

2007 Baseball/Softball Preview

# Millry Wildcats

## SOFTBALL

**Last Season**  
Lost in sub-state to Pleasant Home

**Graduated**  
Cassidy Norris and Sierra Mitchell

**Outlook**

Almost everybody is back from last year's playoff run, so a berth in the state tournament in Montgomery, and a chance at the state title, is well within reach

**PREVIEW**

"I showed the girls your article before we started practice this season," said a solemn coach Ronnie Hubbert as he raked the field shortly after his Lady Wildcats' season opening 11-0 shutout over Choctaw County Thursday. "I want them to remember what it felt like to get knocked out of the playoffs. I want them to remember so we can get to the next level this season."

The feeling Hubbert is referencing is the loss to Pleasant Home in last year's sub-state that eliminated his team from the

playoffs. A season-ending loss which was chronicled on the front page of the Sun sports section.

Now with all of the players back from that disappointing playoff run, Coach Hubbert and his Lady Wildcats have just one goal in mind.

"They thought I was crazy my first year when I said our goal is to win state every season," Coach Hubbert remembers about his inaugural season four years ago when he took over a team that had won just seven games in the previous five years. "Now I don't seem so crazy. We have a real shot at winning it all. If our girls want it, then they have the opportunity to do it. If they really want it then it's there for the taking."

If the team does reach their goal this year it will be thanks to a top-notch pitching rotation led by junior **Kristen Skinner**. The sensational Skinner has a repertoire of five pitches (fast, drop, rise, curve, change-up) and has already been clocked in the low-to-mid 60's, a speed at which most college pitchers struggle to obtain.

However, according to Hubbert, the Wildcats are not going to over-burden their star pitcher, especially early in the season.

"Right now Kristen is in great shape thanks to basketball," said Hubbert, who also coaches basketball where Skinner was a starter. "Although she hasn't been throwing much, so we are not going to press her for another two or three weeks."

Not a problem for this



Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

pitching rich team. Sophomore **Jessica Touchstone**, freshman **Jasmine Wells** and classmate **Melissa James** are all way more than capable of carrying the load until Skinner peaks. Actually, Touchstone and Wells would be the number one starter on any other team, but with Skinner in the mix, these two become deadly alternatives for the Wildcats.

When not pitching, Skinner will platoon at first with Touchstone and junior **Paige Windham**. At second it will likely be Jasmine Wells, especially when Skinner pitches, while shortstop will be manned by eighth grader **Sydney Goldman**. Wells will switch between second and short, depending on who is pitching for Millry.

One position that is locked-down is third base where sophomore **Crystal Thead** will be starting for the fourth year in a row. Since seventh grade, Thead has played excellent at the hot-corner, and has finally turned into a complete player with a bat that has her batting atop the lineup.

Behind the plate, where the Wildcats had

major problems last season, will be junior **Kayla Dyess** or Paige Windham. One of these girls will have to step up for the Wildcats to take full advantage of their superior pitching staff.

In the outfield, speedy

sophomore **Jessica Ganus** will be in center, with sophomore **Amelia Carlisle** in left and freshman **Jessalyn Hoffman** in right. The eighth grade duo of **Cristol Cherry** and **Danielle McIlwain** will

also see playing time in the outfield.

Even if these Wildcats don't reach their goals this year, the future looks bright for a team full of talented underclassman with no seniors and just three starting juniors.

**Colin's Three to Watch**

**Kristen Skinner**

Maybe the most polished power-pitcher between Montgomery and Mobile. With Skinner on the hill, Millry can beat any team in any class.

**Jasmine Wells**

Meek-looking freshman plays like a lion. She's that special player that plays with super confidence at any position or during any at-bat. She hustles, she leads, she runs fast ... basically, Jasmine is my new favorite player!

**Jessica Touchstone**

Actually Millry has Jessica Ganus, Crystal Thead and about a handful more underclassmen that are special players. But I like Jessica because she's flawless at first and can pitch with the best.

**Millry Softball**  
2007 Schedule

Feb. 22	Choctaw County	home	4 p.m.
Feb. 23	Frisco City	home	4
Feb. 26	Aliceville	away	5
Feb. 27	Fruitdale	home	1
Mar. 2-3	Millry Invitational	home	TBA
Mar. 9-10	Dolphin Classic	Gulf Shores	
Mar. 12	Clarke County	home	4
Mar. 13	Sweetwater	away	3:30
Mar. 15	So. Choctaw	home	4
Mar. 19	Fruitdale	away	1
Mar. 20	J.U. Blacksher	home	3:30
Mar. 22	McIntosh	home	4
Mar. 23	Monroe	away	4
Mar. 26	McIntosh	away	4
Mar. 27	Sweetwater	home	4:30
Mar. 29-30	Wash. Co. Tourney	Chatom	
Apr. 5	Choctaw County	away	4
Apr. 12	Aliceville	home	5
Apr. 13	Clarke County	away	3:30
Apr. 16	J.U. Blacksher	away	3
Apr. 17	Hillcrest	away	4
Apr. 24	Frisco City	away	4
Apr. 27	Holy Spirit	away	4
Apr. 28	Northside Tourney	away	TBA
May 3	Area Tourney		
May 8	Sub-state 1		
May 12	Sub-state 2		
May 17-19	State Tourney		

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