
From: Penisten, Elizabeth
Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2009 8:46 PM
To: webmaster@ndm-girls-softball.com
Subject: My time as a NDMG softball player

NDMGS,

I first started playing softball when I was 3. Of course that is the typical age to start playing when you grow up with five older brothers along with understanding the love your dad has for the game. I began to play softball at this complex when I was five years old. Learning everything from which base you run to, first or third? Which hand does your glove go on, right or left? My softball experience or career if you will, at this complex ended when I was seventeen and my last team, (Go Violets!!) ended in first place. I also learned at this complex that winning is not why one plays the game, if that was the case then one would choose a game that does not require standing out in heat for 12 hours of the day on a field throwing a ball back and forth. Instead, it is the love. The love of the heat rising from the pitchers mound. The love of the smell of the grass being mowed during practice. The love of the smell of your glove every time you put it on. And, the love of the game. This complex not only taught me how to be a great teammate but also how to have great sportsmanship. This complex has taught me that if you want to achieve something such as hitting a homerun, or learning how to place the ball on either side of the field, that you have to work hard at it. You can never quit, and you must give it your all to succeed. Now that I am currently in my freshman year at the University of Iowa I bring all of those traits that I learned at the complex into the classroom. I have learned so much from playing softball at the North Des Moines Girls Softball Complex. I would like to thank all of my coaches that I have had through my 12 years out at the ball park. I will miss playing for you all very much! Thanks to all for everything!

Sincerely,

Betsy Penisten