

Five Things You'll Learn at Softball Opening Day

Written by FHSE Youth Softball Special Events Director, Ashlee Alexander

Pulling up to Olio Fields you can feel the spirit in the air. You see the crowd of teams, parents and coaches swarming around the concession stand area awaiting instructions on where to line up for the parade. It's a big day for many girls in the FHSE Softball Community and its impact extends past the season. Here's the top five takeaways:



ONE: Players are excited to get on the field for their FIRST game of the season.

Players are giddy with excitement, holding their team banners and dressed to reflect the theme for the day. The pride and confidence in the girls' faces is evident as they prepare to walk in the parade. Parents line the route enthusiastically. As they all pass behind The Grand Marshall each team is waving and chanting. They light up towards the end of the route when the DJ announces their team name with enthusiasm. Then, it's time to PLAY BALL!!



TWO: Camaraderie is the theme of the day.

From the teams greeting each other in the morning, to girls encouraging one another during their games, it all about bonding. During the ceremony the teams line up around the edge of the infield. A Girl Scout Troop presents the flag for The Pledge of Allegiance. A guest speaker gives an inspirational speech to further excite the crowd. More chants and cheering can be heard from each and every team preparing for another season of GIRLS PLAYING SOFTBALL!

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THREE: The sportsmanship is awesome.

Each team and their coaches are encouraging and complimenting one another. They cheer when a player gets a hit or makes an out to build confidence in everyone. We admire each coach who has volunteered their time to support and mentor a team for the spring.



FOUR: Cats players serve as mentors for the younger athletes.

The teams from the travel component of our league are there to support our newer players. They are responsible for helping to organize each age group and their biggest focus is to get each and every girl fired up for softball. Our Cats teams build enthusiasm, teach chants, and attend recreational games.

FIVE: It marks the beginning to summer.

The excitement of the ball field and eating at the concession stand brings family memories that girls can cherish. Seeing the stand full of supportive parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles should make any softball player proud. **To all the players, GET DIRTY AND HAVE FUN! Play Ball Ladies!**