

Alex Powers

By Alex Powers

After just winning the first fast pitch softball state championship in Brevard County, Florida for Eau Gallie High School, it's back on the field and in the cages with my dad and coach, Kevin Powers. There are new athletic, academic and personal goals I want to accomplish during my senior year of high school! For starters, I would love to add an ASA 18U Gold National Championship to my resume this summer in San Diego, California. Last summer, Team North Florida, my travel ball team, placed second in the nation. I had the opportunity of playing with and against some of the most talented college freshmen in the country. Also on my list is winning another state championship for Eau Gallie High School in 2012. That would be a great end to an already successful high school career! Although I have received awards and recognition over the last three years in high school softball, I was honored to be chosen this year's Athlete of the Year by Brighthouse Sports Network, as well as Florida Today's Player of the Year.

However, I work just as hard off the field as I do on the field. I maintain over a 4.0 GPA and plan on graduating in the top ten percent in my class. I play volleyball for my high school, and am involved in the Best Buddies Organization and Interact Club. I also participate in the annual Relay for Life Walk for the Cure. One of the things I am most proud of was being one of two female recipients of the J. Kyle Braid Leadership Award at Eau Gallie in 2010. My best friend and teammate, Rachel Engel was the other recipient. This organization was founded by the Braid Family, in 1994, in memory of their son Kyle. Kyle was a promising young athlete who played football for one of our rival high schools. He took anabolic steroids, and during an impulsive mood swing, ended up taking his own life. This award was established to recognize student athletes who are positive influences and role models among their peers. Rachel and I spent a week in Colorado at the Braid Family Ranch with 18 other girls, engaged in team building activities, and classroom instruction on important issues that teens face today. I came home from the Braid Ranch believing that I can make a difference in a person's life, at my school, and in the community. I hope I am a better friend and person because of my experience there.

My dream for as long as I can remember was to play Division I college softball. Growing up watching the best teams in the country compete at the College World Series was so inspiring. Because I have been playing softball year round since I was

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I went to school with her dad and I have had the pleasure of following Alex as she grew up and became a Commodore. Alex is the type of athlete, that as a coach, you wish you had a team full of. Alex is that special athlete that does not come around very often. In my twenty years at EG we have had only two girls that could match her work ethic, determination, and passion. That was Joyce McMillin and Lindsay Graham.

Alex has a work ethic that is unmatched and one of the things that I love the most about her is her hunger to learn more. She is never satisfied, whether it be in the classroom or on the field. She has to know how and why. When she figures it out...look out!

On the softball field or volleyball court she is non stop. She has the unique ability to make her teammates around her better because she will not settle for second best. She has the rare ability to know how to push her teammates in a positive way to get them to do things they did not think they were capable of. Alex is the rare type of athlete that does and says things that you can't coach. She is the ultimate competitor and hates to lose. She takes her mistakes/weaknesses and works like crazy to turn them into her strengths. Physically, she works each and every day to keep herself in top condition so that she will always be ready to do what is asked of her.

I could go on and on about Alex's athletic abilities but I am most proud of the compassion and leadership that she demonstrates on and off the field. Alex has a huge heart and is such a giving young lady. She is always willing to help someone out, no matter the situation. She is willing to stand up for what is right and is not afraid to speak up when she sees things that are not right. I can't wait to see what this world has to offer Alex. With her compassionate heart, strong will, and work ethic the sky is the limit!!



nine years old, people often said to my parents that there may come a time during my teens that I might lose interest in softball, or future plans of playing college ball might be derailed because my social life would become more important. They were so wrong! In fact, it has been quite the opposite. I am a motivated, hard-working athlete who loves the game! I enjoy every aspect of softball, from the drills and practice, to workouts and the competition. The dedication and work has paid off! I will be attending Florida State University in the fall of 2012 on an athletic scholarship. Getting my education while playing the sport that I love...it just doesn't get any better than that!

Although softball is a very important part of my life, my parents have always made a tremendous effort to help me balance my academic, social and athletic priorities. Since kindergarten, I was taught that school work comes first. During the school year I do homework in the car traveling to and from tournaments, in hotels and even sometimes sitting in the bleachers between games. I also remember my mom and dad rushing home from a softball tournament in Jacksonville late on a Sunday evening so I could attend a friend's sweet sixteen birthday party. I am very grateful for the many sacrifices my parents have made throughout the years, allowing me to have it all while achieving my dreams. It truly has been a team effort among the three of us. I have learned about commitment, perseverance and the value of hard work from them. I have been blessed with a supportive and loving family. These are the memories that matter the most and the lessons I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

In the words of Dr. Dot Richardson, "A true champion is someone who wants to make a difference, who never gives up and who gives everything she has no matter what the circumstances are. A true champion works hard and never loses sight of her dreams."