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Emily Hallman signs with Jacksonville University



Flanked by her parents Scott and Sherry Hallman (seated) and with (from left, standing) CHS Head Varsity Softball Coach Wayne Weatherford, Assistant Coach Harland Stalvey and Assistant Coach Jimmy Anderson, Emily Hallman (seated center) signs the document to accept the scholarship as a member of the Jacksonville University Dolphins.

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Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 10, 2016 at 10:37 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- Emily Hallman (#14), the multiple state-championship catcher with the Chiefland High School Lady Indians Varsity Softball Team, signed with the Jacksonville University Dolphins for a scholarship on Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 9) during a ceremony at the CHS Auditorium.



Head Coach Wayne Weatherford speaks about the Hallman family (seated, from left, Sherry Hallman, Emily Hallman and Scott Hallman.)

Hallman, the daughter of Scott and Sherry Hallman, has been on the Chiefland High School Lady Indians Varsity Softball Team for each of the three years when it made history. She has been playing softball since long before that as a member of teams that were part of the Chiefland Area Athletic Association. One of the

most recent history-making events was on May 5, 2015 when the team won its third consecutive

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Class 1A Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) State Championship title.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Wayne Weatherford, with Assistant Coach Brian Gore, Assistant Coach Jimmy Anderson and Assistant Coach Harland Stalvey, and with Lena Weatherford as scorekeeper, this team has rocked the CHS sports world.



Emily Hallman visits with friends and family before the start of the event.

Head Coach Weatherford opened the program to recognize Hallman with her latest honor -- being invited to become a JU Dolphin.

Coach Weatherford thanked the many dignitaries who came to the event, including Levy County Superintendent of Schools Robert O. "Bob" Hastings, Levy County School Board Member Chris Cowart, Levy County Superintendent of Schools-elect Jeff Edison, Levy County Judge J.T. "Tim" Browning, Levy County Sheriff Robert "Bobby" McCallum Jr., and Levy County Property Appraiser Osborn "Oz" Barker.



The coaches and team join Emily Hallman and her parents for a photo opportunity.

Coach Weatherford recognized another group that had come to watch the document signing -- many of the members of the Three-Time State Softball Championships -- Sydney Parks (#11) at second base; Takiya London (#4) as shortstop; Lauren Parker (#3) at center field; Morgan Anderson (#2) at first base; Samantha Rolfe (#9) at left field; Erika Gilliam (#33) at third base; Hannah Gore (#5) at

right field; Lauren Stalvey (#7) as starting pitcher; Kensley Durrance (#20) as relief pitcher; and available substitutes Tataneisha Barnes (#12); Aleaha Rhoomes (#1); Taylor Simpson (#19); Maci Thomas (#15); Simone White (#22); and Karlie Meeks (#10).

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Coach Weatherford mentioned another set of coaches in the audience, from the Gainesville Gold 16U Travel Softball Team, including Head Coach Harvey Phillips, was in the audience. On that team, the young Miss Hallman wore jersey #1.



Emily Hallman says 'Thank you' to six of the coaches she has had in her life so far.

Hallman said she is thankful for the influence these coaches have had on her life, saying she would not be the same person if not for them.

Coach Weatherford mentioned that he has known Emily all of her life, having gone to school with her parents. He has been her softball coach all four years of her high school career.

Assistant Coach Anderson said he has had the pleasure of coaching Hallman since she was 7 years old on the CAAA.

The athlete, the dedicated softball player that she is today, Coach Anderson said, is the same that she was 10 years ago. When she was 7 through when she was 17, Hallman is an excellent player.

Assistant Coach Jimmy Anderson (right) speaks about Emily Hallman. Seen here on stage are also Assistant Coach Harland Stalvey (center) and Head Coach Wayne Weatherford.



The work ethic and hustle she showed at 7, she still shows at 17, the assistant varsity softball coach said.

She is "a real spitfire," Coach Anderson said, "who would do anything she was asked." This player was very "coachable," Coach Anderson said. Whenever he wanted her to learn something, she would focus on what was being said and listen very carefully.

One day years ago, Anderson said, he asked the girls who could catch. He said they all seemed to shy away.

"She raised her hand and said, 'Coach, I'll catch,'" Anderson said. "I said did you ever catch before? And she said 'No, but I'll catch coach.'"

Hallman stated her catching career 10 years ago, Anderson said, as a member of the "local rec league" (CAAA).

"She has been a pleasure to coach," Anderson said. "She is a great kid, and I knew this day would come."

Assistant Coach Stalvey said he, too, coached her since she was 7 or 8. And she has always

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been 100 percent committed. Whether the team was winning or losing, Hallman would always give the team her complete effort, Stalvey said.

When she first started catching, Coach Stalvey said, he never knew if she was going to catch the ball because she would be drawing butterflies in the dirt as she waited on a pitch.

Coach Stalvey told Scott and Sherry Hallman “Thank you” for letting the coaches coach her in softball. He said everyone will miss her as he wished the catcher good luck in her college career.

Hallman, who also served as the team chaplain, shared some thoughts with the audience.

She first thanked all of the coaches. She mentioned her appreciation to Coach Anderson for inspiring her to put on a catcher’s glove.

Hallman said it is through the efforts of all of the coaches she has had in her life that molded her and shaped her to become the softball player she is today.

Next, she recognized her parents for their undying support.

Unless it is broken, bleeding or falling off, don’t complain, Hallman said as she quoted her parents’ advice about injuries.

She also thanked all of her teammates for their help in brightening her day when she may not have been happy.

Emily Hallman has a long set of accolades from her accomplishments in sports since 2012.

Following is a list of some her many, many highlights, year by year:

2012

- Starting catcher Chiefland Middle School (6th, 7th and 8th grades)
- Starter CMS Basketball Team
- Qualified for Triple Crown National Softball Championships
- Qualified and Played in the ASU 12U National Championships

2013

- Multiple first place finishes in varsity cross country
- CHS Varsity Cross Country Team - freshman

2014

- Multiple “First In Class” CHS Varsity Weightlifting Team meets (undefeated)
- Set CHS Single Season Stolen Base Record as a freshman
- Starting Catcher – freshman, sophomore
- ASA 18U National Championships
- Awarded the game ball for defensive play during championship game in Lima, Peru
- FHSAA Class 1A State Softball Champion
- FHSAA Class 1A Most Stolen Bases

2015

- ASA 18U National Championships
- Allowed Zero Stolen Bases As Starting Catcher
- FHSAA Class 1A State Softball Champion

2016

- Starting Varsity Catcher

The multiple award-winning softball player has impressive individual stats as well.

Overhand Throw – 72 mph

Catcher Pop Time – 1.7 seconds

Home to First Base – 2.8 seconds

Home to Home – 12.0 seconds

Bat Speed – 73 mph

Coach Weatherford mentioned after the signing for this scholarship with the Jacksonville University Dolphins by Emily Hallman that he sees other CHS Varsity Softball players potentially being offered and accepting scholarships.