



WHAT WAS A SEASON HIGHLIGHT FOR YOU?

When I came back after having a broken arm.  
Trinity Alexander, senior

AWARDS CEREMONY

The senior awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 18 and takes place in the auditorium. Make sure to RSVP.



photo/JACK RUMMLER

**SWING IT.** In the game against East River, April 4, sophomore Rachael Carroll watches the pitcher. "The win against East River felt really good because we've lost to them two years in a row and we knew they would be tough competition," Carroll said. The girls won, 9-4.

# Girls earn third district title

Team worked for record winning season and advanced to regional championships

By JACK RUMMLER

Finishing out the season, 22-4, the Lady Braves softball team feels confident about their record and their district championships title.

Last year, the girls finished the season, 25-4. However, the team lost six seniors and filled the starting line up with younger players.

"We kept 16 girls on the team last year and we knew we lost six seniors," coach Robin Bradford said. "This experience last year helped us gain tremendously this year."

The girls started their season against University on Feb. 2, 7-3, and Winter Park on Feb. 5, 5-4. The team lost its game to St. Cloud on Feb. 10, 5-10. While it was a hard loss early in the season,



photo/JACK RUMMLER

the girls were able to win their following game against Lake Minneola on Feb. 12, 14-2.

As the season progressed, the girls tallied an eight game winning streak. Notable games included University on Feb. 2, 7-3. Lake Howell on Feb. 23, 2-1; Freedom on Feb. 26, 17-6; and Oak Ridge on March 4, 17-0.

"[Our early winning streak made our team feel] really good about the beginning of our upcoming season and it boosted our

**THE WINNING PITCH.** On April 14, junior Karla Plogstedt pitches against Freedom. "[Winning at the district championships] felt awesome; it felt like all of our hard work paid off," Plogstedt said. Plogstedt struck out eight Freedom batters.

confidence that we would be a hard team to beat," junior Kelsi Smith said.

The winning streak ended on March 8 when they played the Timber Creek Wolves, (10-6). The Wolves scored two points in the bottom of the second inning. Unfortunately, the girls did not score until the top of the seventh inning resulting in their third loss of the season.

"We lost 1-2 in a close game and it didn't hurt our confidence too much. It was only a tight game and we reassessed and came back and won our next game," Bradford said.

The girls came back with a win on March 11 at Dr. Phillips (11-13), beating the Panthers, 13-2. Shaping up to be a tough game in the early innings, junior Karla Plogstedt pitched and junior Adriana Garip, senior Meghan Sexton and sophomore Rachel Carroll scored home runs.

"[Getting a home run] made me feel really good because before hitting it, I had an error so it felt good to make up for it," Garip said. "[The Dr. Phillips game] started slower than we thought but in the third inning we took off and it went well."

The team finds its strengths in hitting, defense and driving the ball. "Our defense keeps up in the game because it keeps us out longer and they carry us on the field," Bradford said.

Good communication and team bonding united the girls to help carry the team to victories. The girls are closely bonded, leading to positivity on the field.

"[We are a strong team because] everyone is positive," freshman Avery Clark said. "We're all close; we can talk to each other about anything."

To contribute to a strong season, leadership from team captains, Smith and senior Meghan Mansfield and Sexton, provided success in bringing home multiple wins and keeping team morale high.

"My job as a team captain is to make sure everyone's heads stay in the game and that there's no tension on the field and lead the team if things go bad," Smith said. The team's weakness entail pitching and showing consistency in moving the ball across the field while on defense.

In their district semifinals game against Cypress Creek, the girls won, 14-0, with Sexton hitting a double, triple and home run, and three base hits each from Mansfield and sophomore Lara Dusing.

At the district finals on April 14, the girls defeated Freedom, 8-0, making this their third consecutive win in district championships.

Advancing at regional championships, April 20, the girls fell, 3-5, to the Lake Brantley patriots (16-12) in a tight game, 3-5. Smith and Sexton advanced the team, 2-4, and Plogstedt allowed eight hits total. Unfortunately, it was not enough to pull ahead of the Patriots for the win.

#fastfigures

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losses:  
St. Cloud (17-8),  
Timber Creek (10-6),  
Lake Mary (12-12),  
Lake Brantley (16-12).

6

shut out victories.

5

number of hits  
pitcher junior Karla  
Plogstedt allowed  
in the district finals  
game.

3

home runs senior  
Meghan Sexton and  
juniors Elizabeth  
Wills and Kelsi  
Smith each earned  
over the season.

12

home runs hit  
throughout the  
season.

64

overall ranking in  
the state of Florida.