

ACES IN THE OUTFIELD

Englewood softball finishes 5th in the 3A Frontier League



Batter Up
Softball players spend hours perfecting their swing so that during a game, the nerves don't hit too hard but the bat does.

Softball players started with a strong season and had lots to say about the bonding of the team that comes with the game. "I think we played well. We had a younger team, so it was a lot of trying to teach them [new players] the game, and that's something we were more focused on," said EHS senior player Jaliyah Mora. The team had a lot of new players who had to learn the rules of the game as they advanced in the season. They said the dynamic bond within the team continued to grow with their knowledge.

Team members say the shared experience was their favorite part of the season. One senior Adrianna Gutierrez who has been playing softball since freshman year and is the captain of the softball team said, "My favorite part about being on the softball team is being one of the leaders and helping out the younger athletes." Gutierrez said the softball team has amazing teamwork and worked hard for the position they have.

One of the most important things for these softball players is how they can bond and use teamwork to win. Although the team might not always pull through challenges, the bond built throughout the season was necessary.

The team has finished with an overall of 8-9 and 5th in the 3A Frontier league.



DREAM SEEDS

As the volleyball season came to an end, athletes said they loved the season and had so much support from their school. Being a player at EHS changes from each girl's point of view. "I loved this season, I worked well with all my teammates and loved working with all of them," said Maile Mantrife who was a middle on Varsity. "Getting to play like a real team because we all got a chance to connect with each other and we played well with each other." She has been playing for EHS for six years, starting the sport in 4th grade.

Mantrife says she will miss the seniors on the team. "I wish I had more time to play with them. They helped me build and learn as a player."

Seniors on the varsity team include Julia Moore, Kaylee McCaskey, Stephanie Montoya, Erin Altenhofen, and Alexandra Sanchez.

Senior Julia Moore played middle as well on Varsity. "I think it was rough for us, like, stats-wise and game-wise but like as a team, I feel like we grew together more so it was a good season."

Moore believes a change in the coaching staff and younger players was tough at first. "Yeah, I definitely think that switching coaches was hard for like the upperclassmen especially and there was so many of us that it was like, definitely an impact on the culture of the team, but honestly, since there was a few new girls, it was easier for us to like, learn with this team rather than like going back to what we were doing before."

She has been playing for all four years at EHS.

Senior Erin Altenhofen has been on the high school volleyball team for three years. She really liked the new coaching staff. "I thought it was pretty good. Even though there are a lot of new drills."

She loved her teammates. "I think we felt like a family this year, especially since the past few years, we kind of like we're all separated but I think this year we really connected. We just comfort each other, talk about our weaknesses, and then move on to what we can do better." Altenhofen is sad the season came to an end but hopes to play on a club team in the future.

Alexandra Sanchez spent two years on the EHS team. "It was weird at first because, for me, girls' respect is earned not given so it took a while for the coach to gain it since we didn't know her very well until we knew her goal was to make us a better team." She says Volleyball culture is a mental game, "you have to read the other team quickly in order to win a point but it's not just a 'one player' game, it takes the whole team to win."

