

Plano East Senior High School Softball

# New regime excited for Plano East softball season

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If there's anything that new Plano East softball coach Lauren Peterson wants to instill in her players this upcoming 2023 season, it's to rely on one another.

East enters the new campaign in search of an improvement over the last two seasons where the Lady Panthers finished last each time. In 2022, Plano East went 8-16 overall and just 3-11 in district. The season prior, Plano East finished with a record of 5-20 overall.

To turn it around, the team will have to count on some junior and senior leadership, along with some younger players, to get it done.

"I think that Reese Ramos is going to have a huge impact for us this year," Peterson said. "I think that Marli Kennedy is going to have a big impact for us."

According to Peterson, senior catcher Victoria Jackson-Sears is also a key player for the Lady Panthers in 2023, along with sophomore hurlers Jadyn Dawson and Riley Hopper.

"They've [Dawson and Hopper] both worked a lot

in the offseason and over the summer," she said. "We're excited about what they bring, as well."

Peterson, who played softball at Plano East in high school, wants her players to experience what she experienced during her playing days—a team that acts like a family.

"We told them when we first got here, think of our team as family," she said. "That's how it was when I was here and that's what I'm trying to bring back so that our kids are playing for more than just themselves."

She also added that she wants the team to be excited to be representing their high school.

"I want my kids to be proud to play here and proud to wear 'East' across their chest," she said. "That's something that we've been trying to work on since our coaching staff got here was to get them excited about playing for East."

East opens the season with a slew of non-district matches and tournaments, with notable games against area opponents such as Rockwall-Heath, Sachse and Prosper.

When district play rolls

around and the season really starts to mean more, the Lady Panthers will have to battle through some stout competition. Hebron, Coppell, Lewisville and Marcus all put up impressive records last season, with the latter going 30-13-1 and making it all the way to the regional final while also beating district winner Hebron along the way.

For the team to achieve the goals it wants to and beat some of this tougher competition, it all comes down to leaning on each other.

"They [the players] have

to rely on each other," Peterson said. "Our kids are talented. For them to reach the goals that they have set for themselves and the goals that our coaching staff has set for them, I think they need to trust their teammates and truly rely on them."

The Lady Panthers' embark on their quest for their first winning season since 2018 on Tuesday, Jan. 31 when they do battle with Mansfield Legacy at home. Next, it's on to North Forney on Friday, Feb. 3. District play begins on Tuesday, Mar. 3 against rival Plano.



File Photo

Reese Ramos returns as one of the leaders for the Plano East softball team.



File Photo

Marli Kennedy, left, was one of the top hitters for Plano East in 2022.

Wylie East and Sachse High School Soccer

# Mustangs, Raiders compete on soccer field



Tina Lopez/C&S Media

Gabriella Ponce shields the ball from the Sachse defensive player.



Tina Lopez/C&S Media

Haris Dunic turns into an attacking position with the ball at his feet.



Tina Lopez/C&S Media

Michael Delaney plays the long ball for Wylie East in their loss to Sachse on Jan. 25.



Tina Lopez/C&S Media

Breanna Wooten leaps to make the save for the Lady Raiders defense.



Tina Lopez/C&S Media

Cooper Tea protects the ball from the Wylie East defender in Sachse's district win.



Tina Lopez/C&S Media

Ryleigh Wood fights for the ball in Wylie East's 4-0 win on Jan. 25.