



Hackleburt's Braylynn Pope. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]



Shoals Christian's Natalee Saylor.



Colbert Heights' Addison Holcomb.



Waterloo's Addie Pollard.

TIMESDAILY 2026 SMALL SCHOOL ALL-AREA SOFTBALL ALL-AREA TEAM

P: Makayli Davis, Colbert Co., Sr.

First-team Class 3A All-State and Class 3A pitcher of the year. Posted an 0.74 ERA with a school-record 575 strikeouts in 283 innings. Of her 40 complete games, 19 were shutouts. Had a 50-inning scoreless streak from April 13-May 13. Limited batters to a .124 average. Finished 40-6 with one save. With a bat, homered nine times and had 49 RBIs with 23 runs scored in 61 games. Slugged .674. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

P: Eydie Keenum, Colbert Heights, So.

Second-team Class 3A All-State. Threw complete games in 21 of her 29 starts, finishing with a 2.57 ERA and 167 strikeouts in 160 2/3 innings. Had a 22-8 record.

P: Natalee Saylor, Shoals Christian, Jr.

Second-team Class 1A All-State. Totaled 256 strikeouts and a 2.26 ERA in 189 1/3 innings with 22 complete games in 39 starts. Went 23-15.

C: McKenzie Gann, Colbert Heights, Jr.

Second-team Class 3A All-State. Scored 61 times in 40 games with 44 RBIs. Boosted by eight home runs, slugged .815 and had a .465 on-base percentage.

IF: Bella Harper, Hackleburt, Jr.

First-team Class 1A All-State. Drove in 82 runs and scored 43 times in 57 games. Slugged .847 with a .553 on-base percentage.

IF: Payten Herron, Hackleburt, Jr.

First-team Class 1A All-State. Homered 20 times among 42 extra-base hits to slug .964. Had 72 RBIs and 64 runs scored in 57 games. Two-time All-Area. Two-time All-State.

IF: Creleigh Gargis, Colbert Co., Jr.

First-team Class 3A All-State. Knocked in 45 runs and scored 43 times in 61 games. Was 38-of-41 on steals. Helped the Indians reach their first state tournament since 1999 and reach the title round for the first time in school history. Colbert County was the Class 3A runner-up. The Indians, after going 18-16 in 2025, finished 51-10 this year.

OF: Molly Wright, Mars Hill, Jr.

First-team Class 3A All-State. Registered a .586 on-base percentage and scored 61 times in 42 games. Was 35-of-35 on steals, hit .504 and had 31 RBIs. Five-time All-Area. Four-time All-State.

OF: Autumn Willis, Colbert Heights, Jr.

Second-team Class 3A All-State. Knocked in 73 runs and scored 43 times in 38 games. With 29 extra-base hits, including nine home runs, had an .823 slugging percentage.

OF: Addie Pollard, Waterloo, Sr.

Class 1A All-State honorable mention. Had a .526 on-base percentage and slugged .616, knocking in 36 runs and scoring 25 times in 33 games. Five-time All-Area.

UT: Braylynn Pope, Hackleburt, Jr.

First-team Class 1A All-State and 1A player of the year. Finished with 109 runs scored and 75 RBIs in 57 games. Slugged 1.129 due to 52 extra-base hits, including 15 home runs. Had a .667 on-base percentage. Was 35-of-35 on steals. In the circle, recorded a 1.89 ERA with 204 strikeouts in 151 2/3 innings. Had complete games in 20 of her 29 starts, finishing 20-8 with one save. Also played shortstop. Was 1A hitter of the year as a sophomore. Four-time All-Area. Three-time All-State.

UT: Hallie Holland, Colbert Co., Sr.

First-team Class 3A All-State. Crushed 14 home runs and was 40-of-41 on steals. Recorded .502 on-base and .784 slugging percentages. Had 62 RBIs and 68 runs scored in 61 games. Was a catcher and third baseman. Three-time All-Area. Three-time All-State.

UT: Ellie Nichols, Hackleburt, Sr.

Second-team Class 1A All-State. Had .605 on-base and .716 slugging percentages with 69 runs scored and 55 RBIs in 49 games. At pitcher, was 10-1 with a 2.95 ERA in 54 2/3 innings.

DH: Addison Holcomb, Colbert Heights, Jr.

First-team Class 3A All-State. Clubbed 20 home runs and slugged 1.140 in 40 games. Scored 67 runs and had 49 RBIs. Boosted by 31 walks, had a .540 on-base. Also had a 2.01 ERA and 83 strikeouts in 52 1/3 innings pitched. Three-time All-Area. Three-time All-State.

HONORABLE MENTION

Belgreen: Aubryn Scott, Zoey Blaxton.
Cherokee: Layla Gorman, Madison Taylor.
Colbert Co.: Harmonie McClain.
Covenant Chr.: Ella Estave.
Hackleburt: Mariela Garcia.
Lauderdale Co.: Chloe Jackson, Adeline Dickerson.
Lexington: Matti Shook.
Phil Campbell: Chaley Bullington.
Red Bay: McKenna Young.
Shoals Chr.: Mya Sewell.

Tharptown: Alyssa Fischer.
Waterloo: Clara Lambert.
Wayne Co.: Shyllynn Smith, Kaybree Carroll.

FINAL RECORDS

Belgreen (20-25-2), Cherokee (15-17), Colbert Co. (51-10), Colbert Heights (32-11), Collinwood (11-20), Covenant Chr. (9-21), Hackleburt (44-11-1), Lauderdale Co. (21-18), Lexington (14-20), Mars Hill (23-26), Phil Campbell (12-26), Phillips (1-21), Red Bay (16-15), Rogers (22-15-1), Sheffield (2-20), Shoals Chr. (25-18-1), Tharptown (20-19), Vina (15-20), Waterloo (16-18), Wayne Co. (7-7).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Hope Sutherland, Hackleburt

Replaced six of nine starters and guided the Panthers to a second straight Class 1A state runner-up finish. Was also All-Area small school coach of the year in 2022. Over the last five years, has a 174-72-3 record.