## PLAY YOUR OWN WAY



"Be nice: it's the key to success," Rian Van Winkle, **12**, said.

utting in hours of practice on and

team this season. The girls started off

their season in the summer which led

them strong into run-ruling their

Mr. Romero has been building the

team ready and eager for bigger

competition. "He has grown this

opponent in the first game.

off the field paid off for the softball

With now a full JV and Varsity team,

program from the bottom up creating a

program so much, not just by helping us

grow as players but as young girls. He

has helped me through a lot so far and

I'm grateful to have a coach like him.



"Stay mentally strong and have fun," *Shayna* McHugh, 12, said.



"Being too sexy leaves a great legacy," Katrina Weiskircher, 12, said.



"It goes by fast. Enjoy it and stay positive. I'm proud of you all," Lily Dozier, 12 said.

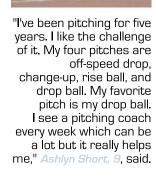






to third, Brynn Short, 11, tags her with the ball and finishes the inning. Short enjoys creating bonds with her teammates that extend beyond high school. "My favorite thing about softball is probably the girls. We've created bonds with each other that we have had for years now. It's super fun because you just get to go hang out with your friends and play the sport you love," Short said. photo by lily dozier. As German hits the ball, **Brooke** Bornitz, 10, slides into home base. Bornitz has been playing softball for ten years and is inspired by her mom. "I started playing softball ten years ago so it was my main sport and my mom always played it and I just gained a love for it," Bornitz said. photo taken by lily

1. Stopping the runner from advancing





Pitch VARSITY PITCHERS AND THEIR PITCHING CAREERS

years. I like the challenge of it. My four pitches are off-speed drop, change-up, rise ball, and drop ball. My favorite pitch is my drop ball. I see a pitching coach every week which can be a lot but it really helps me," Ashlyn Short, 9, said.





Kahlan Fuller, 11

"I am a catcher. I like that it's a good community within the sport and that this team is not mean to each other."



Katrina Weiskircher, 12

"What makes me unique in the sports that I play is I am left handed and I am one of the only people on both teams that I play. "



Iris Jones, 10

"I try to keep a positive attitude through every game and practice, even if I mess up I keep my head up."



Angel Arends, 11

"I play for myself and I believe that pushing myself when I play softball makes me a better player."



He led us to making state and I wouldn't

else," Brooke Bornitz, 10, said.

want to share that experience with anyone

Going into the regional tournament

mentally strong, the team took down two

of their toughest competitors and qualified

for the state tournament for the first time

ever. "Making it to state was an amazing

experience, especially for my senior year.

huge fight with hardly any mistakes. I had

Although we did lose, the team put up a

the opportunity to make a catch that

experience I will never forget," Katrina

Weiskircher, 12, said. story by lily dozier.

stopped a home run and that's an



**3.** Playing shortstop, **Rian Van Winkle**, **12**, stops the runner from advancing to second. Van Winkle's family has been a huge inspiration for her growing up. "I started playing softball because my aunt was a big inspiration for me and I was always super close to her growing up. She grew up playing softball so she inspired me to play throughout my life too," Van Winkle said. photo taken by lily dozier. 4. Úp to bat, Shayna McHugh, 12, hits the ball and makes it onto base commencing the team to cheer "Shayn Train." McHugh is consistently inspired by her coaches in more ways than one. "My coaches also push me and I know that they have my back in a lot of ways, more than just in the sport," McHugh said. photo taken by lily dozier. 5. Very nervous, Sofia Romero, 9, prepared herself to bat. Romero is very appreciative of the different things she learns in softball, even off of the field. "I love the team aspect of it. I love the lessons I have learned from it and the life skills I have gained from it," Romero said. photo taken by lily dozier

"This year has been a ton of fun because I've been with a lot of our players for three years now, getting to watch them grow into great players and people. The fact that we get to go compete at State is just the icing on the cake."

Mr. Falconi