



North Douglas Softball



A North Douglas pitcher fires away during an indoor practice.



Bailey Holcomb reaches for a ground ball at a recent practice.

Team Rundown:

With just seconds to play in the Skyline League third-place girls basketball game this winter, North Douglas' softball season was drastically altered. As Nicki Derrick fouled an Elkton player in an attempt to extend the game, she tore her ACL.

Last year, Derrick a freshman last season, was named both 1A state player of the year and pitcher of the year as she led the Warriors to a state softball title. In addition to throwing a no-hitter in the state playoffs, Derrick was also an offensive threat and hit over 10 homeruns last season.

With Derrick out for the year and the graduation of an all-state short-stop, catcher and second basemen, the Warriors come in to the season with questions. Regardless of what they are missing, North Douglas is returning three all-state players in

Sofia Alcantar (center field), Sofia Black (third base) and Riley Black (first place). They also have Hope.

"We have Hope Morgan, who was our second pitcher last year. Has a lot of skill, lot of ability. I think she's starting on a lot of other teams in our league. It's a blow (to lose Nicki) but I think we'll be alright. She's a capable backup," said assistant coach Daron Dooley.

The team is also adds Whitney Anderson who is joining the team from Crow. With no softball team at Crow, Anderson played on the school's baseball team last season but will now be joining the Warriors via co-op.

North Douglas will be in a battle with the 2A teams in their league that include Oakland and Monroe.

Team Perspective with Amy Dooley:

On the outlook for the season:

You know, after you finish a state championship it's always hard to come back and try to top that. And I don't think that's the mentality we have. We just have the mentality to come in and have fun and build a good team again.

No one can replace Nicki. We just have to not have the mentality that we can't do this without her. We have to have the mentality that we can do this for Nicki. So I think that's important.

The key to their success:

We work really hard on our fundamentals. We'll have a fundamental hitting practice. Before we get in the cage we will show that we can swing the bat the right way. Or field the ball


the right way before we field some grounders.

On a teammate she's excited for:

I like Sofia. She's our centerfielder from last year. She's really fast. She was just a freshman last year so she has a lot of room to grow. I'm excited to see where she can go with it.

On getting a new teammate from Crow:

We've actually never been in a co-op before. They've had them with Elkton but this is our first time. She's super sweet and seems like she's a really good player so we're excited to see what she can do. If she wants to play, we'll let her.



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