

PASS THE BAT-ON

The softball team finds value in leaving behind a legacy.

As upperclassmen finished up their last seasons on the softball team, they were eager to leave lasting impressions on the underclassmen.

As one of the captains on the varsity team, Emily Guerra (12) continued to cheer on her teammates even after an injury at the start of the season.

"I want [the freshmen] to know how Homestead softball practices and traditions work," Guerra said. "I'm hoping to give them a good freshman year experience on the softball team."

Co-captain Mary Zimmer (12) shared a similar sentiment, offering her own advice to newer members of the team.

"[I'd advise the underclassmen to] just have a good attitude about it. It's okay if you lack in some areas or skills, because the whole point is to get better," Zimmer said.

The captains reached their goals, providing inspiration to underclassmen like Bizzi Selna (9).

"I do look up to seniors and upperclassmen," Selna said. "Hopefully, in the future I can play like they [do]."

Story by Isabella Dobbelaere and Mikaela Kwan

Katy Perry (12) plays catcher in a game against Lincoln High School. For Perry, her last season of high school softball was bittersweet as she bonded with the new players on the team. "They are all so funny, I love coming to practice and hearing all of their stories and giving them advice," Perry said.

Photo by Mikaela Kwan



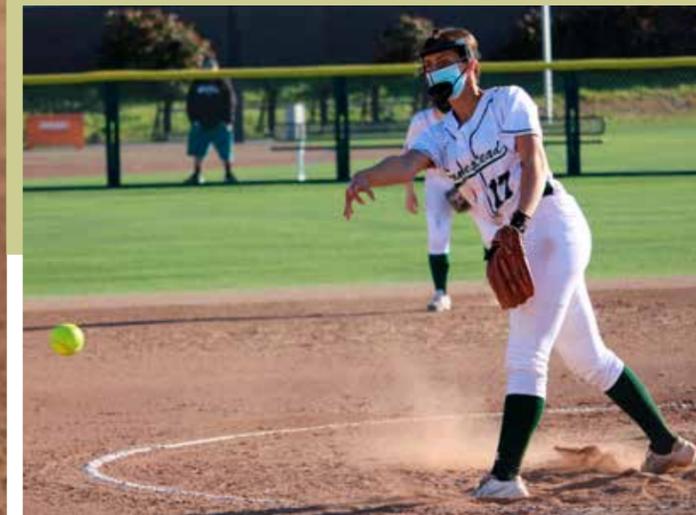
Crouching down into position, Lilly Prion (10) prepares for the pitch to be thrown. For Prion, cheering on teammates was an integral part of her softball experience. "Even if we're on the field and we're doing defense, we still cheer each other on and support one another," Prion said.

Photo by Mikaela Kwan



Niamh O'Neill (12) catches the ball during a warm up. Having played school softball for four years, O'Neill had high hopes for the future of the team. "They're all really passionate and driven about the sport," O'Neill said. "I have no doubt they will make amazing leaders for the team in coming years."

Photo by Mikaela Kwan



During a game, junior Nicole Spaulding pitches the ball to the batter. Spaulding started playing varsity softball in her freshman year and was able to experience many of the team's traditions. "We [toilet paper] the seniors' houses," Spaulding said. "When my sister was on the team, our house got TP'd."

Photo by Mikaela Kwan

Izzy Gutierrez (9) sets the field for a game. Gutierrez, who had been playing for five years, followed her father's footsteps in pursuing softball. "[My father] was a baseball player at San Benito High and loved the sport," Gutierrez said. "That's what made me want to play as well."

Photo by Mikaela Kwan



Mansi Patwardhan (9) receives a ball from catcher Bizzi Selna. Patwardhan hoped to join varsity in the future. "The girls [in varsity] are intimidating because they're really good," Patwardhan said. "I feel like I really need to push myself to get in."

Photo by Isabella Dobbelaere



Photos by Mikaela Kwan

"I play **center field**. Some of my responsibilities include talking to and supporting my teammates and calling out where to make the next play."

– Gaby Guerra (11)

"I'm the **pitcher**. When we play defense, I pitch the ball to the other team. When I first started [softball], I played pitcher for the school team."

– Sara Tatke (11)

"For this season, I'm playing **second base**. I cover the bases and just make sure everything goes smoothly."

– Bella Castaneda (9)

TAKE THE FIELD!

What position do you play?