

“We want revenge” CA Softball is shooting high this season
By: Molly Golden

Cheshire Academy’s softball program is historic. The Cats have won three championships within the past five years and have reached playoffs every season for the past 10 years. CA softball has won its last four games and is ranked 3rd in the Western New England Softball League. With four games left in the season, The Cats are ready to make a push to the championship.

Leading the team is senior co-captain Juliana Janazic’23, Juliana has been a part of Cheshire Academy softball since her arrival in 2019. “I came to this school because of softball and the recruiting they had here.” Juliana is one of three pitchers on the team and starts against teams like Choate Rosemary Hall and Loomis Chaffee School. Juliana pitched a perfect game against Hamden Hall Country Day School with 13 Strikeouts to reach an 11-0 victory. “As an upperclassman, I want to lead the team as a cohesive group. I want everyone to be as friendly with each other as possible. They don’t have to be best friends but they have to be teammates.” Juliana leads the team with a 0.462% batting average and a .500% on-base percentage, as well as multiple home runs on the season. Juliana is headed off to the University of Scranton to play softball at the NCAA level in the fall.

Along with Juliana is senior co-captain Sophia Scampalino’23. Sophia has been at CA since 2019 and was ready to join a winning team when she decided to come to Cheshire Academy. “I chose Cheshire Academy because their softball program was doing really well. They had three league championships under their belt and I was ready to go in as a freshman looking for the fourth one.” Sophia has been a captain alongside Juliana for two seasons and hopes to create a positive environment for her team. “I want to create that positive environment for new players and help anyone.” Sophia this season has a .417% batting average on the season along with a .533% on base percentage. With less than three weeks until playoffs, Sophia hopes to finish what she started at CA and win a championship to end her CA softball career.

CA Softball is one of the most welcoming teams on campus. Athletes interested are always welcome to join the team and learn a new sport. Just like Maya Tenne’23. Maya joined CA Softball last season after good friend and CA alumni Jordan Shannok’22 encouraged her to join the team “When I heard there might not be enough players for a team, I wanted to do anything I could to help. I’ve never played softball so I thought it would be a fun opportunity to learn a new sport and meet new people.” Maya was put in the outfield and has consistently improved since her first season, as a senior and new player on the team, she learned to preserve and found new confidence in herself. “I can offer a lot more to a team than I knew, especially in a sport that I’m new to. I am still able to help people if need be and give positive energy.”

In addition to seasoned veterans on the team, The Cats have some rising stars among them. Including Kaleigh Durkin'25. Kaleigh came to CA in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic and was ready for a competitive atmosphere and a great environment to thrive in "I chose CA softball because of the culture and the community. Everyone is learning everyday and trying to get better every single day." Kaleigh is only in her second year on the team but has made an impact as a leader in the infield as a shortstop and catcher to Kathrine Copperthite. "What motivates me is to be the best I can be every single day and work hard everyday. If I don't do my job then that's one part of the team that has less of a piece." Kaleigh leads the team in batting average with .545% and an on base percentage of .667% as well as multiple home runs this season.

"We want revenge, we want to be in the playoffs this year. We got knocked out in the first round last year because of rain and we want to come back this year and win that championship." Kaleigh Durkin says it best. The Cats squeezed into last year's playoff as the 8th seed but lost their spot due to a rain delay. The Cats have four more games left this season against teams such as Suffield Academy and Williston-Northampton School. Wins in those games leave the Cats in a great position for a high seed in the Western New England Softball playoff.