



Right-hander Jordyn Kurtz has compiled a 17-2 record and a 0.90 earned run average while batting .460 to lead Stadium to Narrows League Bay Division and West Central District titles.



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### **All-area softball player of year Kurtz leads Stadium with arm, bat, personality**

**MINDI RICE; [mindi.rice@thenewstribune.com](mailto:mindi.rice@thenewstribune.com)**

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It has been quite the senior season for Jordyn Kurtz, but the Stadium High School pitcher is quick to remind you, with her contagious grin, that it's not over yet.

Behind Kurtz's pitching and hitting, the Tigers have rolled to a 19-2 record, rarely looking beatable. They won the Narrows League's Bay Division title, then last weekend took the Class 4A West Central District title to secure a state tournament berth for the third straight year.

Kurtz and the Tigers open play at the state tournament – which will be held on Friday and Saturday at South End Recreation Area – with an 11 a.m. game on Friday against Central Valley of Spokane.

“This season has been incredible,” said Kurtz, who will toe the rubber as The News

Tribune's 2008 All-Area fastpitch softball player of the year. "I'm really proud of my teammates; they've really helped me through everything."

For the third consecutive season, Kurtz has struck out at least 170 batters, racking up 185 this year through Saturday's district championship. She owns a 17-2 record, allowing 12 earned runs and walking 19 batters in 120 innings.

But offensively, the exuberant, 5-foot-5 redhead has been just as overpowering. Kurtz hit .460 this season with 24 RBI on 29 hits and an impressive 1.200 slugging percentage.

"This season has been awesome," Stadium coach Lynn Batchelder said. "Just like the last three years, she's an absolute dream to coach. She's an intelligent ballplayer and a good teammate."

Batchelder isn't the only coach raving about Kurtz; it's tough for those who know the bubbly senior to not sing her praises. And typically the gushing is about her personal qualities first and her ballplaying second.

"What a kid," said Doug Greenup, a coach with Kurtz's summer travel team, the Washington Sidewinders. "Jordi is so awesome. She's unassuming, she is friends with everyone, she's a really tough and competitive kid. She works hard and she's also a smart player."

Kurtz also has taken up coaching. During her limited free time, she helps Batchelder coach an under-10 team. Kurtz admits she "hogs" the pitchers.

"It's cool to see them excel and get better after you've taught them something," Kurtz said. "Then they came and watched us play in districts, so they kind of realized, Ooh, you do know what you're talking about."

The U-10 team will be back at the state tournament this weekend to support Kurtz and her Stadium teammates in her final high school softball tournament. In September, Kurtz will head to Southern Oregon University for college and the next chapter in her softball career.

While Southern Oregon isn't exactly a softball mecca, Kurtz's interest in the education program – she wants to become an elementary school teacher – and the chance to start as a freshman drew her to NAIA school in Ashland, Ore.

"She could have played at a, quote-unquote, much higher level," Greenup said. "But she's going to be an impact player and starting pitcher right away. That's a neat deal for her."

Kurtz is looking forward to jumping in and making a difference right away, much as she did as a freshman at Stadium, when she was 14-4 with 110 strikeouts and 18 walks.

"We're where we are at because of Jordyn," Batchelder said. "I've got great kids. It's Stadium fastpitch and with these three seniors. It'll be tough (to not have them next year), but Jordyn's our rock."

