



100% Focus. (Above) Ashley Smith '22 is focused and ready for the pitch against North High School. She used her past experiences in order to know what to do. "I think about how I need to get on base, so I can score or to get runners in scoring position," said Smith.
Photo By: Kami Seago

Fight or Flight. (Right) Abigaile Paper '22 leads off of first base to get ahead. She watched the pop fly to decide her next move. Paper said, "Base running is easy during practice, but when it comes to the game, your knowledge freezes up and it just comes naturally."
Photo By: Kami Seago



Hot Corner. (Right) Kaylie Caldwell '21 gets down and ready as the ball is being pitched. The Falcons faced North High School at home. Caldwell said, "I never get nervous playing 3rd base because I was trained to play that position for my whole life. And if I get hit, I know it will only hurt for a second."
Photo By: Kami Seago



Covering New Ground

Players talk about having a new coach and the future of the team



MacKenzie Harland Kaitlyn Powell Kaylynn Sparks

As the Falcon Softball team were preparing for the season, they found out that Coach Schuman had unexpectedly resigned. Most players knew it was coming because of how their previous season ended. However, some could not believe it because he promised to be their coach for a while.

Senior **Kaylynn Sparks** said, "I wasn't really shocked when he resigned but I was kind of surprised how last minute it was." The girls say it was hard on them at first because they thought of him as a role model but they were up for the challenge and were ready to play ball.

Davenport West needed a softball varsity head coach, so Coach Weisrock stepped in to fill the role. Coach Weisrock had previously coached the softball program at the junior varsity level for three years prior to taking over the Varsity head coaching job at West.

Weisrock led the Varsity Softball team to a record of 18-21 this season. The Falcons made it to the semi-finals and came up short against Iowa City High to end their season. Many of the players were previously coached by Weisrock at the junior varsity level and were happy with his coaching style.

Coach Weisrock knew everyone at the varsity level already which made them more comfortable as a team. Some say he had a different way of working with the team than Schuman. Sophomore **MacKenzie Harland** said, "It was different because Weisrock had a more humble way of coaching and running the practices." Weisrock had previous coaching background and had the chance to share some of his well-rounded knowledge with the girls.

Referring to Coach Schuman, sophomore **Kaitlyn Powell** said, "I liked his experience and all that he could teach us with his college coaching background." Schuman came from a college coaching position. He offered a different coaching style for the girls, but they transitioned easily to Weisrock.

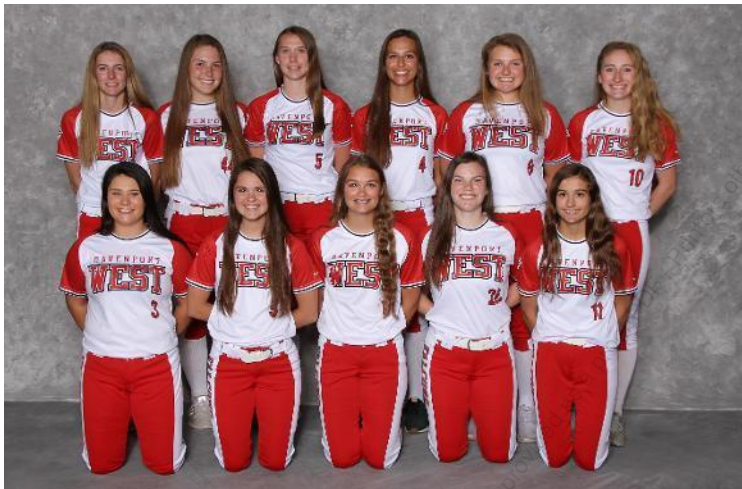
Through the struggles, the team fought through the adversity and produced as much as they could as a team. The first year behind Weisrock didn't turn out for them to be an above .500 team, but they planned to still grow as a team and have plenty of time to prepare for the next season.

Story By: Dyvon Solis



Cool, Calm, And Collected. (Above) Megan Weisrock '20 steps up to bat with a plan in her head. This season, she thought about the pitcher and her statistics to get one step ahead. Weisrock said, "It's best to stay as calm as possible, but it's hard not to be nervous."
Photo By: Kami Seago

Hit By Pitch. (Left) Rylee Rommel '21, the left-handed lead off, gets ready for the pitch. Rommel was hit by a pitch 15 times this season. Rommel led the 5A class for HBP this season. "Sometimes I was happy that I got hit so I could get on base, but then sometimes I just wanted to get a hit," Rommel said.
Photo By: Daizie Johnson



Varsity
Front: Emma Lee, MacKenzie Harland, Abbey Smith, Rylee Rommel, Ashley Smith
Back: Taylor Utterback, Erica Ralfs, Kaitlyn Powell, Megan Weisrock, Kaylie Caldwell, Kaylynn Sparks



JV
Front: Jasmine Devlin, MacKenzie White, Isabel Sinksen, Krislyn Danielsen, Aubrey Mildren
Middle: Helena Puckett, Casey Bergthold, Bailey Emery, Emalee Lemon, Abigaile Paper, Alexandria Petersen
Back: Niah Smith, Isabella Newberry, Elisa Bryant, Halee Clare, Bri Aleksiejczyk

SOFTBALL 101

RBI



"An RBI is a run batted in. It's when a runner is on base and the batter hits the ball and gets out but the runner still scores. Getting an RBI is still good for the batter even though they get out because it's part of a QUAB. A QUAB is a Quality At Bat and it's whenever you get an RBI, a hit and get on base, hit seven or more balls at bat, or move the runner to another base. I like QUABS because it's easy to remember and it's a very smart system."
-Jasmine Devlin '23

Dead Ball



"A dead ball is when you get hit with the ball while you are batting and you automatically get to go to first base. It can be used as an advantage if there is already a runner on first base because they will advance to second base. Another advantage of a dead ball is that if you have two strikes you will be able to go to first without the chance of getting out."
-Elisa Bryant '22

Round and Look



"Round and look is usually when you are rounding second base and look around to find where the ball is at; if it's far enough away then you can advance to third but if it's close you just go back to the base and stay there. I mostly rely on my coaches to tell me when to round and look because they have a better view of the field and where the ball is at since they aren't the ones running."
-MacKenzie White '23

"Looking Back, I think we had good teamwork, and we worked and played well together throughout the season. Moving Forward, for next season I want to improve on my pitching skills and getting better at that."
-Helena Puckett '23