

## 2011 & 2012 SOFTBALL TEAMS



### **2011 Section 5 Champions & State Tournament Representative**

*Front Row:* Abby Dygert, Alysha Bachman, Courtney Johnson, Mariah Foster

*Back Row:* Asst. Coach Morris Tuttle, Head Coach Stephanie Bertino Moll, Sydney Rogers, Allie Deal, Meghan Felice, Megan Tuttle, Heather Pollino, Asst. Coach Larry Lang, Jessica Parish, Asst. Coach Don Johnson, Not Shown: Cassandra Felice



### **2012 Section 5 Champions & State Tournament Finalist**

*Front Row:* Abby Giovannini, Allie Deal, Samantha Felice, Megan Tuttle, Abby Dygert, Alysha Bachman, Madison Hilimire, Jessica Parish

*Back Row:* Head Coach Stephanie Moll, Asst. Coach Gary Felice, Meghan Felice, Scorekeeper Anthony Bachman, Sydney Rogers, Cassie McGhan, Gabrielle Deal, Arin Loucks, Asst. Coach Matt Hilimire, Heather Pollino, Asst. Coach Morris Tuttle

The 2011 and 2012 Mynderse softball teams etched a memorable chapter in the school's athletic history with their remarkable achievements on the diamond. The program began its sectional runs in '09, making program history with four consecutive Section V championships. Throughout the '11 and '12 seasons, they showcased their prowess on the field, capturing the hearts of fans and earning accolades throughout the season, including back-to-back trips to the NYSPHAA Final Four.

The 2011 Mynderse Academy softball team dominated its season led by pitcher Courtney Johnson and catcher Abby Dygert. With a lineup including first-team All-League selections Megan Tuttle, Allie Deal, Johnson, and Dygert, the Lady Blue Devils captured the Finger Lakes East title with an impressive 18-0 record. Along the way, they defeated Finger Lakes powerhouses Geneva, Penn Yan, and Waterloo, and beat previously undefeated non-league Gananda and Aquinas along the way. In the championship game, the team won its third straight Section V Class B title against Wayland-Cohcoton. Mynderse was hitless in the game until the fourth inning when Mariah Foster and Sydney Rodgers provided back-to-back doubles to lift Mynderse to their third straight title win.

The State Qualifiers proved to be a thriller as MA faced Aquinas in a game that featured one of the most improbable comebacks in high school softball history. Trailing 4-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning with Mynderse down to its final strike, three straight singles by Megan Felice, Alysha Bachman, and Jessica Parish tied the game, and the Devils ultimately won in extra innings. However, the journey would end with the team's first and only loss in the Far West Regionals against eventual Class B state champion Falconer (Section VI). The Golden Eagles tallied seven runs, the most anyone scored against Mynderse that season. Fueled by a shared commitment to excellence, and unyielding determination, the team's relentless spirit and refusal to surrender set them apart as an inspiration for what was to come in 2012.

With the loss of several seniors who had been part of the previous three sectional champions, the '12 season began slowly, as the team suffered two hard losses to Penn Yan before finally finding direction under the leadership of Dygert and Tuttle. Sophomore pitcher Gabby Deal, under Dygert's tutelage, emerged as the team's defensive ace by sectional play. In the sectional finals, Mynderse clinched its fourth straight Class B title defeating Wayland-Cohocton. The real test began, however, when the team faced Penn Yan in the Section V Class B State Qualifiers. After losing twice to the Mustangs during the regular season, the Mynderse lineup this day was unstoppable from top to bottom. The defense was led by Tuttle,

Sydney Rogers, and Allie Deal who shut down the Mustangs and earned the team its third straight trip to the Far West Regionals.

This time, the outcome proved different as Dygert led the way with home runs in three straight games to back Gabby Deal's strong pitching. The Blue Devils defeated Cleveland Hill (Section VI) 13-6 in the Far West Regionals and advanced to the Final Four for the first time ever in Mynderse history.

In a 6-3 victory over Valhalla (Section I) in the Class B semi-finals, Gabby Deal turned in another strong performance in a high-pressure situation, while every batter in the Mynderse order reached base at least once, highlighted by Dygert and Allie Deal's back-to-back doubles. Against Chatham (Section II) in the NYSPHSAA Class B State Championships, the dream would come to an end as Mynderse led by two runs early, eventually losing 4 to 3 in a heartbreaker. Dygert (first team) and Tuttle (second team) were named to the All-State Team.

The presence of these young women among the state's elite teams was a testament to their dedication, commitment, and skill. Beyond the wins and losses, the 2011 and the 2012 Mynderse Academy girls' softball teams left an enduring legacy of sportsmanship, resilience, and the power of unity, setting an example for future generations of athletes. The memories of their hard-fought victories have remained a source of pride for Mynderse Academy Athletics and our Seneca Falls community.