



1991 Softball Team

Year of Induction: **2018**

Year of Graduation: **N/A**

Throughout the 1980s, the Johnson City Girls' softball team enjoyed consistent success highlighted by nine division titles and nine winning seasons in a row. However, they were regularly denied the next step as, again and again, they fell short in both STAC and Section IV championship play. In 1990, they finally defeated Chenango Forks in the Section IV championship but lost in the New York State semifinals.

In 1991, under the leadership of head coach Dave McGinnis, they began playing with aspirations for a repeat of the previous year's success. Charlene Cook, a freshman, took over pitching duties and completed the year with a 21-5 record. Eight seniors became the nucleus for a team that would finally bring home a state championship.

The sectional title game again featured a contest with arch-enemy Chenango Forks. Johnson City had just won the STAC title with a 12 inning, 1-0 victory over CF. A few days later, in one of the most amazing games ever played by JC, they defeated CF again 5-4 in the section title game. In the top of the 7th inning, losing 4-2, a close play at the plate sent catcher Dani Lutsic to the hospital. When the crying was done and the dust had settled, JC faced a dismal situation. With CF runners on 2nd and 3rd with 1 out, backup catcher Joanna Trask entered the game. The next batter hit a comebacker to Charlene, who threw to first base. Chris Dyman's throw to home plate got the 3rd out on a great tag by Joanna Trask and the inning was over. A hit by Alicia Walker, a walk by Nancy Hicks, an error by CF, and all that was left was for Chris Dyman to hit a game-winning sacrifice to deep center field, leading the Wildcats to an amazing victory.

The run to the state championship included wins over Section VI powerhouse Williamsville (5-2) and Bayport Blue Point from Section XI (4-2). Claire Basti moved from the outfield to catcher and her steady play was pivotal in every game. Eight seniors were instrumental in helping JC to the final game: Claire Basti, Chris Dyman, Jennifer Frederick, Alycia Walker, Julie Fairbairn, Katrina Andrews, Marybeth Paden and Alisa Beck. Each contributed both defensively and offensively. Other contributors throughout the season included Nancy Hicks, Jill Ziemba, Jennifer Ruddy, Becky Dudla, Carey Herman, Leslie Lance and Joanna Trask.

In the championship game, JC held off Massena 4-1 despite only getting three hits. Once again, great pitching and defense made the difference. By earning the state title, the 1991 varsity softball team joined the 1985 girls' varsity basketball team as being the only two Johnson City teams (up to that point)

to have captured a New York state championship in a sport with a team tournament format.

The Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to welcome a group of ladies who came together as a team, who never gave up, and who ultimately pushed themselves beyond local success to become state champions, the 1991 girls' varsity softball team.