

TRIM LINE

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A REDS SOFTBALL PLAYER?

Bria Foster (9)

"To be a softball player takes a lot of dedication, a lot of physical training, and a lot of hours."



McKenzie Powell (11)

"To be a softball player you must have tough skin and grit to get past the injuries, mental blocks, and strikeouts. Softball is all about focusing on the next play."

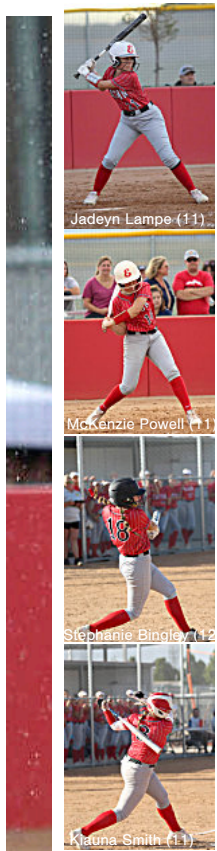


Isabella Ramsey (9)

"It takes tenacity and courage. You don't have to be skilled to be a player or know the game you just have to not give up and try your hardest in games and practice."



Senior Ayla Ritchey is at bat during the game against Riverdale Ridge on the twenty-fifth of August. During the game players had to power through rain, wind and even a delay for lightning. Ritchey said, "Playing in the rain is definitely a test, the ball is wet and we have to change game plan a bit, but I love playing for my team rather than myself." Overall, the team won the game 2-0. It's not uncommon for weather to interfere with fall sports and many players are trained to play through adverse weather conditions. Since winning state last year, Eaton's softball team has been practicing harder than ever. "I think we practice knowing we're the team to beat and we have to bring it all 24/7," said Ritchey.



**REDS REALITY** Softball finishes an upwards of four one pound bags of sunflower seeds per game!

# UNPREDICTABLE

## TAKE THE RISK

There are many close calls in softball. With stealing bases, sliding and fast throws, our girls risk it all for the win. During a game players will steal bases; whether to second, third or home, and will inevitably have to slide into the base. In order to get the opposing team out as well, the team has to have a game plan and know what to do once they get the ball. Many thoughts go through their heads as they play. Kiauna Smith (11) said, "I typically [try] everything I can to not think too much about the game itself. I'll think about where I need to go depending on the play, but I try to stay out of my head by singing a random song or talking about life with the umpires."



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**Kaelin Dugan (10)**

"It's a lot of hard work. I like the coaches and how supportive they are. And, I like the team and how supportive they are too."



**Cora Denney (9)**

"It takes dedication and effort."



**Raelynn Bartel (10)**

"Just like, be ready to work hard because practices aren't easy."



**Julia Meagher (12)**

"It takes a lot of determination and perseverance because it gets hard and you just have to be mentally tough. The game is mostly mental and if you can't hold up that toughness, you're going to fail."



## TEAM SPIRIT

Whether it's after a good pitch or a home-run, team spirit is strong on the field. The team always made sure to support each other and be ready to get on the field and dominate.

Freshman Johanna Galvan said, "I think our team spirit is really just not even having to worry about being better than somebody. Just having fun and playing as a whole; there's always just one big team." After lots of time, effort and hard work, softball won state this year for the second year in a row.



Sadie Ross (12)

**PITCH!** Senior Sadie Ross pitches a fast ball during an early season game. Ross played first base and pitcher for the Reds, but prefers to pitch. Ross was the 2023 CHSAA 3A softball player of the year. Ross said, "It feels good to meet my goals but I honestly couldn't have done it without my team behind me." Team spirit, what it truly takes, and the risks in a game are all large and important parts of being in softball. During each game, Ross will just take it pitch by pitch and think about the next play. "I trust the girls behind me and know that they have my back. Softball means the world to me and is an escape from anything else that is going on in my life. As soon as I step on the field I feel like nothing bad can happen and I feel at home." Ross has played all four years here as an Eaton Red.



3A State tournament photo by Eamon Shaw



Sophie Morgan (11)



Zoe Hamilton (11)



Amelia Bowden (11), Johanna Galvan (9), and Kiauna Smith (11)

## CATCH 4 CANCER

Softball hosted its cancer awareness game on the 22nd of September. There was a recognition ceremony between games for those who were lost to cancer, those battling it and those who won their battle. Family and team members came to the field and were given a balloon and a flower. Balloons were released at the conclusion of the ceremony. Zoe Hamilton (11) wore special catcher's gear in support of cancer awareness. Other games that the team hosted was a military appreciation game held on the 9th of September and senior night on October 3rd.

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