

# From fast start to graceful finish, Grace Corner was a Marple Newtown mentor

[Matt Smith](#) July 12, 2025 at 2:55 PM EDT



Marple Newtown catcher Grace Corner is the Daily Times Softball Player of the Year. (Pete Bannan – MediaNews Group)

**NEWTOWN SQUARE** – Grace Corner wasn't born with a softball bat in her hands. She didn't spend her childhood chasing fly balls or calling pitches. She didn't even pick up the sport until eighth grade. But when she did, something clicked.

As a freshman, Corner hardly resembled a newcomer. She proved to be a quick study behind the plate.

As a rookie, she earned starting time on varsity and began working closely with then-senior ace Kelsey Racine. With head coach Mike Snow in her ear, she didn't just grow into the catcher's role, she owned it.

"I thought I was just going to make JV because I didn't think I was really that good," Corner said. "I didn't start right away. It was a learning process at first, but once (Snow) trusted me enough, that's when I became the starting catcher. And it just kind of grew on me."

Grew is an understatement. She blossomed.

"She was personally taught by me how to call a game her freshman year, working with Racine, and by halfway through the year took over the duties and never looked back," Snow said. "She scouts, takes spray charts and puts together a game plan for every player in every game and calls it. She uses every pitcher's strength and combines it with other teams' weaknesses. Arguably the best player to play at Marple Newtown and she didn't play softball until eighth grade."



Corner became the strategist, the glue behind the Tigers' success. She was at the center of Marple Newtown's back-to-back District 1 Class 5A titles in 2024 and 2025, and helped the program capture its first Central League crown since 1999 this spring.

Corner was a total package of leadership, poise, production with the bat and brains behind the plate.

That's why she's the 2025 Daily Times Softball Player of the Year.

Joining Corner on the All-Delco team, selected in consultation with area coaches, are Marple Newtown teammates Kirsten Adams and Nicole Semerjian; Cardinal O'Hara's Emily Dill and Hayden Sissons; Episcopal Academy's Kayla Brady, Hanna-Mae Legaspi and Sophia Santinelli; Garnet

Valley's Zoey Rogers; Haverford's Brenna Carfrey and Alli Daly; Interboro's Jules Bergen, Mare Nagle and Ava Rudolph; and Springfield's Payton Feeney.

Corner is the second Marple Newtown player to earn the honor and the first since Heather Ericcson in 1993.



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Now a graduate, Corner is taking a gap year to figure out her next move. She's keeping the door open for playing at the college level, but she's already committed to helping the Tigers as an assistant coach next season.

"She is an excellent role model for not just the other catchers, but all of the future stars we have here at MN currently," Snow said. "The growth in physical, emotional, academic and mental approach from her mentoring has been nothing short of astounding."

Corner's path hasn't been without setbacks. A back injury during her

sophomore year forced her to scale back. She gave up tennis and swimming and diving to preserve her health and put all her focus into high school softball. It also kept her out of the travel ball circuit, which is a crucial avenue to college exposure.

"I decided last year that I wasn't going to play softball in college because of my back," she said. "I kind of regret that now, because if the opportunity was there for me, I think I would (play) now. I kind of don't want to let softball go. I'm coming back next year to help coach, which is great."

This season was one to savor. Corner was the anchor for a 20-3 squad that was Delaware County's best high school team, and she was a major reason for the growth of the Tigers' young pitchers, freshman Ally Snyder and sophomore Ava Kelly.

"A catcher, like a pitcher, has so much more involvement in the success of a game and with all that she does, she had a personal hand in every bit of success we have had in her four years," Snow said.

At the plate, she was just as good. Corner hit .482 with 10 doubles, two home runs and 24 RBIs. A two-time All-Delco first teamer, she finished her career with more than 100 hits and 100 RBIs.

In the district quarterfinals, she delivered the walk-off hit to beat Hatboro-Horsham. In the district final, with the game scoreless in the ninth, she threw out West Chester East's top base-stealer. In the next inning, Adams crushed the walk-off homer to win the title.

Corner will always hold her senior year close to her heart. What started as a leap of faith in middle school became something so much bigger: a varsity spot as a freshman, lifelong friendships and a love for the game that changed her life in ways she never saw coming.

"I just love everything about softball. Ever since I was a freshman I was

always so determined to win a district championship. We won two, and that was special," Corner said. "This year, we all bonded together really well. And this year was by far my favorite year, my favorite team to be a part of. We had so much chemistry and everybody believed in and supported each other. It was the greatest experience and I'll never forget it."

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