

Stark thriving after injury

By Jeff Meier
Daily Journal

A Hoffman native, Hailey Stark is a fighter on and off the softball field. After hurting her ankle, Stark has been having to relearn her sport from catcher and this is her second year as first base.

Stark is also diabetic and plans to pursue a future in helping people after being inspired by all the doctors that have helped her along her way. The newly started season for the Knights may be going a little rough in the win column, but Stark is still working to learn her new position.

I asked Stark recently about her plans for becoming an anesthesiologist and how she fits into West Central Area Schools.

Q: What do you like most about living in Hoffman?

A: I live out in the country and I love being outside and knowing everybody. I've lived my whole life in Hoffman.

Q: How long have you been playing softball?

A: I've played tee ball since I was about three and I just naturally moved on to softball as I got older.

Q: What are you looking to accomplish this softball season? How has the start of the season gone so far?

A: This is only my second season playing first base so I'm looking to get better at that; I used to play catcher before I hurt my ankle. Personally the season has been going great as I learn the position but we have lost our last couple game.

Q: How is playing first base different than playing

catcher?

A: I feel like there is a lot more pressure on base players. You have to be fully aware of what's going on and be fast to react.

Q: What other activities do you do at West Central?

A: I've been in the National Honor Society since ninth grade. I use to be in band and choir too but had to drop those classes in order to get my graduate requirements in this year.

Q: What do you like most about the school?

A: Everyone is very friendly. If you need help with anything somebody is willing to help you.

Q: What are you planning to do for college next year?

A: I'm attending University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Q: What major are you looking to pursue? What are you looking at for career paths?

A: I want to study nursing

with a focus on anesthesiology. I'm diabetic and I'm in the hospital many times a year. As I went, I started liking the idea of working in that environment. I want to help people like the doctors who have helped me.

Q: Will you continue to play sports in college?

A: Not in school leagues. I will definitely be in community tournaments or try remedial leagues though.

Q: Where would you move to if you could live anywhere in the world?

A: Somewhere warmer than here. I would move to Texas, I really like Texas.

Q: If you could have dinner with one person living or dead who would it be and why?

A: My uncle Nick who died a few years ago. I really miss him.

Q: What would you do if you won a \$1 million?

A: I would give most of it to the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation to help study diabetes. I would use the rest to build my parents a new house. They've done so much for me and I would want to thank them for everything they've done for me.



Photo Provided

Hailey Stark, daughter of Amy Swenson and Eric Stark, is a senior softball player for West Central Area.

