

Diamond Dreams

- Brittany Devitt hopes to become a Division I softball player

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Larry Steagall | Kitsap Sun

Brittany Devitt was bitten by the fastpitch bug early, but it wasn't until she walked into the stadium of big-time college softball as a 14-year-old that she really fell in love.

Devitt and her select team played at a tournament in Oklahoma City at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, home of the NCAA Division I College World Series. When Devitt walked onto the field that has hosted so many memorable softball games, she was overcome.

"I walked out and it's just like, the angels singing," said Devitt, now a junior at Klahowya. "It's so amazing to be on that field. That was the beginning of, 'Yeah, I can do this.'"

She's been doing it at a high level ever since she first donned the Eagles' green and white as a freshman, thanks to her natural ability and work ethic.

"She's one of the most goal-oriented kids I've ever met," said Klahowya coach Jodie Woolf of her power-hitting shortstop. "She sets goals and then is willing to work to get them."

Devitt said she doesn't mind the hard work, because it gets her closer to achieving her dreams.

Those dreams have her playing collegiate fastpitch at a place like Texas Tech, Arizona, Notre Dame, North Carolina State or Tennessee.

"I want to keep pushing myself harder," Devitt said.

Devitt was named first-team All-Nisqually League last season, when she hit .566 with seven triples, four home runs and 23 runs batted in.

Devitt is hitting .600 this year and already has four home runs, 18 RBI, four triples and three doubles. She also has a slugging percentage of .520 and an on-base percentage of .758.

"She's a perfectionist," Woolf said. "She goes with the pitch. If it's an outside pitch she'll hit it to right. If it's inside, it's straight up the middle. She hits everywhere. Teams can't cheat (with her)."

"I've always been committed and I've always wanted to be the best at softball," Devitt said.

"I like improving myself, but if I can help somebody then that just makes my day," she added.

Devitt, whose brother Rusty is a sophomore on the Klahowya baseball team, had a taste of the Class 2A state tournament as a freshman, when the Eagles went to state for the third time in school history. That experience only whetted her appetite.

"That was so much fun. It was a great experience," she said. "It was my first year actually playing with high school girls and I had such a good time."

The Eagles narrowly missed out on a state trip last year, losing to league rival Steilacoom.

Devitt, who plays select fastpitch for the Washington Sidewinders 18U Gold, said the experience of playing in the postseason has been a boon for Klahowya.

"I just wanted to keep going back," she said. "I want to have the team keep pushing harder and harder, as hard as we can to make it there. I really believe that we can actually win games at state. I know we haven't done that yet, but that's my goal for the team is to start winning."

Klahowya (4-6 overall, 4-0 Nisqually League) has eight games left in the season, including tonight's matchup at Steilacoom.

Woolf said the team has enough potential to make another postseason run.

"They've got great potential," she said. "They fully expect to be at state. There will be a huge disappointment if they don't make it and rightfully so."

And leading the way is their co-captain and leader.

"I love the intense game when you're right in there," Devitt said. "It's so much fun. I still love the sport even after 13 years of playing it