

**Hopewell High School – Softball – Senior Night Speech – 2008  
Jessie Taylor #2 – Outfield**

When I was told I had to write a speech, I wasn't sure what I was going to do. I'm not very good at this kind of thing, and I'm only really concerned with graduating and going to college! However let me take a step back and say a few thanks to those who have made it possible for me to take the next step in my life. First I would like to thank my mom. She's the one that got me started, and I wouldn't be where I am today without her. I can't even begin to think about all the things she's done to help me further my career. If I made a list we'd be here all night. So thanks mom, for believing in me, pushing me, and most of all being my biggest fan. Dad, oh dad, we haven't always seen eye to eye, especially when you try to coach me. But as I've grown, I've realized you just wanted to see me succeed and be the best that I can be. You saw potential in me and you pushed me to work towards that. I want to thank you for that because I think I've finally found it within my "heart;" just like you always said. To Bradley, a major thanks. You've been drug out to the ball field ever since you could walk. I know it's not your first choice of places to be, but thanks for hanging in there and being a trooper. I love every single one of you, even though I don't always show it. I appreciate all you've given me, and thanks for your love and support. To my senior ladies, it's been a great four years! I love you all so much and I'm going to miss every one of you! To the team, it's been a great season, hang in there and do work next year! Avis and Luanne, thanks so much for the wonderful lunches between games. We wouldn't have had the energy without you guys! Mr. Flaherty thanks for being at all of our games, making our sweats, and most of all announcing all of our games! We love you! And finally to the coaches, thanks for helping me become a stronger person. I've learned a lot from my individual meetings that I can take with me in the future. So long Hopewell! It's been real.

**Jessie Taylor will be playing softball at Mars Hill College this fall**