

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Elizabeth Refsnnyder '10 didn't have much interest in Kenyon. The softball player from Laguna Hills, California, was worn out from nine previous campus visits and Kenyon was last on her list. She did eventually set foot in Gambier and promptly changed her mind. The relaxed and receptive atmosphere made her feel at home and she jelled with her prospective teammates, even though they accidentally lost track of her and unknowingly gave her a leaky air mattress to sleep on that night. Through it all, she survived. And so did Kenyon as her top choice.

Over the next four years, Elizabeth flourished. She became a psychology and religious studies major, as well as an instrumental player in the Ladies softball program. A speedy right fielder, Elizabeth compiled a .295 batting average through her first three seasons. In that same span, she scored 50 runs and stole 17 bases.

She still jokes about the misadventures of her prospie visit, but now with the perspective that it led to great friendships and great memories. Here's a look at what makes this student-athlete tick and some of the memories she'll carry past graduation.

Same bat time, same bat channel

Elizabeth admits, "I don't want to be superstitious, but I am. I always put my uniform on the same way and go through the same routine when I'm up to bat." She's overused her favorite bat (the appropriately colored purple-and-white Easton Stealth) to the point that it's come time to swing the new model, something she's balked at the last few seasons.

Weary traveler

Softball has ushered Elizabeth to many places, her favorites being Italy and China, where she got the chance to play against the Chinese national team. "They were much older than us. You could tell some of their players had wrinkles and we knew some were Olympians, but we only lost 7-0." In addition to experiencing new places and people, Elizabeth enjoys travel simply because it gives her a chance to catch up on sleep. Her iPod is a must on trips, but that's about it. She says she doesn't even need a pillow to conk out on buses and planes.

Just looking

A typical college student, Elizabeth finds that her empty pockets limit free-time activities—a problem amplified by the fact that she loves to shop. The occasional trip to Walmart is just a temporary fix. Her heavens are the Columbus shopping centers. When she can't make it there, she'll saunter over to the library to do a little online clothing research. Her favorite studying material comes from J. Crew.

Peanut butter jelly time

The start of her Kenyon softball career was met with a cold shoulder—literally. As a freshman, she was excited about taking part in the team's spring-break schedule of games in Arizona. A few games in, however, Elizabeth tore her labrum. Other than pinch running, her team obligations were scaled down to making PB&Js for her coach and teammates.

The business at hand

It's commonplace for ballplayers to lick their fingers occasionally in order to get a better grip on the ball, but apparently Elizabeth does it excessively while patrolling right field, and her teammates always razz her about the habit.

Ball in the family

Elizabeth and her brother Robert, a freshman on the University of Arizona's baseball team, were adopted shortly after birth in South Korea. Their adoptive parents are redheads and their dad, at six feet eight inches tall and a former basketball player at Muhlenberg College, towers over the family. Elizabeth takes pride in her family's distinct composition, but finds amusement in the curious looks they draw when together in public settings.



Greg Saylor