

## **Bulldogs hope to avenge earlier losses in region play**

By Amy Donaldson  
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With a 3-3 record in region play, it may not look like the perfect spot for a young team, but Judge Memorial coach Carolyn Richards believes it is.

"They're really coming together," she said of the young team. "Their hitting has come a long way, and the defense is starting to shore it up and make the plays they need to make to win close games."

Which is good because the second half of region play begins this week with two formidable opponents in Wasatch, a team that's undefeated in region play, and Uintah, a squad Judge played closely last time.

"I think the girls are looking forward to getting another chance at them," Richards said. "They want to redeem themselves."

The team is led by senior captain and four-year starting pitcher Maggie Holden. Two other seniors, Amanda Moyes, who plays first and centerfield, and Lindsay Hedderman, catcher, are the squad's other two captains.

"We've also had two freshman really step up for us," Richards said. Ashley Azarow, who starts as a catcher for varsity and pitches for the junior varsity team, and Teresa Pond, who plays shortstop for the varsity and catches for the JV team.

Richards said the young team set individual and team goals at the beginning of the season and most included having fun as a top priority. They re-evaluated those goals just recently, and fun wasn't on the list of accomplishments they wanted to achieve.

"I said, 'Winning is fun, isn't it?'" said Richards. "They see their improvement, and they have a lot of potential. Their confidence just breeds more confidence in them."

The Bulldogs hope to avenge those earlier losses to Wasatch, Union and Uintah in the second-round of region play, which begins Tuesday against Wasatch.

The Wasps are 6-0 in region play with their closest game an 8-0 win over Union.

"I knew we were athletic, but the twins kind of put us over the top," said Wasatch head coach Gary Roberts. "I expected to compete, but I didn't expect to dominate."

Roberts returned just two players with any varsity experience, but two players with a lot of experience moved to Heber City in December. Twins Janeece and Jarrell Veazie have taken a talented team that lacked experience and made them one of the top 3A squads in the state.

Because the team didn't have a lot of experience, it took a while for them to find the right chemistry.

"I think athletically we're probably better than we were last year," Roberts said. "We just didn't have the experience... Since we got home from St. George, though, we've just been tearing the life out of the ball."

He said despite the edge the twins offered the Wasps, the win has been "a total team effort. Every game we have seven or eight girls getting hits. They're playing very well as a team. It's been fun."

Uintah is still a formidable team led by pitcher Kelsi Robb, Kati Labrum, Madison Robb and Alyssa Johnson.

Union is also playing well behind pitcher Stephanie Townsend, Jill Hicken and Stacey Urisk.

Morgan, like Judge, is capable of pulling off an upset behind athletes like Lisa Jensen and Megan Woodward.

Park City returns very little experience, but the young team is finding confidence and an identity under a new head coach.

### **Region 10 preseason rankings**

1. Union
2. Wasatch
3. Uintah
4. Judge
5. Morgan
6. Park City