



# Elkton/Yoncalla Softball



Tayla Swearingen prepares to catch a ball while playing third base.



Jenae Hulsey throws home from first base during practice.

## Team Rundown:

When it comes to the Elkton/Yoncalla softball team, softball experience is not something that the team has. Of the 12 players on the team, half of them are freshmen and three have never played the sport before. These new players are joining returning players who have played a handful of years at most.

"No habits are better than bad habits," said head coach Dan LaChapelle. "They're moldable without having to break them first."

After going 7-16 last season, the team graduated five players and with two more not coming back this season there are plenty of spots to fill. LaChapelle noted that the lack of players is a result of the two schools being half an hour apart creating problems for whichever school they are at for the season (this year they

are playing at Yoncalla).

Regardless of player that are not there, the team has back a few players including infielder Kieryn Carnes who in her first year playing softball last season was named second team all-league. At pitcher the team will be relying on Jenae Hulsey to help lead the way.

"I've never really played. I've been working on pitching a lot and (LaChapelle) is talking about putting me in a game," she said. "It's exciting and nervous. I can't wait, it's going to be fun."

Regardless of any setbacks or who is or who is not playing, LaChapelle wants what any coach wants: to get better.

"Just to play our best. I don't care about the wins and losses as long as we're not beating ourselves and we're playing our game and having a good time."

## Team Perspective with Jamie Glenn:

### *On softball experience*

I've played for four years. I've really liked the atmosphere. It's just a lot different then volleyball and basketball because I feel like there's a lot more toughness involved with it. Because in volleyball and basketball you don't have a ball coming at your face at like 100 miles per hour. And you're forcing yourself to stop and make a good throw and hit decent.

I just started catching last year. My other two years I was in the outfield. I stepped up to the plate, no pun intended, last year catching. I really like it.

### *On competition in league*

I'd stretch to say Monroe is a bigger threat then North Douglas.

### *On co-opting with Elkton*

I feel like at first with the incoming freshman to them it takes a little bit

of getting used to. But as you grow older and you form a bond with the other school it's a lot more variety and to me that's exciting.

### *On what to expect from the season*

I think we're going to have a really good season this year. We have a lot of young, inexperienced players but we have athletes. A teammate that I think will do really well is Jenae Hulsey on her pitching ability because she's pretty accurate and throws a nice fastball. It's exciting to watch her grow.

I'm excited to finish out my senior year with a bunch of girls that I know are here because they love to play and to send me off on a positive note.

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