

## Female athletes transform their sports

By Jocelyn Rodriguez  
Staff Reporter

At the high school, females have transformed their teams into powerful programs filled with determination, teamwork and championship-level talent.

While they might be small, they are mighty. The Lady Rebel volleyball team has accomplished every goal that they set out for themselves, all except one: winning the state.

“We made it there, we made it to that stage, but we still want more,” Christian said. “We have more to work on there, but we will get there. I’m really proud of what we accomplished with what we have.”

This year, they won the South State title and have competed in the South State championship for the last three years. “They are a phenomenal group of girls, and I’ve said that since day one when they walked in for volleyball try-outs. Knowing that these girls got it. I remember calling my sister and saying we’re going to win championships,” volleyball coach Laney Christian said.

In recent years Lady Rebel volleyball, softball and other teams have had extraordinary seasons. Volleyball and softball both made it to state, and softball became State champions and volleyball became .

Players and coaches say their achievements are not just from being good, it is from a lot of efforts, teamwork and companionship.

In the last four years, the softball



photo/ GCHS Journalism

### 6A South State Volleyball Champions

team has won two state championships and has gone to South State three times. Their dedication and admiration for the sport have surely helped their motivation.

“In our program, we have a mindset of we are going to compete in every single thing that we do whether that be on the softball field against an opponent, in the weight room against your own teammates, or in the classroom; we just like to compete in everything we do,” softball coach Anna Rigby said.

Senior Addison Davis has played softball all four years of high school career. During her freshman year, the team won the state championship and then won again her junior year.

“Well, I started playing softball when I was 11. My dad and my brother and my momma all really pushed me to get into softball. I had told them a bunch of times no, and my dad had a friend who taught

pitching lessons and so I was like, you know what, I should give this a shot, and she’s motivated me all through my career,” Davis said.

Along with softball and volleyball, soccer has also had its success.

Sophomore Olivia Tanner has been playing soccer since she was five years old.

“I love it with everything in me. I have played in travel teams and even in a boys’ travel team at once,” Tanner said. “It feels amazing to have an impact as a girl in sports... seeing other girls do good in sports like softball really excites me because everyone talks about the boys’ sports like football, baseball and even the boys’ soccer team winning last year, but really the girls’ sports may not be as big, but we are growing.”

The community has been very supportive of all the success the Lady Rebel teams have had, and crowds at volleyball and softball games have increased.

“We actually had the best showing of students this year, they weren’t there for every game, but they were there... The past two years, we have hardly had any students in the stands, but this year was good, I’m very thankful for that. I hope we have more big crowds for future games because it makes for fun energy,” Christian said.

“If you have some spare time or somebody that you really want to come watch, you’re not going to be disappointed.”

## Sports Briefs

By Mary Eubanks  
Staff Reporter

plishments and cannot wait to see them grow.

“Our hip hop routines for pep rallies were just fantastic, and I am so proud of them,” Long said.

Coach Long has hope that the girls can achieve the goals set for the team.

“My goal every year is to place better than the last competition and to be entertaining at the pep rallies,” Long said.

The Lady Rebels have been working diligently leading up to their state competition, which was held last Friday. Results were not available at press time.

### Cheer

The Lady Rebels cheer team has made many memories, friendships and have overcome many challenges this season.

Coach Holly Hulbert believes that through all the girls’ challenges, they have pushed through and gained a stronger friendship.

“We’ve had several injuries and so that has been a challenge because we had to change up the routines, but we overcame that and improved,” Hulbert said.

As they have prepared for state competition, Rebel Cheer has been working consistently.

“We practice every day about three to three and a half hours a day. We go to The Flex during competition season five days a week. The girls have been working really hard and pushing themselves more than any other team than I have ever coached. They also have been very encouraging to each other which help those long practices a little easier,” Hulbert said.

The Lady Rebel Cheer team competed at state last Saturday, and results were not available at press time.



### Soccer

Both boys and girls soccer teams have had a great season so far and have fought every challenge that was thrown at them.

Coach Tyler Williams believes that both boys and girls have found strategies that work for them and plans for them to continue to grow.

“With the girls, we found what works and now we’re refining it, and for the boys, we’re wanting to continue to improve our new system,” Williams said.

The lack of upperclassmen has been one of the challenges for the Lady Rebels.

“Challenges the team faced this season for the girls, we only have six upperclassmen, so we are a young group. For the guys it’s the pressure of winning state last year that creates extra tension,” Williams said.

“I’m proud that both teams have adjusted to having one coach and have approached everyday with hard work, accountability and effort,” Williams said.

Both teams were 1-1 in District before press time.

### Dance

This year’s dance team has had a challenging but memorable year. Coach Stephanie Long has seen the girls make many big accom-



photo/ George County Times

### 6A State Softball Champions

Making Your Story... Our Priority!

karenwrightrealty.com

**Karen Wright**  
REALTY  
HOMES, LAND, & COMMERCIAL

502 Rattliff Street  
601-673-8690  
601-508-2514

Scan

**PILGER TITLE CO.**  
Real Estate Closings

Wendy Cole  
Closing Agent  
wendy@pilgertitleco.com

Corey Bradley  
Closing Agent  
Cory@pilgertitleco.com

5146 Main Street  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
Office 601-947-7399  
Fax-228-251-0223



photo/ Madalyn G. Goff

### Junior Mark Harvey

### Basketball

Midway through the season, the Rebel basketball teams have played extremely well and are continuing to improve.

Coach Terry Bradley strongly believes that both the boy and girls team have very strong willpower.

“The biggest strengths for the girls is they play extremely hard, and the boys bring a lot of experience and out defense,” Bradley said.

Although the team has experienced many challenges they have overcome them and grown.

The Lady Rebels overall record is 5-5 and the Rebels overall record is 9-2. The Rebels hosted Greene County Tuesday night, and results were not available at press time.