

Katie

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AND LIVIN' THE DREAM

article and photography
by PAIGE SMITH

When you walk across the Westminster campus in Fulton, you can't help but see the beauty. It doesn't take long to realize that what really makes this college special is its students. Katie Price is one of the hundreds of student athletes playing and studying on this historic campus.

A Southern Boone High School grad, Katie made the most of her career as a Southern Boone Eagle, but is now thriving as a Westminster Blue Jay. Whether in the classroom or on the softball field, she's a shining light in Fulton.

Softball was always a part of Katie's life; from tee ball, to travel ball, to high school, and now on the college diamond. "It was something I fell in love with. My best friend and I fell in love with softball and that is where we really bonded."

At Southern Boone High, Katie was a stand-out in softball and basketball. But softball was her pride and joy.

She chose Westminster College, "Specifically for softball." Former Blue Jay softball coach, Joe Henderson, heavily recruited Katie and the rest is history.

It wasn't love at first sight for Katie, but she "absolutely fell in love with Westminster. The school is awesome, I love my classes, and softball is a bonus. I can't imagine myself anywhere else."

Katie is a passionate advocate for NCAA Division III athletics. "It's kind of a hard sell because there is no money attached to it. But there are so many other great aspects to it. Because there's no money, if you're playing here, you really love the sport. Because you're not being paid to play, academics come first.

That's where the focus is."

Heading into her senior season at Westminster, Katie has already piled up the honors. She has picked up Google Cloud CoSIDA Academic All-District, NFCA 3rd Team All-Region, Pitcher of the Year, 2-time All-Conference Pitcher honors, along with 2-time team Conference Champions.

One of her many memorable moments was pitching her first collegiate no-hitter. As always, Katie shares the credit. "My right fielder had 2 diving catches to save my game; my third baseman caught a line drive off her glove. It was by no means just me." The game ended with a dog pile on the pitcher's mound.

Katie is thankful for many coaches along the way including Chris Gares from Southern Boone. "He pushed me to realize my full potential and taught me intrinsic motivation.

Without him, I don't think I would've been a collegiate ball player."

Like so many Blue Jays, Katie puts the *student* in student-athlete. Katie is a triple-major studying mathematics, economics, and Spanish. Very "liberal artsy" in Katie's opinion.

She plans to pursue a career in sports analytics, a growing field in collegiate athletics.

This fall, Katie will be adding coaching to her resume, as a softball assistant back at her alma mater, Southern Boone. "It has been an amazing experience. I am very lucky; the group of girls I coach are great. I have learned a lot from the other coaches on staff as well. I get to pick things up for me as a player, and I also see why coaches do what they do. As a player, you see one side, but to hear them talk about why they do certain things has been very eye opening."

Finding Westminster was a gift for Katie, but in her four years, she has definitely left a gift with Westminster.

"This has been the best experience of my life. It's more than I could ever ask for."



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- Katie

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