

MIZZOU

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Around the Columns

Hitting books and baseballs

Jenna Marston is a two-time All-Big 12 Conference shortstop for Mizzou softball. However, in the summer of 2010, it was her baseball skills that earned her accolades. That summer, Marston played for the USA National Women's Baseball Team in the 2010 Women's World Cup in Venezuela.

Marston, who grew up playing baseball, posted the second-highest batting average in the tournament, earned All-Tournament honors and helped the team to a bronze medal.

"It was a really great experience," she says. "It is something I will never forget."

Two years earlier, Marston was a standout softball player at Principia School in St. Louis facing a college decision. Sure, Marston was impressed by MU Coach Ehren Earleywhine's program, but that isn't the first thing she mentions when discussing her reasons for choosing Mizzou.

"It has a good academic reputation," says Marston, who hit .311 with 15 doubles and two home runs as the Tigers' shortstop in 2011.



Missouri's Jenna Marston eyes action at the plate during the opening game of the NCAA Regional against Illinois State. Photo by Rob Hill

Mizzou ended last season with its third-consecutive trip to the Women's College World Series. In the two years since Marston arrived, the Tigers have a 104-23 record.

"It's a great group of girls. We have so much fun together," Marston says. "Of course, winning a lot always makes it more fun."

Success on the softball and baseball fields is just part of Marston's story. The junior maintains a 4.0 GPA as an industrial engineering major, and she has made the dean's list every semester since arriving on campus.

Her coaches stress classroom success as much as on-field success. That might explain why the MU softball team led the Big 12 with 10 Academic All-Conference selections last year, including Marston.

"You just have to know what you have to get done and when it needs to get done by," Marston says.




Last year, MU led the Big 12 Conference in Academic Progress Rate (APR) in six sports, including softball, which scored a near-perfect 997 (out of 1000).

Marston was one of five student-athletes in the conference to post a 4.0 GPA. In addition, she was named to the Capital One Academic All-District 7 first team along with senior teammate Ashley Fleming.

While she continues to pile up honors on the field, it is her achievements in the classroom that count most for Marston.

"There are times when I'd like to spend some extra time at the field working on softball, but because of school, I can't," Marston says. "We don't get a lot of free time, so you just have to manage your time wisely and be smart about what you do."

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