



Centerville's Caitlyn Belcher delivers in the circle. The sophomore went the distance in both the state semifinal and state championship game last June. Photo: Rev Studios

VARSITY SOFTBALL · SPRING 2026

Unfinished Business: Centerville Softball Opens 2-1 With State Final Memories Fueling a New Run

From 5-15 in the regular season to the OHSAA Division I State Championship game — last year's Elks proved what this program is capable of. In 2026, a new group is ready to build on it.

Centerville Athletics · Official Sports Report

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2025 FINAL RECORD

State

2025 RUNNER-UP

2-1

2026 RECORD

#1

PITCHER WINS GWOC

THE JOURNEY

Nobody saw it coming. At 5-15 through the regular season, Centerville softball was a program that had yet to announce itself on the state stage. Then came the postseason. Then came the run that nobody who was there will ever forget.

Game by game, the 2025 Elks found another gear. They won when they needed to. They made plays that teams with much better records couldn't make. And on June 7, 2025, at Firestone Stadium in Akron, they were the last team standing in Division I besides Lebanon — the eventual state champion. Centerville became the first program in school history to reach the OHSAA Division I state Final Four, and the first to play in a state championship game. Final score: Lebanon 3, Centerville 1.



Photo: Rev Studios / Centerville vs. Lakota East

The loss stung. It was supposed to. But what it also did was set a standard. As Centerville Athletics posted after the game: "What an amazing season! The bar is raised. History is made. The next generation sees what is possible."

"The bar is raised. History is made. The next generation sees what is possible. So proud."

— Centerville Athletics, following the 2025 OHSAA Division I State Championship game

THE PERFORMANCE

The story of that run had a name: Caitlyn Belcher. The freshman pitcher — now a sophomore — went the distance in both the state semifinal and the state championship game at Firestone Stadium. In the semifinal win over Massillon Jackson, she had two doubles and five RBIs at the plate while throwing a complete game. In the title game against Lebanon, she allowed just three runs — one earned — on 10 hits while recording three strikeouts against one of the best lineups in Ohio.

Her performance earned her a nomination for best performance at the 2025 OHSAA State Tournament. She was a freshman then. Now she is a sophomore who has already done things at this

level that most players never experience. The Elks know exactly what they have in the circle.



Photo: Rev Studios / Centerville vs. Lakota East



Photo: Rev Studios



Photo: Rev Studios

Fast forward to 2026 and the Elks have opened 2-1 — back-to-back wins over Lakota East (3-0) and Perrysburg (10-9) before a road loss at Teays Valley. Belcher picks up right where she left off: she leads the entire GWOC in pitcher wins with two, ranks third in strikeouts with 19 through three games, and carries a 2.10 ERA. Junior Natalie Carr is hitting .636 — third best in the conference — giving Centerville a dangerous presence in the lineup to complement Belcher in the circle.

What makes this year's team particularly intriguing is the depth of young talent coming in. A talented group of freshmen have joined a roster that already has significant experience from last year's historic run. The combination of players who know what it feels like to stand in a state final — and a new class hungry to find out — gives this program a compelling mix heading into a full GWOC schedule.

Last year's team proved that record-keeping ends when the postseason begins. They proved that a team that finds itself in May and June can go places that nobody predicted in March. The 2026 Elks are 2-1 in late March. They have work to do. And they know exactly where the road can lead.



State Runner-Up · OHSAA Division I · June 7, 2025

Firestone Stadium, Akron, Ohio · First state final appearance in program history

The 2025 Centerville Elks softball team poses with the OHSAA Division I state runner-up trophy at Firestone Stadium in Akron after falling to Lebanon 3-1 in the state championship game. The appearance was the first in program history.

Game photography: Rev Studios / Centerville vs. Lakota East · State tournament photo: Centerville Athletics

Centerville Elks Athletics

Centerville High School | Centerville, Ohio

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