

# CROCKETT COUNTY'S SOLIS SIGNS TO PLAY SOFTBALL AT JACKSON STATE

## By Ron Barry

David Barker tells a story that lets you know exactly why he'll never forget Madison Solis.

"We were playing a close game, and it was late in that game," says Barker, who coached Solis the last two seasons as Crockett County's softball chief. "There was a runner on first, and we needed to move her over. Normally we wouldn't ask a hitter like Madison to lay down a sacrifice bunt, but we have everybody practice it just in case a situation like this comes up.

"So I give her the signal, but the first pitch is over her head. But – and I'll never forget this – she jumped up in the air to try to bunt it! Fortunately she missed, so she steps out of the box, looks down at me, and sees me like this. (Barker slumps backward, with a pained look on his face.) Madison hollers down to me, 'Don't worry, I GOT you,' and hits the next pitch off the outfield fence for a double. THAT's the kind of girl she is, and that's the kind of player she is."

And Monday afternoon, before family, friends, coaches, and teammates at CCHS, Solis signed a grant-in-aid to continue her softball career at Jackson State Community College.

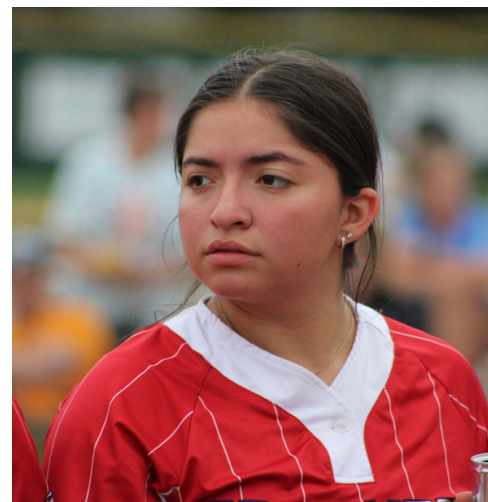
Solis, who still has her senior season coming up this spring, will head to JSCC as a catcher, her main position in travel ball and as a Lady Cavalier – but who also has the ability to play third base, which she did many times the past two seasons as the now-graduated Lynden Cole handled the majority of the backstop duties.

"I'll be a catcher at Jackson State," Solis said Monday, "but I hope over time to be able to play some third base. I'd like to earn that flexibility if I can, but catching is my primary position."

Solis, who hit a respectable .261 as a junior, with a homer and eight doubles, becomes the second Lady Cav to sign a college grant this year, joining Piper White, the senior shortstop bound for Texas A&M in the fall.

Solis and White will be among the veteran players returning this spring to kick off the Crockett County coaching tenure of Baron Jimmerson, who takes over the Lady Cav helm after coming over from South Gibson County. CCHS was 19-13 a year ago under Barker after making a TSSAA State Tournament appearance the previous season.

Jackson State will be heading into its second season under Coach Bethany Barcroft this spring.



**Left:** Madison Solis shows her gap power with this double to right-center field in a game last spring. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** While catcher is her primary position, Madison Solis has also played plenty of games at third base for CCHS. (Photo by Ashley Owens)





**Left:** Madison Solis, flanked by her family, signs her grant-in-aid with Jackson State to continue her softball career. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Madison Solis is joined by her softball teammates at Monday's signing ceremony. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Sharing the stage with Madison Solis are some of the coaches that have mentored her in her career. (Photo by Ron Barry)