



On September 17, Patriot Softball joined forces with Madison Rideland Academy to play one of Coach Cory Caton's favorite games of the season, a unified softball game for the Special Olympics of Mississippi. Both teams raised money for the cause, and decorated the dugout with streamers and the field with balloons. The Special Olympic athletes were mixed in with athletes from both teams, and they all warmed up before they played a one hour game together. The softball girls made the Special Olympic players feel like a part of the team while they cheered for the players in the dugout. Senior Shekinah Lumpkin said, "This is such a rewarding and fun experience for everyone involved. It really humbles you to see people who have such a pure love for the game. It gives you a new perspective and really makes you appreciate what you are given. I feel so blessed to have had a chance to be a part of such an amazing cause." This game reminded players from both teams that the love of the sport can unite anyone, on and off the field.



Carly Lewis

Photo by Pam Clapp



Shekinah Lumpkin

Photo by Pam Clapp



Olivia Clapp

Photo by Pam Clapp



Maddie Newman

Photo by Pam Clapp

Coach Shane Bennett, the assistant coach for both the JV and Varsity fast pitch softball teams also coached the Prep baseball team in the spring. When asked to reflect upon the softball season, Coach Bennett said, "I am proud of all the hard work the girls put into the season. We had to battle through various injuries to key contributors, but the girls never quit and continued to work hard and play through adversity. We will miss the seniors who are graduating but are hopeful for the future of our program. Coach Caton and I are excited about the direction our program is headed."



Shane Bennett

Cory Caton

Photo by Pam Clapp

the SEASON

	US	THEM
Jackson Academy	15	0
Central Hinds	11	0
PCS	11	0
Leak Academy	5	4
Oak Forest Academy	9	1
East Rakin Academy	6	4
MRA	12	3
Parklane Academy	3	2
Magnolia Heights	12	6
Parklane Academy	10	5
MRA	10	0
PCS	18	6
Oak Forest Academy	10	0
Jackson Academy	18	2
Simpson Academy	0	12

12 Varsity Softball

make IT home

All it takes is all you've got.

By: Michelle Daschbach and Jane Gray Barbour



Photo by Pam Clapp



Photo by Pam Clapp

WARM UPS. Sophomore outfielder, Sydney Ray, stretches and warms up her catching arm before the big game.



Photo by Pam Clapp

READY FOR IT. Senior first base player, Mckinley Weeks, gets into position, focuses on the play, and prepares to field a ground ball.

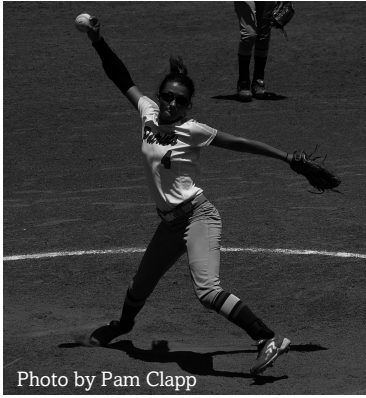


Photo by Pam Clapp

STRIKE ONE! Second year MAIS division AAAA player of the year Breley Boykin, a senior, pitches the ball full force at the opponent.

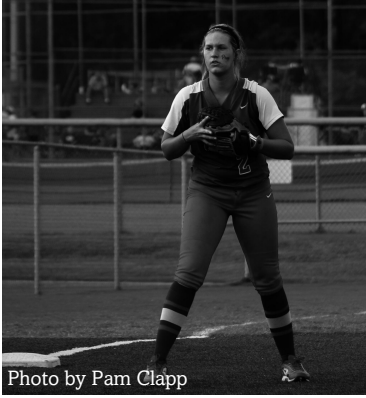


Photo by Pam Clapp

TIME FOR ACTION. Senior 3rd baseman, Olivia Powe, covers her base, and tries to get the base runners out to guarantee her team the victory.



Photo by Ryan Sherman

In September, the varsity and junior varsity softball teams played a “gold game” for Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Junior shortstop Olivia Clapp said, “We collected hot wheels, construction paper, and bubbles to take to the Batson’s Children’s Hospital cancer wing.”

AWARDS

- Best Offense:** Shekinah Lumpkin
- Patriot Award:** Olivia Clapp
- Coaches’ Award:** McKinley Weeks
- Most Improved:** Olivia Powe
- Impact Player:** Rebekah Weaver
- MVP:** Drea Morgan and Breley Boykin
- Rookie of the Year:** Sydney Ray
- Best Defense:** Carly Lewis
- Most Improved:** Maddie Newman
- MAIS Division AAAA Player of the Year:** Breley Boykin

Varsity Softball 13