

Approaching Victory

Comeback Team

Five years ago, the girls bowling team was nonexistent. But in those years, they went from a startup team to Class I State Champions. However, the journey to state was not an easy one, especially without coach and leader, Kevin Hartigan, who passed away on July 11, 2017.

"I knew that this season was going to be a challenge without Coach Kevin, but I also knew that he had taught us everything we needed to make us state champions," said **Alexis Littrell** (12). Going into the season was tough for the whole team, but that did not staunch their positive prospects. **Madison Laney** (12) said, "When this season first started, I knew we had a chance. But I also knew that we wanted it more than any team because we wanted to win for Mr. Kevin."

And a chance they had after an amazing 7-1-1 season and becoming central region champions. "Knowing this was my last high school bowling season fueled me to want to do my absolute best, because, as a senior, this was my last chance," said **Katie Metts** (12).

When state finally came around, the girls started off without much luck. After the first game, the team was ranked near the bottom, but it all started to come together when they neared the end of the second game. "The first time I thought [we could win state] was at the beginning of the third game. We thought we were done, but I heard Mrs. Lisa say we were only fifteen pins behind 3rd [place]. So I had a good feeling about making it to the baker rounds," said **Laney**. The girls astonishingly went from 5th place to 2nd place by the third game to make it to the baker rounds and to compete against East Union for the state title.

To win the baker rounds, the girls had to win 3 of the 5 matches. **Littrell** said, "I was so happy to be there with my team and have the final round together, but I knew we had business to take care of." And that is exactly what their team did. The girls swept the state title from East Union in the first 3 games, making history for TCPS girls bowling. **Littrell** continued, "I promise you, the team that bowls together - wins together. Your 2018 Class I Girls Bowling State Champions are living proof of that."

| by Katie Metts

