

# Highlights

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their season end with an 9-8 loss to White House Heritage.

Forrest finished the season as the District 7-AA champion, Region 4-AA champion and with an overall record of 26-8.

*\*Original reporting by Chris Siers*

## No. 2 Veteran talent, leadership sends Tigers to 2nd round of playoffs

Earlier this summer, Marshall County Tiger coach Thomas Osteen knew his team had the potential to be a contender among the best in Class 4A.

Were they ever. Marshall County relied on a bevy of senior leadership, a stingy defense and a balanced offense that could pile on the yards, both through the air and on the ground.

The lone hiccup in the regular season came on October 6 at Pearl Cohn, who eventually played for a state championship.

On average, the Tigers piled up 36.7 points per game and allowed just 12.5 points to opponents.

In six games, the Tigers gave up eight or fewer points, including shutouts against Glencree and Lawrence County.

Despite falling on the road to Pearl Cohn, the Tigers locked up second-place in Region 5-AAAA and secured a home playoff game against Chester County at Preston Hopkins Field.

The ride eventually came to a close in the second-round of the Class 4A state playoffs at Lexington.

Lexington had the perfect recipe to limit the explosive Marshall County offense but running the ball and playing clock control.

That's eventually what ended the Tigers' season.

"I'm really proud of our kids for the way we fought them all night and gave our selves chances. We knew we wouldn't have a lot of possessions offensively, so we had to make the most of them and didn't do that. The margin for error is so thin against a team like Lexington," Marshall County coach Thomas Osteen said.

With such a successful team, chalked full of seniors and quality leadership on the field, Osteen said the 2022 season was one of the most fun teams he's been around.

"It's tough to wrap it up. I'm just going to remember how much fun I had coaching this team.

It was fun to come to work every day because these guys wanted to be pushed. They wanted to be coached. You want every season to end in a championship. That being said, Marshall County and Lewisburg has a great group of young men entering the real world. I hope Marshall County football played a small part in shaping their lives," he said.

Junior Silas Teat directed the Tiger offense, completing 125-of-200 passing attempts for 1,645 yards. He threw 26 touchdowns and had just six interceptions on the season.

The Marshall County ground game was led by senior Demari Braden, who piled up 13 touchdowns on 828 yards, averaging nearly six yards-per-carry during the 2022 season.

The Tigers had several downfield targets for Teat as well, with sophomore Aja Jones being the big-play threat down field, while junior Jayden Randolph was Mr. Consistency and was

able to move the sticks on key downs throughout the season.

Both Jones and Randolph eclipsed the 500-receiving yard mark this year and combined for 18 touchdowns.

Jakavan Curry highlighted the Tiger defense, recording 120 total tackles this season, while linebackers Thomas Beech and Trey Warner were the headhunters for Marshall County.

Marshall County finished with a 10-2 overall record this season.

*\*Original reporting by Chris Siers*

## No. 1 Lady Rockets force tiebreaker in state championship

The Forrest Lady Rocket softball program needs no introduction—the program's history speaks for itself.

The Lady Rockets captured the 2019 Class 2A state title and looked to repeat in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the season and thwarted Forrest's aim at back-to-back titles in as many years.

While they missed out on a title in 2020, Forrest followed in 2021 with their second-straight title, setting up yet another run at the crown in 2022.

Forrest's postseason trek began with their 22nd-straight district title that culminated in an absolute tear through the Class 2A ranks that once again put the Lady Rockets in the state tournament.

Twice in the postseason, Forrest had to edge out wins against Community for the District 7-AA and Region 4-AA title.

After beating Community in the region championship, Forrest made quick work of Westmoreland in the Class 2A state sectional to once again qualify for the state tournament.

Forrest opened the state tournament with a comeback win over Meigs County to stay in the winner's bracket.

It wasn't until a 10-6 loss by Alcoa did Forrest suffer a defeat in the state tournament.

Having to come out of the consolation bracket, a 4-3 win over Loretto and an 11-5 win over Alcoa forced a winner-take-all tiebreaker against the Lady Tornadoes.

With both teams exhausted by a lengthy run in the state tournament, it was Alcoa who claimed its first-ever title with the 6-1 win over Forrest.

"We made it this far and we came home with something. Yeah, our goal is to win it, but that just doesn't always happen so we are still successful in our eyes, we still put in the work and I am still super proud of them whether you come home with it or you don't," Forrest coach Shelby Lightfoot said. "That first time there is



Silas Teat stands tall in the pocket and keeps his eyes downfield.



Demari Braden picks up a block and scampers forward for a 37-yard gain against Lexington.

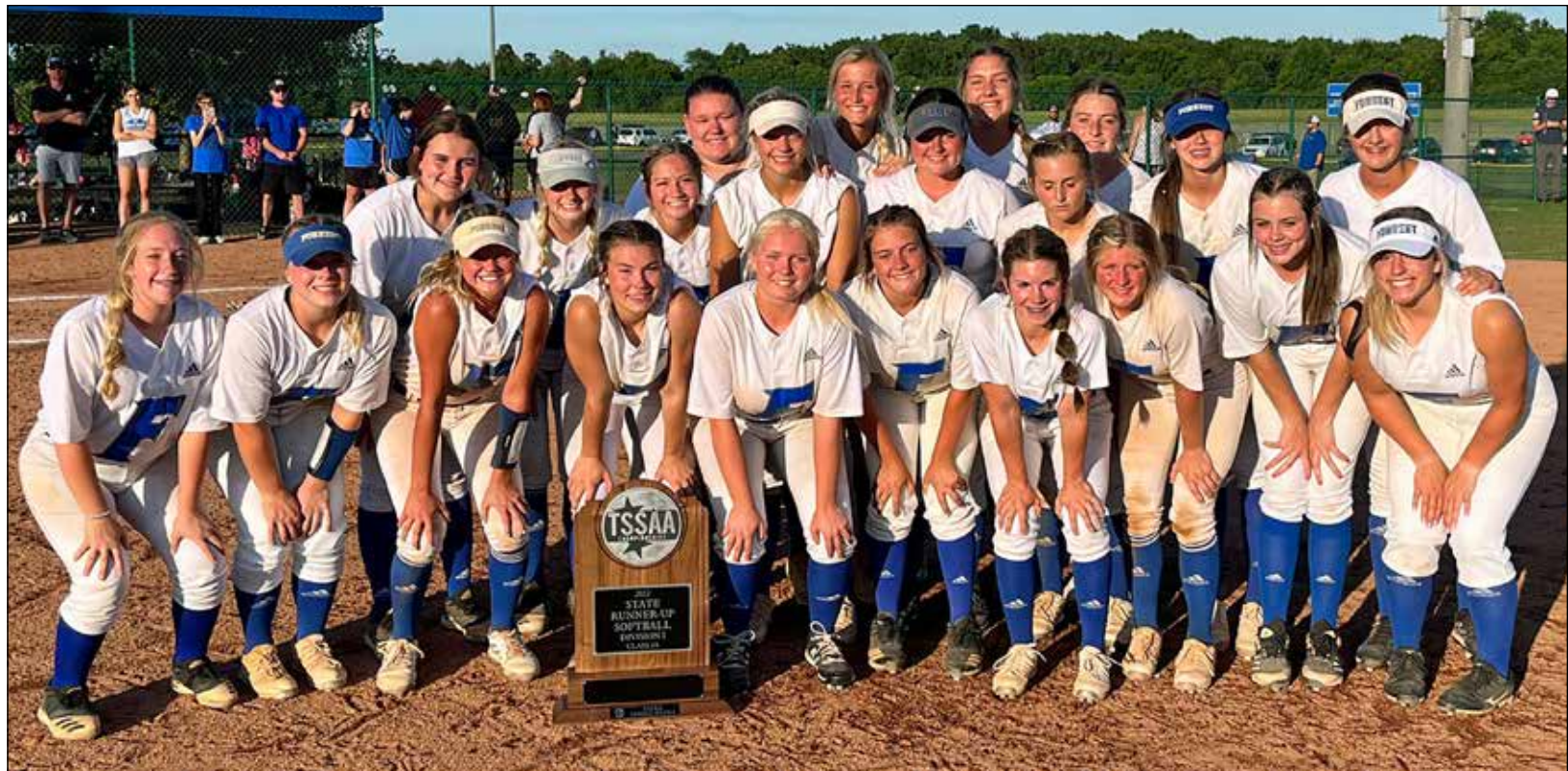
nothing like it out of all of them that you have and that is the one you remember. Hats off to them, they have a good ballclub and they could have easily shut down after we had that first game and they didn't; they keep it close, close enough until they got their bats going, so it worked out for them."

Forrest (30-12) only lost one senior in Addison Bunty while they bring back five juniors (Julie Williams, Hadley Frazier, Parker Wales, Carli Warner, Macyn Kirby), seven sophomores (Briley Burnham, Sarah King, Christa Warren, Abby Ferguson, Maggie Daugherty, Leslie Bartoli, Jenna Goodman), five freshmen (Ella Chilton, Emory Hall, Haddie Patton, Miranda Stout, Karson Mihalek) and several eighth-graders (Marley Chilton, Megan Dunn, Haylee Webb, Lindsey Lee) for the 2023 campaign.

*\*Original reporting by Anthony S. Puca*



Junior Julie Williams was solid in the circle for Forrest, going the distance while giving up five earned runs in the title game.



The 2022 Class 2A state runners-up Forrest Lady Rockets finished the season with a 30-12 record, an undefeated district record and captured both the District 7AA Tournament and Region 4AA titles.