

Amherst County High School

1996 Softball Team

Leading up to the 1996 Softball season, the ACHS softball program had built and instilled a winning tradition. This includes Seminole District Championships, Region III qualifiers, VHSL State Semi-finalist, and many players with District, Regional and State honors.

With the beginning on February 20, 1996 of a new season the 1996 team vowed to continue this success and to reach higher pyramids. ACHS opens the season with wins against Seminole District foes William Campbell, Appomattox, and Rustburg. Now the cadre is in motion and the players are fulfilling a goal of excellence and togetherness.

Under the guidance of Head Coach, Goldie Gouldthorpe and Assistant Coaches, Donny Wilkerson, Larry Thomas, and Tony Campbell the team believed in their coaches and the coaches knew they had the players that could be very special and have a season to remember. Under the leadership of the seniors, Erin Johannes, Cotrena Liggon, Jennifer Newman and Denise Massie the team posted a record of 15-2 regular season and Seminole District Champs.

After winning the regular season, play continued in the Seminole District Tournament. With wins over Liberty (7-2) in the semi-final and a thrilling 7-6 win over Brookville in the finals the Lady Lancers claimed the Seminole District Softball Tournament Championship. Next up was the Region III Tournament, and the Lancers opened up against Lord Botetourt and came away with a 4-0 victory. Suzanne Maddox threw a one hitter and Jamie Campbell and Kelly Gouldthorpe led the team in hitting. On to the finals where an undefeated Tunstall team waited. Suzanne Maddox pitched a PERFECT GAME in a 2-0 win. Tiffany Taylor and Jamie Campbell led the lancers in hitting with Denise Massie scoring the winning run. The Lancers are Region III Champs.

Reflecting back on the season there were many fond memories. The dinners together after games which were fun filled and involving all customers as well, pool parties, being together at school, and enjoying each other at all times. Then there were the 3 F's the team used as their motto, Fundamentals-Focus-Fun. Each and every player fulfilled this motto to the fullest. In summary, Championship team that consisted of players and coaches that believed in each other, defines SUCCESS!