

## FOLLOW THROUGH



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Kennedy's Molly Jaeger bats in the Monroe vs. Kennedy softball game in the first round of the OSAA Class 2A/1A state playoffs at John F. Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel. Kennedy won the game 5-0.

## Young Kennedy softball team expects bright future

LUIS RAMIREZ  
STATESMAN JOURNAL

MOUNT ANGEL - The Kennedy High softball team fielded one of the youngest teams in Class 2A/1A this season and the Trojans proved they belonged amongst the elite as they made it to the semifinals of the state tournament.

Despite losing to top-seeded Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii 14-4 in the semis on May 31, the experience proved invaluable for such a young team.

"I think Pilot Rock is a really good team as their pitching was solid, their fielding was solid and they could hit the ball," coach Walt Simmons said. "We seemed to be off just a little bit (and) we probably made more throwing errors than quite a few games combined."

With no departures in the offseason, the Trojans return their whole squad, including the sophomore trio of Tressa Reidman, Molly Jaeger and Hannah Arritola. Reidman was the league pitcher of the year and both Jaeger and Arritola were first team all-league players.

"We're still kind of a young team with no seniors and quite a few sophomores," Simmons said. "My first baseman (Jaeger) and my shortstop (Arritola) hit two and three in the batting order and made a big difference for us as far as getting runners on and being able to move them around."

The Trojans finished the regular season 18-6 and had a 10-0 record in Special District 2. Simmons, in his 13<sup>th</sup> year at the helm, was named coach of the year in the league and the team also featured first-team all-league utility player Emily Frey and catcher Abby Frey.

"I've been there quite awhile and each year you get a few new players and you wonder how they're going to fit," Simmons said. "This year, the four new freshmen that came in were eager to play (and) eager to learn and for me it was a really enjoyable season with all those players really wanting to get better."

They performed well enough to be considered one of the favorites to win the state championship next year as the future continues to look bright for Kenne-

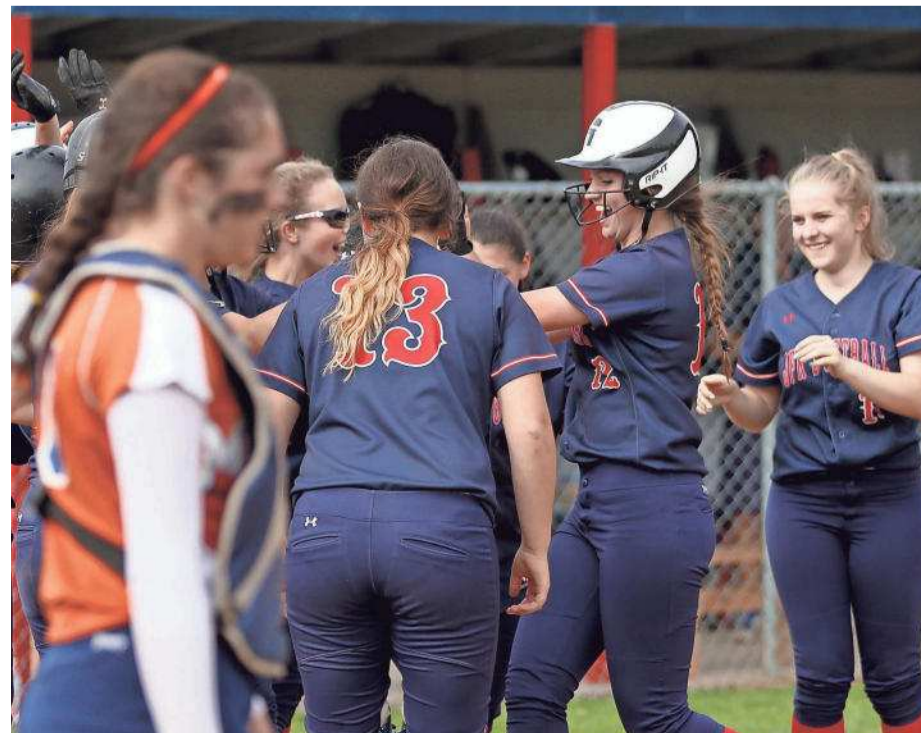


Kennedy's Emily Frey (8) makes a catch for the final out in the Monroe vs. Kennedy softball game.

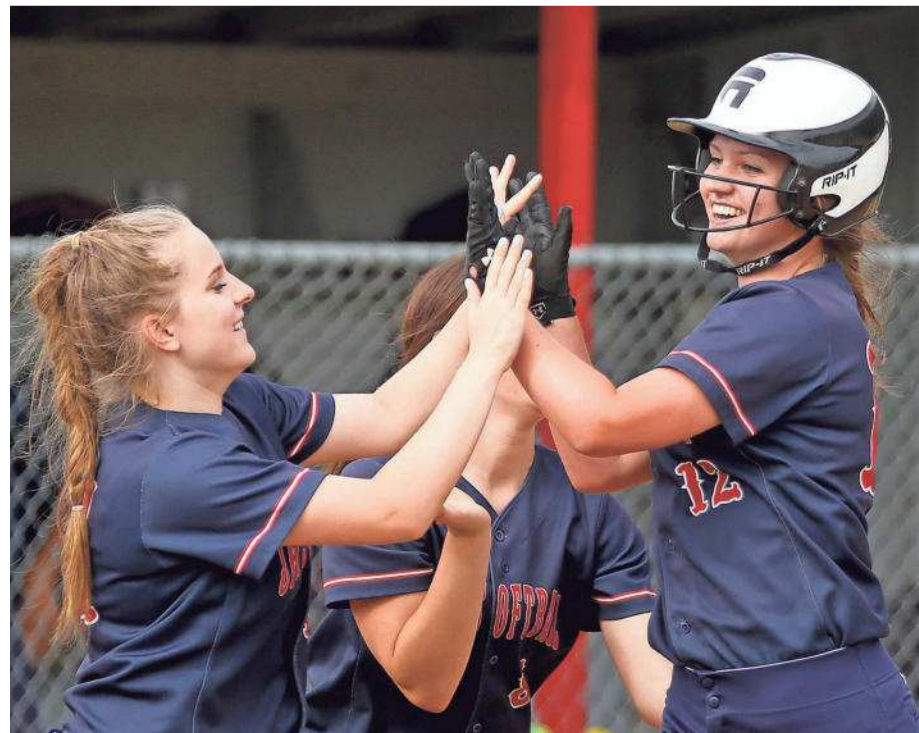
dy. "I told them that you can't teach experience and for them to go through it and

have the pressure of the game along with the travel, I think it will carry on to next season and be really helpful," Simmons

said. [lr Ramirez@StatesmanJournal.com](mailto:lr Ramirez@StatesmanJournal.com) or [Twitter.com/@LuisRamirez10](https://twitter.com/LuisRamirez10)



Kennedy's Tressa Reidman (12) celebrates with teammates after her three-run home run.



Kennedy teammates congratulate Tressa Reidman (12) as she celebrates after her three-run home run.