

"There's no place like home..."

Searching for the perfect college can be stressful for the average student athlete. Not only do they have to find a college or university with a major that suits their needs, they also need to find the athletic program that will help them flourish on the field. For seven players on the CSUMB softball team everything they were looking for was right around the corner. With a plethora of degree offerings and a softball team that competes in the CCAA Conference (said to be one of the best in the nation) and part of NCAA Division II, California State University, Monterey Bay is the perfect fit.



As a senior in high school, sophomore pitcher **Jessica Boyle** (Salinas High School) wanted nothing more than a Division I scholarship. After signing with University of Northern Illinois she realized that playing without her father in the stands to cheer her on was harder than she thought. "I knew that playing out of state would be different, but having my family at my games really makes the experience more enjoyable. Playing softball at CSUMB has made the game fun again."

Alexis Villarin (North Salinas High), a sophomore, had the same type of experience. Signing with the University of North Carolina at Greensborough, Alexis had a good freshman campaign. "I liked UNC Greensborough, but I am very happy to be a part of the program at CSUMB. I get to play with my friends and we have a chance to be a part of something special. I am also doing very well academically. I have the support of my family, the classes are small, and our coaches keep a close eye on us, making sure we put our academics first."

Sophomore **Ashlee Trotter** (Everett Alvarez High School) looked at a few of the universities in the CCAA: "I looked around and decided that CSUMB had everything I was looking for." A 4.0 student, Ashlee excels in the classroom as well as on the diamond. In fact she was a menace for opponents, hitting 12 home runs her freshman year. "I remember hitting the program's first home run, as I ran around the bases I could see my mom, dad, and brothers standing and cheering. Those are the kind of moments I want to share with the people who have helped me get where I am. I know I made the right decision when I chose CSUMB."

Notre Dame High School has put out a number of standout softball players and junior **Erin Sigala** ranks at the top of that list. A heavily recruited athlete, Erin played two years of Division I softball at California State University, Northridge. "I forgot how to enjoy the game. I am so happy to be a part of the program at CSUMB. The coaching staff has created a sense of family within our team. Not only do we love to play softball together, we spend a lot of our free time together as well. I don't think anyone will take CSUMB softball lightly."

Megan Russo (Monterey High School), a sophomore, feels the same way: "We love each other and the university we play for. I never considered leaving Monterey, or playing where my family could not watch me."

So, while looking for the college of your dreams, don't forget that sometimes all that you were looking for was right in front of you all the time. CSUMB can offer you a quality education and a fulfilling athletic career. For these seven fine student athletes on the CSUMB softball team, there really is "no place like home."

Locals on the Cover: (Back Row) Alexis Villarin, Erin Sigala, Ashlee Trotter, Jessica Boyle, Megan Russo, (Front Row) Jessica Delgado, Renee Halcon.