

SENIOR SOFTBALL EXODUS DOESN'T THWART JIMMERSON'S ENTHUSIASM



Above: Baron Jimmerson led South Gibson County to a 29-10-2 record, district and region tournament championships, and a TSSAA State Tournament berth in 2024. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Baron Jimmerson isn't letting the fact that 10 seniors – including five consistent starters in the lineup – have graduated out of the Crockett County softball program dampen his enthusiasm for taking the reins of the Lady Cavalier program.

With the resignation of David Barker to concentrate on his assistant football coaching position and his desire to more closely follow his own children's athletic pursuits, the Crockett head softball job was open – but was quickly filled when school officials got a commitment from Jimmerson, fresh from taking South Gibson County to its first TSSAA State Tournament since 2015 with a final record of 29-10-2.

And despite the graduation losses of stalwart starters Lynden Cole, Kinleigh Lamb, Brooklyn Haynes, Destiny Foster, and Jayden Maddox, Jimmerson knows there is plenty of talent returning to the Lady Cavalier dugout in 2025.

Jimmerson comes to the Crockett program after seven seasons at the helm of South Gibson's Hornets, who won the District 13-AAA Tournament and the Region 7-AAA Tournament this past spring to earn their state berth. Before coaching at SGC, Jimmerson was head coach at Madison Academic in Jackson and has been active in travel ball coaching for years.

He met with his new team Monday afternoon in the Crockett cafeteria, challenging the players to give it all they've got each and every day regardless of their lineup status, because you never know when an individual situation might change during a long season.

"I know we're in a tough district," he said, "but I also know that Crockett has the talent to compete. I love the game of softball, and I love to compete too. I wouldn't be coming here if I didn't think this team had a chance to accomplish great things."

With South Gibson in Crockett's district, Jimmerson acknowledged it will be tough when it's time to play the Hornets in Medina.

"It wasn't an easy decision to make to leave there," he said, "but I felt it was the right time. I'm looking forward to getting to know the players here better and evaluating where they can each best help the team. We'll be setting tryout dates as soon as possible (probably next week). We'll have more than one day of them, because I don't want to make too quick a judgment on a player who might have one bad day at the wrong time.

"I like for the players to go to the positions they want to play, and then as we evaluate them, we'll move some to a spot that makes the team better overall. I'll do all I can to help players with college talent further their careers, but the first priority is to build a strong team here. And I've played against Crockett enough to believe we can do that here."

Among the top returnees for the Lady Cavaliers are infielders Piper White, Gabby Bursey, and Madison Solis (who can also catch), pitcher Anna Stallings, and outfielders Hannah Carter and Sadie Hoover. In addition to other returnees, the Lady Cavaliers will have a solid class of freshmen moving up from an outstanding middle school team