



## **St Lucie West Centennial Softball**

**Nominated By: Cheryl East**

### **What Makes Me a Champion?**

My girls/team make me a champion. Two years ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Although I'm in the early stages, it still, at times, makes it hard to do things. I told my girls after I was diagnosed because I believe they deserve honesty. When I told them, they asked questions about the disease but most importantly, was I still going to coach. I told them I was going to coach but I needed their help. These girls are incredible. They are always carrying my bag, offering to help, and hover over me. They practice hard, maintain a team avg GPA of 3.5, work part time jobs, plus take care of me. This is my 7<sup>th</sup> year and I have always been District Runner Up, never a District Champ until last year. The girls won it for me. We lost the first round of Regional though. As they shed tears, their comment was "Sorry Coach." I said "Why are you sorry? We still had a great season." Their response, "We didn't get you your 100<sup>th</sup> win." See I ended 98-55. I am happy to say they got it for me, the first week of this season. We are 8-1 as of today, March 9<sup>th</sup>. My word for the team is BELIEVE. I have it everywhere, dugouts, jewelry, etc.

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The girls now Believe in themselves as I always have. These girls, along with my own family, are the reason I won't let this disease win. "I have it, it doesn't have me." The next item on my "Bucket List" .....A trip to States! I Believe these girls can do it. I'm truly blessed to be their coach!

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