



Cottage Grove Softball



Maria Pardee (left) works on hitting with the help of Emma Fain (right).



Tori Taylor develops her pitching at a recent practice.

Team Rundown:

There is only room for improvement for the Cottage Grove softball team. After finishing 1-43 over the last two seasons – with no wins last year – the team is looking for a fresh start.

“We’re trying to reevaluate everything. We want to create a culture around softball versus just coming in and looking at it as another sport,” said head coach Cheryl Frieze. “We really want to develop the whole piece of it. That way, I feel like we can develop that and we can make a strong statement that that’s going to make us become more successful all-around.”

The culture the team is looking to build first starts with the attitudes of the players.

“In the past year we’ve struggled just to bring ourselves up so I’m

hoping this will be the year that we can kind of build ourselves up more as a team and win more games,” said senior Kate Johns.

With 28 girls out for the team this year, there is a sense of cautious optimism that they will have the ability to make games competitive in the upcoming season. For Frieze, she is trying to get away from the cloud of last season’s losses.

“It was just rough. I’m super competitive so I always like to win but sometimes the cards just don’t fall that way and so I think this year, all the girls are excited,” she said. “They’re growing, they’re pushing themselves already and I think that’s just going to push us over. If we can just get a few wins in and kind of have that taste, it’s just going to push them further.”

Team Perspective with Tori Taylor:

On her softball career at Cottage Grove:

It’s been rough but I definitely have faith in us this year. So far the incoming freshman, I see nothing but hard work out of them and they can really help with the team. And mentally, I think all of us are in a better state because last year was not good.

On the team’s mental state last season

I thought it was going to bring us together by losing a couple of games but it tore us apart because everyone just got down on each other. But I mean, we tried bringing it up but some girls just didn’t want to.

I’d say it’s easier to bring a couple people up then a whole team down. Because it’s really like, if one person is effected you can help change them easier then you can bring everyone else down. So as a leader, I try to do that. So if I see someone having a

bad game, or they didn’t catch a ball just shake it off and do better next time. There’s a whole season to improve.

A teammate she is excited to watch this season

Kate Johns has definitely improved a lot. I played with her my freshman year and she’s a rockstar and can do anything. She’s a rockstar first basemen. It’s really easy having her. Just look at her and it brightens my mood being a pitcher and just look over and she’s smiling so I’m smiling.

On what would make a successful season

End of the day, I just don’t want any more crying in the dugout. If we can make it through some games, get some wins, hey, that’s a plus. One win, I’ll take it. Last season, didn’t win a game but came close. We’re that close.

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