

Grand Slam

Seniors come together to say goodbye in their final season shortened by COVID.

We have all had that friend or group of friends we consider family, whether it's because you grew up on the same street or became close friends in school. For four seniors, they became family on the softball field. Seniors Daija Bates, Adrianna Jarrett, Tayler Floyd and Elyse Hiskey have played softball and gone to school together on and off for the last ten years. The four of them started off playing together for the Beaverdale Panthers at only eight or nine. They played together for a couple of years and then went off on their own for a while and found new teams. Eighth-grade year Bates, Floyd and Hiskey were reunited on the field for Hoover softball. Then junior year, Jarrett joined them and what better way to end their time playing softball together than the four of them playing high school and competitive softball their senior year.

"My favorite memory was when we played on the Panthers and wore crazy socks and had fun, no matter the score," Jarrett said.

When they are all on the same team, there has been undeniable chemistry on the field that has just made playing the game more enjoyable.

"I think we do play better together because we are comfortable together and the game is more fun when we all play," Floyd said.

Whether they are on the field, in school or just hanging out together, they have all been close and are there for each other. While the end of their softball career together is upsetting, they look forward to staying in touch and supporting each other.

"I feel like we have the same relationship in softball and out, being able to joke around and go to baseball games. But we are all a little more competitive when it is actually softball season, and we spend more time together since we are on the field so much every day," Bates said.



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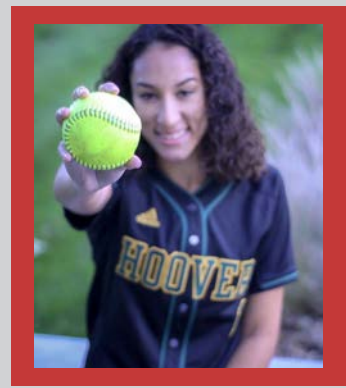
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Submitted



Tayler Floyd #1

Senior Tayler Floyd is a five time letter winner. Next year she will attend Iowa Western Community College to play softball and study graphic design. Floyd will miss playing high school ball, but she is happy with all the friendships she has made along the way. "I'm definitely going to miss the players and coaches the most," Floyd said.



Elyse Hiskey #12

Senior Elyse Hiskey is a four time letter winner. Next year she plans to attend Iowa State University to major in psychology and sociology and minor in journalism communications. Hiskey is definitely going to miss playing for Hoover, but she has one piece of advice for next year's players. "Don't give up and not only better yourself in the sport but better your team," Hiskey said.



Daija Bates #14

Senior Daija Bates is a five time letter winner. Next year she will be attending Clarke University to play softball and will study business on the pre-physical therapy track. Bates will miss high school softball because of all the great memories that were made there. "My favorite part of playing high school softball was meeting a lot of new people and getting to play the game that I love," Bates said.



Adrianna Jarrett #25

Senior Adrianna Jarrett is a two time letter winner. Next year she plans to attend Iowa Wesleyan University to play both softball and basketball while majoring in nursing. Jarrett will miss playing every game at Hoover, but she was happy to be able to play one season with both of her sisters. "I'm going to miss the advice we would give each other while playing," Jarrett said.

