

# Diamond Girls vital to baseball team

**By Molly Archer**

sports contributor

The coach leads the team, the players play the game, and the Diamond Girls keep everything running smoothly for the Oxford High School baseball team.

Chris Baughman, the Chargers baseball coach, and Jill Knox, the Diamond Girls sponsor, are two of the six deciding votes in selecting which girls will enter the Diamond Girl community.

Around 100 OHS students were interviewed in October to join the organization.

“Without the Diamond Girls, this program would not be as successful as it is,” said Baughman, whose team

captured the MHSAA Class 5A state championship in May. “Their support does provide energy for our guys.”

The Diamond Girls work the concession stands, return the baseballs and support the team, but the Diamond Girls organization helps the girls later in life, too.

“A big benefit of being a Diamond Girl is learning patience,” said Diamond Girl Sallie Hardy, a sophomore at OHS.

Hardy heard about Diamond Girls from her friends.

“They told me about how much fun they had and how they all grew so much closer with each other.” Hardy said.

In order to have fun as a Diamond Girl, you first have to go through the application process.

Conducting the candidate interviews are assistant baseball coaches Chase Goolsby, Daniel Parrish, David Webb and Nathaniel Rios, along with Baughman and Knox. Baughman said they “decide on the final list of Diamond Girls based on their interview, grades, attendance and tardies.”

He added, “This year, we had over 100 girls apply, and the interviews were outstanding,

which makes it tough on us to narrow it down.”

There are many requirements to become a Diamond Girl.

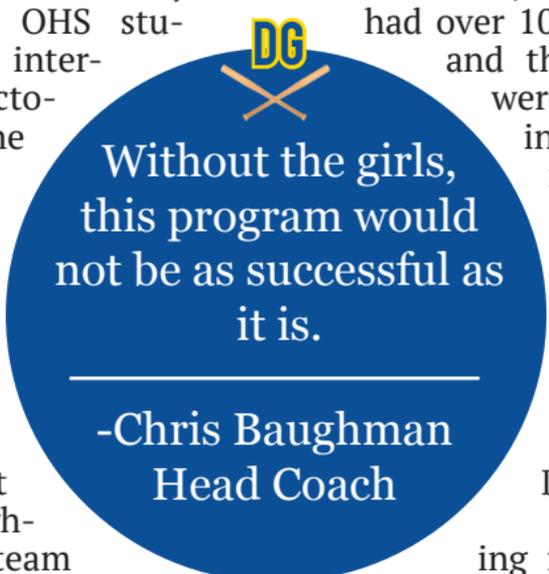
“We are looking for girls that

have the time to commit to being a Diamond Girl,” Knox said. “We are looking for girls that are keeping grades up.”

When interviewing the girls, the teachers and coaches will ask a mix of serious and silly questions in order to get the girls to relax and show their individual personality.

Among the questions, Knox said, asked in the interview are: “What is your favorite concession stand item?” and “Can we trust you to represent the Diamond Girls in a positive manner?”

The Diamond Girls selections for the upcoming season were released on Monday.



Without the girls, this program would not be as successful as it is.

—Chris Baughman  
Head Coach