

Hopewell High School – Softball – Senior Night Speech – 2008

Kelly Stage # 9 - Catcher

I have never realized how many people I have to thank, and everything I was grateful for as my senior year is coming to a close. I would never have been able to accomplish what I have so far without the help I have received from others. First off to my parents, who have been true supporters and my number one fans. After a long day of work, they still always managed to come out and watch every softball game over the course of my high school softball years. Not only do I appreciate spending all of your summer weekends for majority of my life traveling everywhere for hundreds of tournaments, but you both always believed in me even when I felt nobody else did. I thank you so much for everything you two have done and you have made my softball days better than I could imagine. Another thank you would be to the other parents and softball moms, who have taken care of us more than anyone else, especially with our food before the games. I don't think anyone else remembers that I am a vegetarian as well as you guys all did, and I loved when we got snacks and sandwiches before the game I always had a "special" one set aside just for me. A huge, special thank you will definitely be for our coaches. Coach Webster, you believed in us more than anyone else, and you have shown more dedication than anyone I know when it comes around to coaching on the softball field. I will never forget the inspirational stories told by you, especially when quoting Rufus Abernathy. Coach Young, of course we wouldn't know what to do without you, because sometimes you just need a female coach out there with a team of teenage girls. To Coach O, and Coach Greg you have both come out to help with us and have made us better players, and have definitely helped me out a lot and I thank you both so much for that. Coach Burwell and Shando, I love seeing both of your smiling faces in our dugout to support us at our game after you come from coaching your team. You both have helped so much even if it's just hearing you cheer me on. And to Coach Melton, also known as Chuckie Cheese, you have helped me more than you could even imagine and have been one of the best coaches I have ever had. From trying to get me out of a slump when I was in one with hitting, working with me on catching, or even just being there and understanding I thank you so much and I am going to miss having you as a coach. You all have helped so much and have been some of the greatest coaches ever and should be proud of yourselves for all that you've done. I don't think I could have physically even made it through to season if it weren't for Mrs. Elliott. Thank you so much for staying after with me every single day to work on getting me into physical shape and helping me with my injury. I would not have been able to make it through the season without you! To Mr. Flaherty you have definitely been the best announcer that I know and thanks for always showing your support. And to Alex and Mr. Giragosian, the best sports photographers ever, you have definitely given us great Kodak moments of Hopewell softball, thank you so much. Also thank you to the fans that come out and support us during our games. You guys are awesome and I enjoy hearing you guys come up with softball cheers in the stands and you always boost up our self esteem on the field. And lastly, to the girls; you girls are some of my best friends and I don't know what I would do without you. From karaoke parties, to fun bus rides, to practices everyday together over the last 4 years, listening to you guys make fun of me for being crazy, hearing the imitation of how I yell "four", hanging out, quoting LaSarah and Harry Potter puppet pals, all confirming when it's about to get real hot out, and just being best friends. You girls are the best and I could not thank you guys more for everything. I will miss you all next year when I go to college, but will still always love you! Thanks for being great teammates and my best friends. I leave my dedication, loudness, and spirit to the team and I know you girls will continue to be great! Next year I will be at Appalachian State University majoring in Criminal Justice. Although I am so excited to finally be going to college, I will never forget Hopewell Softball.

Kelly Stage will be attending Appalachian State this fall.