilson (11) said.

The team had 11 wins and 12 losses compared to two wins and 17 losses in 2017.

The sense that success had come from their improved bonding made the senior game an emotional time for everyone on the team.

"[The senior game] just felt like another game until the very end. I had the realization of, this is it, this might be your last inning, your last at bat, our last time on the field with the people who we like to be out here with," Payton Thomas (12) said.

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HUGS ALL AROUND On October 4, Peyton Allen (12) hugs Kendall Laman (10) and Madeline Stilson (11) after the ceremony honoring the seniors on the team. "[The senior game] was very emotional, but it was really cool to see them all play together one last time," Laman said. **SNATCHED** During a game at Fairview High School, catcher Kera Sager (9) snatches a ground ball thanks to her lucky gesture that she completes before every inning. "I always scratch the game ball with my thumb before every inning," Sager said. Sager and pitcher Tara Boehmler (9) had known each other for years, and played on the same team outside of school, so they had a close relationship both as friends and as pitcher-and-catcher, which helps them play together. **STRIKEOUT ON THE CURVE** In an effort to help the team win the game, Tara Boehmler (9) pitches one of many balls at a game against Fairview High School. "My curve ball is definitely my best pitch: I get a lot of strikeouts on that," Boehmler said. There were more freshmen on the team than usual this year and she was one of the freshmen who got lots of playing time.

"[Having a good team bond] really helps the game because then you can communicate better, and you can connect better. You know where the play goes and you can trust the other players."

amanda selby (9)

SPOTLIGHT: peyton allen



photo by natalie hunt

As Peyton Allen (12) finished out her high school softball career, she saw how strong the team could be and pushed them to do their best.

Allen was the only senior on the team going to college for softball, at Portland State University, which inspired her to make this last season enjoyable and successful for everyone.

"I realized that for the other [senior] girls, this is their last shot at softball, and it made me want to play for them even more," Allen said.

While the team created closer friendships, they improved through their bonding and their batting.

"The most important part for us this year was hitting. Our bats really improved this year," Allen said.

SCOREBOARD

Date	Opponent	Result
8/15	Centaurus	Win (24-8)
8/17	Boulder	Win (25-9)
8/20	Far Northeast Warriors	Win (16-7)
8/24	Adams City	Win (17-2)
8/25	Boulder	Win (16-1)
9/1	Fort Collins	Loss (12-2)
9/6	Greely West	Win (10-4)
9/7	Alameda	Win (8-6)
9/8	Rampart	Win (9-4)
9/8	Basalt	Loss (14-5)
9/13	Poudre	Loss (14-11)
9/15	Fairview	Win (9-3)
9/17	Broomfield	Loss (8-6)
9/20	Mountain Range	Loss (7-2)
9/21	Grand Junction Central	Loss (17-4)
9/21	Palisade	Win (18-12)
9/22	Fruita Monument	Loss (23-13)
9/22	Grand Junction	Loss (14-6)
9/25	Loveland	Loss (18-0)
9/27	Fossil Ridge	Loss (21-0)
9/29	Rocky Mountain	Loss (16-3)
10/2	Horizon	Win (17-11)
10/4	Legacy	Loss (11-0)

CAPTAIN OPTIMISM

Jamie Thompson's (12) season was cut short by a line drive that broke her wrist during a game against Grand Junction in September.

Nonetheless, Thompson supported her team on and off the field as captain.

"Even though we have such a big age gap from the seniors to the freshmen, we don't think about it like that; we're all just super close and have super good energy," Thompson said.



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pictured left to right: Taryn Egaas, Kendall Weideman, Payton Thomas, Jamie Thompson, Skyar Laman, Analyssa Marino, Peyton Allen, Ainslee Reese.

SENIOR CIRCLE The seniors on the team hug after their senior ceremony. **SMILE FOR THE CAMERA** With eight seniors on the softball team, the seniors decided that teamwork was the most essential component in softball and they took the underclassmen under their wing to bring the team closer together. "You have to rely on your team because you're not always going to get everything right all the time," Kendall Weideman (12) said. The seniors grew close this year, both with each other and with the rest of the team. Focusing on community made the season more enjoyable and successful.