

Weaver brings No. Cobb team

By Wayne Grandy

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MOULTRIE — Although Jo Beth Weaver has not lived in Colquitt County since graduating from high school, she has spent many, many weekends and vacations in her native Norman Park and the surrounding area after her athletic and coaching careers took her away.

Today, she will bring her 2014 North Cobb softball team to town for

a pair of games on Saturday at Packer Park.

The Lady Warriors will meet her alma mater at 10 a.m. Saturday and will play Lowndes at noon.

It a trip she has looked forward to, both personally and professionally.

“I’m excited about it,” Weaver said on Wednesday. “It will be good to be in Colquitt County and show my team where I grew up. “And it’s good for my program. We’ll get to play two real good Class 6A programs.”

Now in her 30th year of teaching and coaching, Weaver is still going strong.

She got her 400th career victory in 2011 when she led the Lady Warriors to 27 wins and a berth in the state’s Elite Eight and several freshmen members of that 2011 team are seniors now and are hoping to build on last year’s 23-11 record.

“We lost our cleanup hitter and a

Please see **WEAVER**, Page 2B

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and keep a good balance with physically running it and still being able to throw it."

that lost several starting skill players.

Continued from Page 1B

Weaver

four-year starter at shortstop," said. "But we've got a good nucleus and we've set some goals. Somebody's got to come through for us. We'll see."

North Cobb opened its season on Thursday with a region game at home against Hillgrove and next week will play in Buccaneer Bash. The Lady Warriors also will play in the Softball in the Sand tournament at St. Simons beginning on Aug. 29.

On Saturday, they will meet a Colquitt County team that is 3-1 after playing in the tournament in Thomasville last week.

Weaver said she doesn't know much about either Colquitt County or Lowndes, but is eager to see her team in action at Packer Park.

There was no high school softball in Colquitt County when she played here.

But she said she has fond memories of playing recreation slow-pitch for Sanford Davis and Beth Redding.

She also was a member of two national champion Tifton Tomboy teams coached by Tommy Cottle.

Weaver also enjoyed playing baseball as a youngster and was an outstanding guard playing one year at Norman Park High and three more at Colquitt County.



WEAVER

She played basketball first at ABAC before being offered a scholarship at Furman to play softball and basketball.

She then got an offer from Andy Landers to play at Georgia. She accepted the scholarship and played on the Lady Bulldogs 1984 SEC champions and the 1985 NCAA runners-up.

Weaver now has been at North Cobb for 22 years,

coaching the softball team for 20.

She was the Cobb County and state Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 2001 and has been inducted into the Colquitt County Sports Hall of Fame.

She and her staff and players will relax Friday night in Norman Park and after the games on Saturday will do some sight-seeing.

Weaver noted the hospitality shown by Lady Packers coach Jake Mobley and program's booster club, who will provide lunch for the Lady Warriors on Saturday.

"I really appreciate all they've done making us feel welcomed," she said.

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