

# Generals look to build on 11-win 2025 season

BY JOSH CLAYWELL  
JCLAYWELL@KYSTANDARD.COM

After going 11-11 in Holly Smith's first season as head coach in 2025, the only way the Thomas Nelson baseball team can go is up.

Smith and the Generals look to take the next step this year, and they have plenty of pieces to help them get there.

"We do have philosophies and keys to winning that revolve around team goals, pitching goals, both offense and defensive goals as well," Smith said. "Our team theme this season is reps, routine and results."

Thomas Nelson hopes to continue its progress under Smith, who was previously the school's softball head coach.

The Generals roster features plenty of senior depth in pitcher/first baseman/outfielder Easton Masterson, pitcher/third baseman/outfielder Gavin Robertson, outfielder/pitchers Jacob Hart and John Mason Brock, pitcher/outfielder/shortstop Jacob Parsley and utility players Justin Covington and Payton Thompson.

"Easton is making his senior year comeback after sitting out for a couple years. He's got good fundamentals, a great arm and powerful bat," Smith said. "Gavin has quick hands, great bat speed and is a powerful hitter and is very coachable. Jacob reads the ball off the bat well. Jacob is athletic with great speed and he covers a lot of ground. He is one of our leaders and he leads by example."

"John Mason has a great



Thomas Nelson's Jacob Parsley (24) dives back into second base ahead of the tag of Bethlehem's Ethan Gibbs in a game last season.

love for the game and he could appear on the mound some," she added. "Justin has great speed and covers a lot of ground. Payton works hard and is very coachable."

Rounding out the team are junior outfielder/pitcher Jude Call, junior second baseman/third baseman/pitcher Landon McCubbins, junior pitcher/catcher/shortstop Mason Dobson,

sophomore third baseman/first baseman/outfielder/pitcher Grant Edelen, sophomore outfielder Lucas Harrell, sophomore catcher/second baseman/pitcher Ryan Peters, freshman first baseman/third baseman/pitcher Eli Boley and freshman first baseman/pitcher Jaxon Price.

"Returners are excited about this season," Smith

said. "They are being challenged both on and off the field. Baseball looks very different for them again this season and I can see the ones who are buying in are making huge strides in the right direction. This group

likes to have fun while growing as baseball players and young men."

One thing Smith is eager to watch unfold is how much the team's chemistry develops throughout the season.

That will be crucial as the Generals look to contend in the 19th District.

"I am looking forward to seeing this team connect on the field this season," Smith said. "I have really seen some growth from some unexpected players and also picking up the Masterson kid has been nice as well. This team is fundamentally strong. I have been surprised about our pitching growth and depth as well."

Parsley, Masterson, McCubbins, Dobson, Call and Edelen could all see time in the starting rotation as well as out of the bullpen.

"Currently we have been throwing many different arms to see what we can develop as we are looking at what we have," Smith said.

"I am wanting to have five solid starters as I work to see where we currently are on arms."

If the Generals are to challenge for the district title this year, Smith said it's going to come down to a few things they can control.

"When headed into this season, I am going into it with a clean slate as I always do," she said. "I am going into March really focused on us and our team. We are working daily using our theme with our fundamentals, quality swings and throwing strikes. I want these young men to be confident and trust that with what we are doing we will eventually see the results of."

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