

Led by faith, Brown creates legacy at HCHS

BY ABBY HOOVEN

Kennedy Brown wore many hats during her time at Henry County High School.

Senior class president, tri-sport athlete, dual credit and honors student, club leader and much more highlighted her high school resume.

For her athletic and academic achievements, Brown was honored with three prestigious awards to cap off her decorated career at HCHS.

At the senior awards presentation, Brown earned the top honor from HCHS as she was named the Most Outstanding Female.

During the inaugural Wildcat Athletics Awards Show, Brown received the Bev Parish Female Athlete of the Year Award. She was also named the 31st District Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year and was recognized in a ceremony in May.

“Both awards were very unexpected, especially the one for the entire district. I hadn’t even heard of it. I was so appreciative to those who chose me for the awards. I was just immensely grateful that someone noticed my hard work,” said Brown. “I was very glad to get to represent our school at the Eighth Region Awards Banquet.”

Within the sports realm, Brown participated in varsity volleyball, basketball and softball.

Her volleyball journey began as a freshman and she spent three years on the varsity squad for the Lady Cats. During her senior season, Brown helped Henry County to its first district championship since 2019.

In over 20 games, Brown tallied over 16 kills, seven blocks and 10 digs as an opposite and middle hitter.

Her basketball career started in seventh grade, and she became a key contributor for the Lady Cats varsity program in recent years.

As a senior starter, Brown finished third in scoring with 207 total points. She also earned 5.5 rebounds per game and 160 total to rank second on the team.

During this year’s 31st District tournament, Brown led the Lady Cats with 15 points and 12 rebounds in a close quarter-final battle with Carroll County. For her efforts, she was named to the all-tournament team.

Her favorite sport, though, was softball, which she joined through T-ball at four years old.

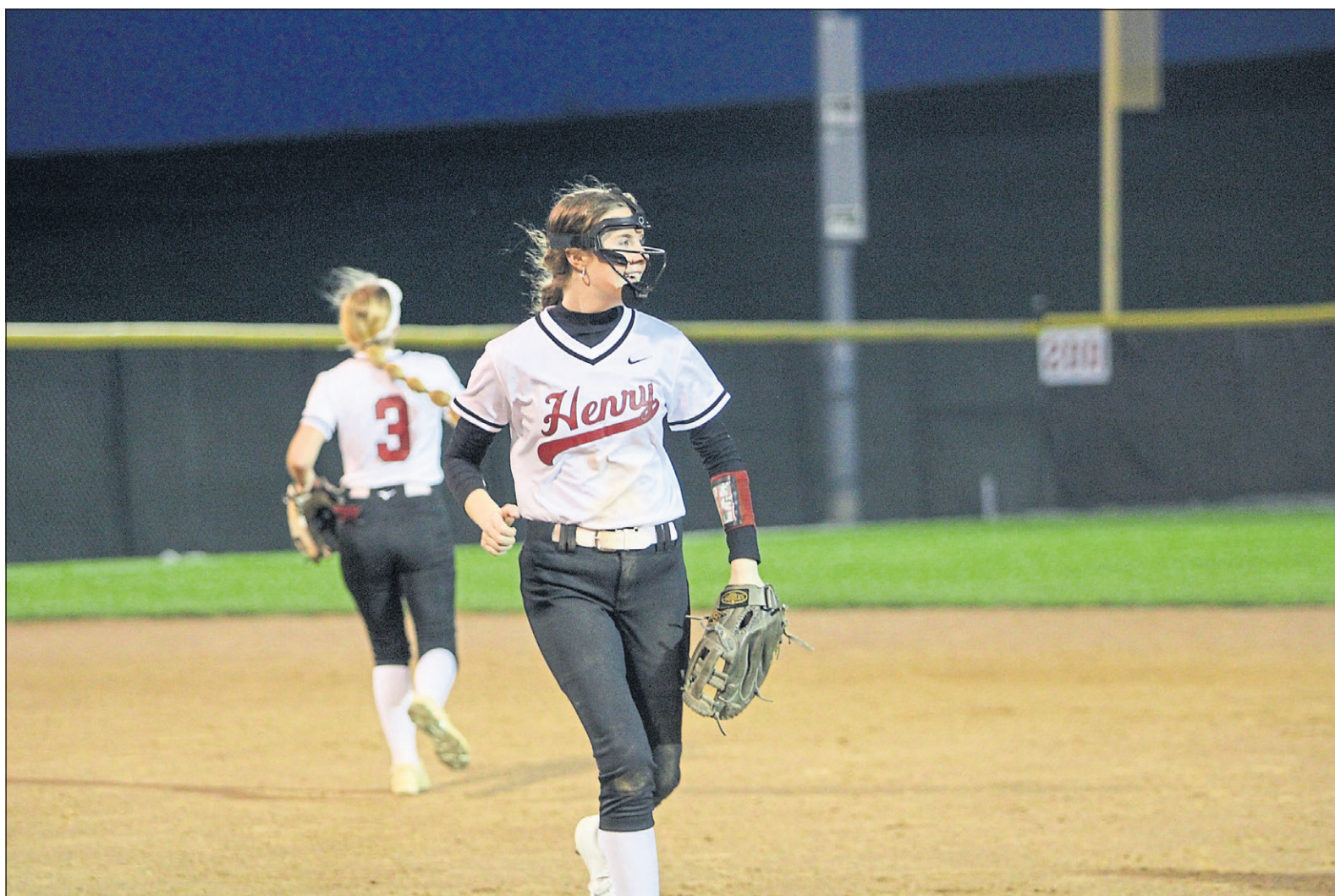
“Softball has always been my favorite as I played it the most competitively through travel softball. However, basketball really grew on me through the years and became a close second,” Brown said.

The Lady Cats’ starting first baseman played a pivotal role in Henry County’s dominance over the 31st District in the last decade.

“As I said before, softball has always been my favorite sport, so I have enjoyed such massive success even more! I have spent hundreds and hundreds of hours making myself into a better softball player, so being a part of so many huge wins was very rewarding,” said Brown.

In four years with the varsity program, Brown went undefeated in 31st District play, captured four straight district titles and helped the Lady Cats win the Eighth Region championship in 2021.

“It’s always special to win a district title for the school and county, but to win regionals was invaluable. It was also special to represent female athletics in Henry County with that win. We were only the second team in Henry County history to win



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Kennedy Brown was named the Bev Parish Female Athlete of the Year at Henry County High School, along with earning the Most Outstanding Female Award at HCHS and the 31st District Female Scholar Athlete of the Year honor.



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Kennedy Brown receives her diploma at Henry County High School’s commencement ceremony on May 25.



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Kennedy Brown shoots a layup during a game for the Henry County girls basketball team in the winter. Brown joined the Lady Cat program as a freshman.

regionals, and we were the first female team to do it, so that was very special,” Brown said. “The environment on the high school softball team was always great, and it made for an enjoyable season every year. That contributed a lot to our success.”

During her final softball season with the Lady Cats, Brown finished with 20 runs, 26 hits and 18 RBI on a .342 batting average.

“She is a great leader and she kind of holds every team that she plays on together,” said HCHS softball head coach Ally Vaughn. “She has a great spirit about her, very positive. Her teammates trust her... she’s just a great person and a great athlete at the same time, which doesn’t come often.”

Throughout her time with Henry County athletics, Brown enjoyed building relationships with teammates and coaches, and making memories together.

“The best memories usually involve winning, of course. Every district or cross-county win is one that I will remember forever. Every summer camp and overnight trip with a team was a blast,” said Brown. “Also, something I will always remember is how, at each game, we tried to glorify God by praying before we played. Those are things I will never forget. Also, some people would not like attending a small high school, but I’m grateful that a small school allowed me to play such a big



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Kennedy Brown helped the Henry County volleyball team to the 31st District Championship in the fall.

role in multiple different teams.”

Academically, Brown participated in and helped lead FBLA, FCA, NHS, Beta Club, Pep Club and Gifted and Talented.

Outside of HCHS activities, Brown was highly involved in her church throughout her high school years. Along with attending regular Sunday services, she prioritized attending youth groups and small groups each week and took time to volunteer with preschoolers, despite a busy athletic and academic schedule.

“These events filled me up every week and supplied me all the strength I needed for school and sports,” said Brown.

Faith guided, and still guides, Brown in all her

endeavors and served as inspiration to chase her goals with maximum effort and attention.

“Really my biggest motivation was knowing that everything I was doing was for the glory of God. I don’t believe in doing anything halfheartedly. If you’re going to do anything, it should be to the best of your ability. Do it for the Lord, for the people supporting you, and for yourself,” said Brown.

Between practices and games, honors classes and church commitments, Brown said learning time management at a young age was vital to her success.

“I have always wanted to be involved in a little bit of everything, so I’ve had to figure out how to balance

it all. My parents always stressed to me the importance of good grades, so that was always my No. 1 priority. Instead of binging a TV show or scrolling through social media, I spent most of my time in high school trying to stay on top of schoolwork or practicing sports. I didn’t ever have much down time, but I wouldn’t have had it any other way,” said Brown.

Brown expressed her gratitude for her parents and grandparents and their dedication to attending every game and awards ceremony over the years.

“They’re there to help me with anything I need. My mom in specific has always helped me keep track of my busy schedule and made herself available to answer all of my frantic text messages throughout the day. She also proof-reads a lot of my work. I’m very grateful for her,” said Brown.

Brown also shared her appreciation for former assistant basketball coach Leah Klempner and the impact she made on her, and other athletes, at HCHS.

“Besides being a great coach, she was also great at communicating and relating to us female athletes. She set a great example to us physically and morally. Coach Klempner was and continues to be a great supporter and encourager,” said Brown.

After a remarkable high school career, Brown offered some words of wisdom for underclassmen as they navigate the remainder of their high school experience.

“The best advice I could give to underclassmen is to work hard at all they do. That’s the only way to finish high school with no regrets. Find something that motivates you. For me, it was my faith. Also, know that your worth is not found in your performance, either academic or athletic. Truly, it’s in Christ alone,” said Brown.

While her time at Henry County has come to a close, Brown is excited to embark on the next chapter in her journey.

In the fall, she will be attending the University of Kentucky and majoring in accounting.

“My mom is an accountant, and after I took my first business class in high school, I knew that’s what I wanted to do as well. I’ve always been a huge fan of UK sports, and their campus is beautiful, so I knew that was the perfect place for me,” said Brown. “And while I enjoyed my time at a small high school, I’m looking forward to the large enrollment at Kentucky.”