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Tigers' Palmore Heading to Youngstown St. Centralia catcher Amanda Palmore has dreamed about playing division I softball since sixth grade.

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Centralia catcher Amanda Palmore has dreamed about playing division I softball since sixth grade.

It took a lot of practice and work to get there -- not to mention plenty of mailed letters, phone calls and personal connections -- but Palmore's dream is coming true.

She will sign a national letter of intent today at Centralia High School at 2:15 p.m. to play for NCAA Division I Youngstown State University in Ohio.

Palmore, a four-year starter and letter-winner for the Tigers, earned first-team all-league honors the past two seasons and was named to the Chronicle's All-Area team last year.

What will it take to produce at the collegiate level?

“Practice, practice, practice is all I can say,” Palmore said. “(Youngstown head coach Christy Cameron) recruited me off my video, so I just want to prove myself and what I can do.”

Palmore, who plans to major in engineering, drew plenty of praise from her coach, Ken Olson.

“She truly has an extreme passion to play softball,” Olson said. “She’s absolutely one of those kids who has the passion to play every day.”

Olson noted that playing in college is an uphill battle for every player because of the jump in competition, but he added that Palmore is the type to work “awfully hard.”

“She’s a good one. One of those kids who’s a perfectionist maybe to a fault,” Olson said. “She’s deserving of it, no doubt about it. When I talked to (Cameron), I told her Amanda will be loyal and committed to the program. She falls in love with the team.”

To date, Palmore’s average is hovering around the .300 mark this season. As a catcher she has a strong arm, said Olson, who also noted how she can play every position except for the outfield because of her athleticism.

Palmore said Youngstown State currently has two senior catchers and one junior, so, after two years, she could lead the pack from behind the plate.

“She’s a great kid and one of our leaders,” Olson said. “She’s very deserving of this and I’m happy for her.”