

2007 Baseball/Softball Preview



Millry Wildcats

BASEBALL

Last Year
Lost in second round to Thorsby

Graduated
Chad Johnson, Tate Windham, Jared Carter

Outlook
Storied program should return to the playoffs, but a state title with this bunch of youngsters might be a reach.

PREVIEW
Millry coach Shane Hendry has always sched-

Colin's Three to Watch

Taylor Owen
Taylor is an athletic shortstop that has a knack for making spectacular plays. He's also the most polished Wildcat pitcher.

Heath McIlwain
Heath is a big, big guy. The power-hitting first baseman is 6-2, 260 and should use some of that mass to knock a few balls out of the yard.

Dylan Whitsett
A lot is being put on the young shoulders of Dylan. Still just a freshman, he will likely end up as the ace of the pitching staff while also playing shortstop.

uled tough early season opponents for his Class A Wildcats. This year is no different. Hendry has no in-class teams on the schedule outside of area play and has added Class 5A Citronelle, Class 4A Jackson, Class 3A Clarke County and Class 2A powers Leroy, Bayside and Excel.

"When we get to the playoffs I like for our team to be battle tested," Hendry said of his strategy. "Basically, I like for our guys to see top-notch pitching early, so when the playoffs get here we should be ready for any team's number one pitcher."

This year, the same blueprint is being used. Millry already surprised Clarke County 5-2 in their season opener before falling in their next three games to Jackson and Bayside in a double-

header. With their first area game against Sweetwater scheduled for March 15th, Millry still has to play Leroy, Jackson, Mobile Christian and Citronelle. *Yikes!*

The grueling schedule is made a bit easier thanks to a pitching staff that features five legit starters. Freshman phenom **Dylan Whitsett** picked up the Wildcats win over Clarke County and has started to show signs of turning into a wonderful varsity player. Whitsett has good control around the plate and knows how to work batters to get them out.

Next is senior **Taylor Owen**, sophomore **Hunter Martin** and junior **Ethan Chancy**. All three are interchangeable, with Martin being the lone lefty on the staff. Sophomore **Colby Myers** will also be used in a relief

Feb. 19	Clarke County	home	4 p.m.
Feb. 22	Jackson	home	4
Feb. 23	Bayside	away	4
Feb. 26	Jackson	away	4
Feb. 27	Leroy	away	4
Mar. 1	J.U. Blacksher	home	3:30
Mar. 3	So. Choctaw	home	1
Mar. 9	Mobile Chr.	home	4
Mar. 12	Jackson	away	5
Mar. 13	Citronelle	away	4
Mar. 15	Sweetwater	home	4
Mar. 19	Leroy	home	4
Mar. 20	WCHS	away	1
Mar. 22	Leroy	away	4
Mar. 23	Fruitdale	away	3
Mar. 26	So. Choctaw	away	3:30
Mar. 27	Bayside	home	3
Mar. 30	Sweetwater	away	4
Apr. 3	J.U. Blacksher	away	3:30
Apr. 4-5	County Tourneyin	Millry	
Apr. 7	Citronelle	home	1
Apr. 9	Clarke County	away	4
Apr. 10	WCHS	home	1
Apr. 13	Fruitdale	home	3
Apr. 19	Mobile Chr.	away	1
Apr. 24	First round of playoffs		

role.

Junior **Heath McIlwain** will start at first base, while sophomore **Stanton Sullivan** gets the call at second base. Both played in the same positions last year, making that side of the infield a strong spot.

Shortstop should also be solid with Taylor Owen and Dylan Whitsett splitting time at the position. Basically, which ever one

is not pitching will be at shortstop. First-year starter Colby Myers is getting the first look at third base.

In the outfield, **Chris Cherry** is in left, with juniors **Allen Guy** and **Ethan Chancy** in center and right respectively. Behind the plate will be sophomore **Hunter Martin**.

In all, these Wildcats are fairly experienced

despite their youth. But, according to Coach Hendry, that mix may not be ready just yet for a run at the title.

"We have just one senior this year," Hendry stated. "After that we are really young, but these guys played a lot last year, so we should improve as the season goes on. We have so much potential, but it just might not be realized this year."

GILBERTTOWN DIXIE YOUTH

Girls Softball

Last Call For Softball

Final Sign Up Dates

- Sat. Feb. 24th, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon at Gilberttown Fire Department
- Sat. March 3rd, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. at Gilberttown Sports Plex
- Try-Outs March 3rd, 12:00 Noon at Gilberttown Sports Plex

Bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and the \$40.00 Fee