

# A Team? No, A Family!



What is softball? Webster defines it as being baseball played on a small diamond with a bigger ball.

What is a team? Webster says it's merely a group of people associated together.

These terms describe what a softball team may be on the outside, but they say nothing about the feelings they stand for. The feelings of togetherness, family, and teamwork. They say nothing about the work it takes to be the best you can be, nor the guts it takes to go up against a state-ranked team.

This year's team played hard, aggressive ball. Sure, they had a lot of errors, but many were made by going for balls out of reach or by being too aggressive. Along with this year's hustle came a lot of emotion. Although the team boasted 17 wins, they also had to face the bitterness of defeat.

Who can forget the poor plastic mule that showed up for every game only to be kicked by angry players?, or the quiet bus rides home after a lost game?

When the season came to an end, the girls didn't hold a State title, nor the District title, but they held the title of a team. They each shared something with seventeen others — a feeling of pride — the great feeling of a family.

◀ Chaunda Shaw, Jody Felton, Jamie Plesko, Deann Gross, and Ann Fabus chat together during their last regular season game against Breckenridge. Deann is laughing at Ann, a freshman, for trying to fill the shoes of her older sister Theresa, who is finishing a four year softball career at Ashley.

Deann Gross winds up a four year career of pitching softball for the Ashley Bears. This year she finished the season with an impressive 17 and 7 record. This spring she accepted a scholarship from Huntington College in Huntington, Indiana.

Ashley Lady Bears' softball was quite impressive this year posting a 17 and 12 record. Included are: (Top row) Assistant Frank Gross, Tammy Sopocy, Jamie Plesko, Traci Andersen, Char Evans, Amy Burk, Diana Garcia, Coach Jim Lytle. (Middle row) Chaunda Shaw, Sherry Kral, Chris Shaw, Mary Lou Kral, Missy Chapman. (Bottom row) Theresa Fabus, Ann Fabus, Kim Morris, Amy Lytle, Deann Gross.

