

Hard work, competition pay off for star Comet pitcher

MARIA LEYVA
THE TELESCOPE

For softball pitcher Summer Evans, discovering her passion for the game was almost accidental.

The second-year Palomar student discovered softball because her best friend was playing.

“I started playing because my friend in middle school asked me to play. So then I started and then I just happened to be really good. I never played sports really before and I was kind of naturally decent at it so then I got better over the years,” she said.

In high school, her coach told her that she couldn’t be both a pitcher and a catcher because he didn’t want her to get hurt catching if she was a pitcher, so she picked pitching.

“I like to be in the middle of (the game), and being part of every play,” Evans said.

Her record for this season is currently 32-5, as of May 12.

Evans doesn’t have anything lucky she takes with her to the games, but she is superstitious about what she does throughout the game.

“Once I start playing, I won’t change what I’m doing. After the first inning of pitching, if I’m doing good, I won’t chew gum or do anything. If I’m eating seeds, I’ll eat seeds throughout the game,” Evans said.

When she has practice, Evans is usually out on the field 30 minutes to an hour before, working on her pitches.

“There’s a very rare occasion where she has an off day, which is really nice because everyone can have an off day. But with Summer, even if she is a little bit off, she still finds a way to get out,” teammate Brooke Huddleson said.

With practice five days a weeks — and her school work — the second-season softball player usually keeps herself busy.

A typical day for Evans starts with her classes in the morning, followed by practice until about 3 p.m., ending with homework once she gets home. On game days, sometimes she won’t get home until 8 or 9 p.m.

“We do a lot of homework on the weekends. We don’t have a lot of free time. As an athlete, it’s hard to balance everything ... it’s worth it,” Evans said.

When she does have a little bit of free time, she likes to hangout with her friends because sometimes they feel like they never see her.

“My friends that aren’t athletes, they don’t really understand that I don’t have free time that much because all they do is work or go to school, so they have all the free time in the world,” she said.

Evans used to work at Banana Republic in Carmel Mountain, but recently quit her job because she didn’t have time for school, work and softball.

“I just wanted to be able to relax a little bit more and not have to get out of practice and rush home

and get ready and go to work until like 10 o’clock at night...and then I really don’t have any time,” Evans said.

Evans is trying to transfer this year. She is still undecided on where she wants to go or what she’ll major in, but is thinking about elementary education because she loves kids. She will continue to play softball.

According to head coach Lacey Craft, Evans has been earning a lot of attention from 4-year schools that are interested in having her come pitch for their program.

Last season, the team made it to and won the state tournament. Evans said she hopes they can repeat this season because it was a great experience for her to see all of the team’s hard work pay off.

“It was like the best moment of my life. I think about it all the time. It was crazy. Every time I think about it, it makes me happy,” she said.

At that tournament, Evans was named the Most Valuable Pitcher.

Although she doesn’t like to talk about or brag about her accomplishments, she said she considers that her biggest softball accomplishment.

Some of her teammates and coaches like having her as part of the team because of her competitiveness.

“I work pretty hard and I think that’s what makes me standout.”

SUMMER EVANS • COMETS PITCHER

“It’s cool playing with her she’s such a competitive pitcher. It’s good playing with someone that’s as competitive and wants to win as much as you,” teammate Iesha Hill said.

Craft values Evans because, “the biggest key to success at our level is pitching.”

For the remainder of the season, Evans will continue to train and improve as much as she can.

“I don’t think I’m like amazing, but I work pretty hard and I think that’s what makes me standout,” she said.

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Summer Evans #2

Career Stats as of May 12

- 61-9 record
- 49 complete games
- 395.2 innings pitched
- 314 hits allowed
- 236 strikeouts
- 0.84 ERA in 2015, first in state

Softball a family matter for sisters

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Palomar’s softball team continues to thrive with the help of two skilled sisters.

Trinity and Taylor Fa’asua, freshman infielders who were recruited from Oceanside High School, have become assets to Palomar’s successful team of women.

The girls, who have played soccer since childhood, have memories of friendly competition between the two of them.

“We played in the championship game against each other on our rec ball team; it was pretty fun because we shut her out,” Taylor said with a smile.

“That’s not true, we shut *her* out,” Trinity countered.

Recruited in their senior year of high school, the girls were excited about the chance to play for the Comets.

“It feels great coming out of



Palomar College’s Softball twin sisters Taylor and Trinity Fa’asua. Tracy Grassel/The Telescope

Oceanside High School. It’s not just a softball team; it feels great to be a part of such a talented team,” Trinity said when asked about how she feels about the team’s success.

Palomar continues to trump many teams in their conference

with their skill and motivated attitude, which has led them to an overall score of 33-5 this season alone.

After winning conference, the sisters were more motivated than ever to continue to move forward in their softball careers.

“It felt great winning for the first time. Especially winning in college. That’s huge. We hope to just grow stronger and perform better in future games,” Taylor said.

After ranking second in the Southern California regional poll, Palomar’s softball team continues to keep their momentum, while preparing for playoffs.

“We just want to work hard and stay focused,” Trinity said. “It’s all about self-control.”

“Our expectations at the beginning of the semester were just to grow stronger and get better in order to move on,” Taylor said. “We want to hopefully transfer out with good scholarships.”

Though the girls are unsure at the moment of where they would life to transfer to, they are glad they chose Palomar as the place to start their college careers.

“It was close to home, which is great,” Taylor said. “The coaches here are the best; you can’t really get that anywhere else.”

“We just want to work hard and stay focused. It’s all about self-control.”

TRINITY FA’ASUA • COMETS INFIELDER

The Fa’asua sisters said they feel that they are not the only family on the team, but instead the team has become a family.

“Our relationship with the rest of the team is really great, we all get along and motivate each other,” Trinity said.

The girls hope to enjoy a playoff victory in the weeks to come, and continue to thrive both on and off the field.

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