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Before spring sports even began, the players on the baseball and softball teams were already dedicated at try-outs and all throughout their pre-season practices. Both the boys and girls brought their

"A-game" out onto the field everyday at practice and at every game they played this season. The girls brought more emotion to their games and they supported each other from the dug-out with loud, encouraging cheers, and distracting cheers towards the opposing team. But the boys support towards each other was not so verbal; mostly hi-fives were exchanged and sometimes they called out each other's numbers for extra confidence while they were up to bat.

There was a lot of team chemistry seen on and off the field this year. Some of the varsity players had been on the team since freshman or sophomore year, giving them plenty of ample time to develop strong relationships with their coaches and their teammates. "I love all the girls on the team this year," said Kaelyn Castellanos, 10. "We all worked really hard to get where we are."

This team history was definitely needed for when the team got into a rut on the field, or when some players became unmotivated towards winning as a team. Both boys and girls were always positive; congratulating each other when they had a good game, and giving some words of encouragement and advice for how they could perfect their skills. "My favorite part was going to practice everyday, hangin' out with the guys, and playing ball," said Travis Raggiani, 12.

Each team put in so much hard work this season. Sometimes their practice would go for longer than it had been anticipated or planned for. Any extra

time the team put into practice was well worth it; our players were conditioned, lean, strong, and had a lot of endurance to ensure that even when the game got tough, they didn't lack in skill. They motivated each other out on the field during practice, knowing that with all their hard work they put in, it would be well worth all the sweat that they put into the game before the season started. "Game days were the best part of baseball," said Sam Morgan, 11. The Boys Varsity baseball team played games against some of the toughest competitors yet, along with the Newsome Wolves, which had been one of Bloomingdale's biggest rivals throughout the entire school year.

The Bloomingdale vs. Plant opening game was a nail-biter. The boys fought long and hard, and the game dragged on to a full ten innings before Bloomingdale discovered the play that would secure their victory. It was a big deal because Plant's Varsity baseball team was nationally ranked, and the boys trained really hard to be able to match and surpass their skills in the game.

Sometimes both teams won against the same school, but other times, the girls just weren't prepared, or the boys underestimated the skill of the opposing team. Even throughout the tough season, both varsity teams stayed unified and strong out on the field, and this season was a successful one. "We always got pumped up for the Newsome games, those were our most competitive," said Destani Frye, 12.

Both teams were definitely unified this year, ensuring that they had an awesome competitive season.

1 Jackee West, 9, waits for the ball to connect with her bat. Jackie was one of the only freshmen to make the team.

2 Emilee Grem, 9, moves forward to hit the ball. This was Emilee's first year on the team and she had an older sister, Madyson, who was also on the team.

3 RJ Brown, 12, winds his arm back to pitch the ball. RJ had played on the baseball team for all four years.

4 Jose Alvarez, 12, strikes the ball in order to get to first base. Jose was a catcher for the bulls.

5 Sal Giardina, 11, runs to first base after hitting the ball. The baseball team lost the game against Brandon with a final score of 3-1.

AT THE PARK

