
BALLS & STRIKES

LOCK HAVEN SOFTBALL PUBLICATION



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Paving Excellence **-Keiva Middleton #21**

Hi Bald Eagle Fans! As we wrap up the 2025-2026 softball season, we say our final goodbyes to team 50. This year, we used a blend of new and old faces to create a solid core group of players that contributed to our comeback season of an overall record of 29 wins and 21 losses. This year's Lock Haven softball team was made up of twenty-two players, with nine rookies and thirteen returners. With such a large group of rookies coming into the team this year, the returners worked to welcome them to the Haven and lead them through our team's motto, 'Paving Excellence'. As a team, we strived to not just pave excellence on the field but in everything we do here at the Haven. This includes in the classroom with our schoolwork, on the field with practices/games, and in the weightroom with conditioning and workouts.

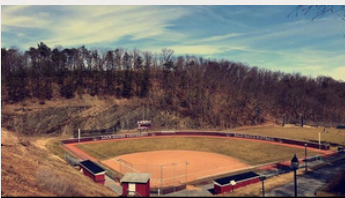
In the fall we worked hard on the field and at practices to prepare us for our competitive fall schedule where we played Lackawanna, Bucknell, Juniata, and IUP. These games allowed our team to see the talent and potential that we had. Outside of our game schedule, we continued practices, lifts, and conditioning while also working to help the community. We volunteered at the Ross Library, helping to move books, and helped to distribute candy to the community at the Trunk-or-Treat event hosted at the local YMCA. This fall was about getting a chance to compete, learning how to respond to challenges, and coming together to create team chemistry. Coming out of the fall, we learned what we were doing well and what areas we needed to improve upon going into the spring.

As we moved into our winter off season, our practices shortened and we focused on sharpening up our skills by moving into our individual hours. We focused on continuing our lifting and conditioning schedule, lifting three times a week and conditioning throughout our individual skills sessions. As the fall semester wrapped up, we took a break from our academics, earning a 3.54 fall semester GPA and transitioned into working individually to prepare us to be back and ready to work when we returned to campus in January. Over winter break, we read the book, *The 7 Commitments of a Great Team* by Jon Gordon, which help to develop our mental aspect of the game. Through this reading, it helped us to develop our team culture to work together, and we learned that success would come from the team working together rather than one individual performance.

We started this spring with our pre-season games which included Wilmington, Concord, King, Tusculum, UVA Wise, Emory and Henry, Slippery Rock, and Jefferson. In our preseason, we went 8-5 where we played very good competition which helped prepare us for our competitive conference play in the PSAC East. These games helped us learn what we needed to fine tune going forward into conference play. After our couple weeks of nonconference play, we continued to practice and lift in preparation for our doubleheader against Millersville, the start to our divisional play. This season brought many challenges, as we had another tough year battling a couple injuries, but it also brought growth and success. In the middle of our season, we had a 9-game winning stretch that included wins from teams like Shippensburg, Holy Family (non-conference), Millersville, West Chester, and Bloomsburg which were key to our successful 17-15 conference play record.

We concluded our season this year with our last home doubleheader against Shippensburg where we had to say our final goodbye to our senior, #6 Maci Brodzina. Maci has been a huge piece of our team these past four years and has contributed in many aspects to the success and growth of our team. Maci, one of our captains, has shown her leadership skills, confidence, talent, and diversity over the years, playing multiple roles for our team including left field, right field, center field, second base, and third base during her time here at the Haven.

While we barely came up short with making the post-season, this team showed tremendous growth and grit. This year, we had three All-PSAC East Team selections, Blaire Balestrini, Hailey Irwin, and Maci Brodzina. As a team, we had the highest team GPA in the athletic department, posting a team GPA of 3.582. We battled and continued to show up each and every game. With all the experience that we gained from this year, we created a great foundation as we head into the 2026-2027 season. Go Haven!



MEET THE SENIORS

Name: Hailey Irwin

Hometown: Dillsburg , Pa

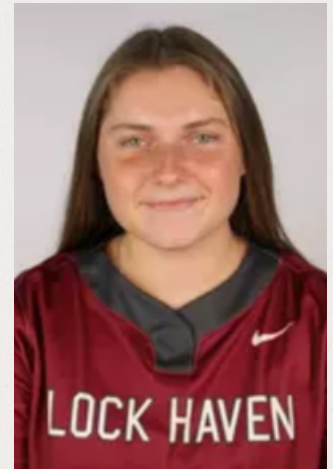
Future Plans After Graduation: Obtain my Masters and CPA

Favorite Place to Eat In Lock Haven: Avenue 209

Favorite On the Field Memory: The 9-0 stretch

Advice for Incoming Freshmen: Make the most out of your time here at Lock Haven. The sport won't be around forever but the people you build connections with will.

Thing You are Most Looking Forward to This Upcoming Year: Playing my final season with my friends.



Name: Madison Melius

Hometown: Bellefonte, Pa

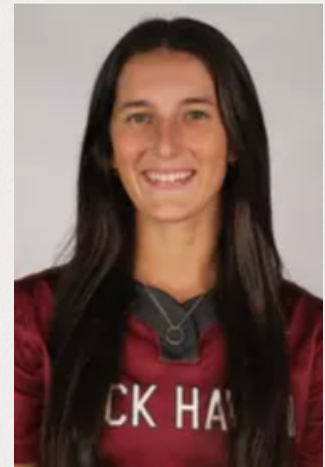
Future Plans After Graduation: Work as a nurse in the emergency room.

Favorite Place to Eat In Lock Haven: Main Street Grill and Bar

Favorite On the Field Memory: Walk off against Kutztown at home Junior year.

Advice for Incoming Freshmen: Find the good in everything you do. When your mind is positive your life can be too. Softball is something we get to do. Never take it for granted, you never know when it will end.

Thing You are Most Looking Forward to This Upcoming Year: I look forward to one last year playing the game I love with my found family.



Name: Keiva Middleton

Hometown: Willow Street, Pa

Future Plans After Graduation: Continue to work and pursue a career in athletics.

Favorite Place to Eat In Lock Haven: Main Street Grill and Bar

Favorite On the Field Memory: Our 9-0 winning stretch last year

Advice for Incoming Freshmen: To cherish your time and make a ton of memories while you're here, your time at Lock Haven truly goes by so fast.

Thing You are Most Looking Forward to This Upcoming Year: Getting to play my last year of softball with some of my best friends :)



MEET THE SENIORS

Name: Evelyn Osborne

Hometown: Mifflinburg, Pa

Future Plans After Graduation: Attend Chiropractic School

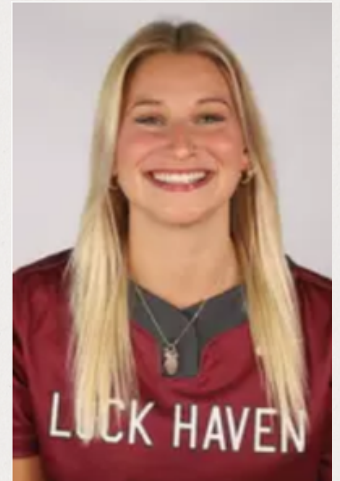
Favorite Place to Eat In Lock Haven: Avenue 209

Favorite On the Field Memory: CS yelling at the Ump at Shepherd!

Advice for Incoming Freshmen: Be open to everything and be yourself no matter what.

Thing You are Most Looking Forward to This Upcoming Year:

Winning in PSAC West 😊



Name: Faith Persing

Hometown: Montgomery, Pa

Future Plans After Graduation: Finish my master's program and become a play work therapist

Favorite Place to Eat In Lock Haven: Taco Bell

Favorite On the Field Memory: Sweeping Bloomsburg at home my sophomore year

Advice for Incoming Freshmen: Take in every moment, it goes by so quickly and these will be the best days/memories of your life

Thing You are Most Looking Forward to This Upcoming Year:

Competing with my best friends one last time!



Name: Keri Wesneski

Hometown: Canton, Pa

Future Plans After Graduation: Become an Elementary Teacher

Favorite Place to Eat In Lock Haven: OIP

Favorite On the Field Memory: Just getting to play on the field with my friends

Advice for Incoming Freshmen: Say yes to things, helps get you out of your comfort zone, build relationships, and have adventures.

Thing You are Most Looking Forward to This Upcoming Year:

Getting to play one more season with my friends.



Note From Coach

I'd like to take a minute to reflect on the year we've had. I don't usually write something for the newsletter but this year in particular felt like it called for something. First let me say, I was incredibly disappointed that our team was not able to make the postseason. Losing a tie break situation down to the last criteria and then getting bumped out of the regional ranking was heartbreaking for all of us. This year deserved a better ending and while it didn't happen, it will make that first taste of the postseason sweet when it comes around, soon, and one we will not take for granted just by being happy to be there. This team did as much as any team as done in regards to what was asked of them by the coaching staff to give ourselves a shot at the postseason, and they should be recognized and commended for that hard work and effort! A 14 game turnaround is nothing to hang your head about!



While the season ended on a bit of a sour note, I will say that the end of the semester ended very strongly with a fantastic overall team GPA - our highest ever and a remarkable display of pride and dedication to our program with the turnout we had for our inaugural Golf Outing. This year the support shown to us by our alumnae in a shoe/gear drive, and tee shirt sales, All-In donations and the help received to plan, run and enjoy the golf outing were tremendous! I'm as proud today as I have ever been to lead this program! Thank you all, current and former players and families for all you do, have done and will continue to do!

It's a Great Day to be a Bald Eagle!

With deep gratitude and pride,

Coach Shannon

Senior Reflection #6 Maci Brodzina

The past 4 years at Haven have impacted my life tremendously. Not only did I get to continue playing the sport that I love, but I also learned how to be self-disciplined, flexible, and versatile, along with many other life skills that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. More importantly, I walked away with lifelong friendships and a second family.

Every year, our team faced challenges and accomplishments, both big and small. This past season especially taught me so much while balancing student teaching and being a captain on the team. Even during stressful and uncomfortable moments, this team continued to be loving, supportive, and selfless. Our vision statement centered around becoming a dependable team that stays connected through uncomfortable moments, and this team showed that time and time again. They helped shape me into the player and person I am today.

This season is one I will never forget, not just because of the accomplishments we had, such as being regionally ranked, going on a 9-game winning streak, or being named All-Conference, but because of the chemistry, determination, and relationships we built along the way.

I am so thankful that God gave me the opportunity to be a part of this program and experience something that many people never get the chance to experience. Thank you to the entire LHU softball family for welcoming me in and giving me memories that will last a lifetime.

Go Birds!!



Alumnae Corner

Name: Sarah Colletti

Graduation year: 2009

Current Occupation: People Operations Manager

Favorite Softball Memory at LHU: Winning our second National Championship will always be one of my favorite memories. A dogpile with the best teammates on the very last game of the season; that's what dreams are made of.

Advice to Current Team: Start taking true accountability for yourself and the world around you. Show up, work hard, own your successes as well as your mistakes. Also, remember, it's always a good time for a Harry Potter movie marathon.



Golf Outing a Success

On May 29, 2026, we hosted our first-ever golf outing, and it was a tremendous success! With more than 100 golfers in attendance, beautiful weather, and the opportunity to celebrate 50 years of Lock Haven Softball, it was truly a memorable day. We capped off the evening by officially retiring Kristin Erb's #4 jersey—the first jersey retirement in the history of Lock Haven Athletics. We're already looking forward to making year two even bigger and better. Keep an eye out for registration information coming this fall!



Save the Date!

Alumnae Game: We will host our annual alumnae game on Saturday, October 3rd at 11am! Visit our social media sites to get registered!

LOCK HAVEN SOFTBALL