

# Mayberry Brings Wealth of Experience to Squad

## Softball Coach Turns Program Into One of Top in the State

Her playing days weren't even over yet when BLHS Head Softball Coach Susan Mayberry knew she wanted to become a coach.

"I was able to take a variety of coaching classes from some excellent coaches," said Mayberry. "I learned things that I still rely on today as far as what my coaching philosophy is and how to work with young people."

Mayberry graduated from Pittsburgh State University in 1987 and has coached softball ever since. She has also coached basketball and volleyball at the high school level.

Prior to heading up the BLHS program, Mayberry was the head coach at Shawnee Mission East. She moved to BLHS in 1998 and guided the Bobcats to three straight appearances at the Class 4A State Tournament, finishing third in 2000. Her teams have made four trips to the state tournament during her tenure.

In 2007, the Bobcats won the first Kaw Valley League title in the program's history. During the past 10 years, Mayberry's players have received All-KVL honors nearly 30 times, with numerous All-Region

and All-State selections as well.

Mayberry has been a student of the game throughout her playing and coaching careers. She has attended dozens of coaching clinics and been an instructor at others. One memorable experience took her to Caracas, Venezuela where she worked with the country's National Softball Team in preparation for the Pan American Games.

"That was a great experience for me as a coach for many reasons," Mayberry said. "We had the usual challenges of trying to teach the skills needed to compete at a high level," she explained, "and we also faced a language barrier, which made us work very hard to communicate effectively."

"It was an awesome experience and to get to watch the team compete at the Pan Am Games in Indianapolis was so fun," Mayberry said. "We had a cookout for the whole Venezuelan team at our hotel and tried to share a little bit of our world with them."

Mayberry was also selected to work on the clinic staff for a softball player clinic conducted by USA Softball prior to the opening of the 1996 Summer Olympics. The clinic was held near the softball venue in Columbus, Ga.

Most recently, she was one of



**Susan Mayberry**

five speakers at the 2005 National Softball Coaches Clinic held in Minneapolis. Other instructors included two-time Olympic gold medalist Michele Smith; former U.S. Olympic Softball Team asst. coach Margie Wright; International Softball Federation Director of Development Cindy Bristow and University of Nebraska asst. coach Jennifer Cline-Ogee.

"The game of softball has allowed me to have so many opportunities throughout my career," Mayberry said. "From a player to a coach, traveling to other countries teaching the sport. Softball defines a part of who I am."