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TOP STORY

Western's Rathmann tabbed for USA

By John Zetmeir News-Press Now Mar 22, 2017 Updated Mar 23, 2017



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Missouri Western senior Morgan Rathmann attempts to bunt the ball during her junior season against Northwest Missouri State at Griffon Spring Sports Complex.

Before Missouri Western's softball team took a trip to Hawaii for a six-game road trip back in February, senior center fielder Morgan Rathmann had never been on an airplane.

This June, Rathmann will take off again, but this time for Italy as part of the United States team for the International Sports Team program. It was something that previous Griffons had been a part of, so Rathmann jumped at the opportunity.

Griffons coach Jen Bagley Trotter helped make Rathmann's decision easy, as she also had experience in the program.

"Going over to Italy is going to be a phenomenal trip for her," Trotter said. "American International Sports Tours is the group that she's going over with. I've had the opportunity to coach with them and those guys do an excellent job of making it about softball but also about sight seeing and seeing the things you will be able to see in Italy."

During her career with the Griffons, Rathmann has become the school's all-time leader in triples and steals. The senior outfielder has earned MIAA honors in each of her first three seasons.

Even though the talented senior is excited for the opportunity this summer, she is still staying focused on the season at hand, starting this weekend with a four-game road trip.

"I'm trying not to think about," Rathmann said. "I'm trying to stay focused in but I'm definitely excited, I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

Not only has Rathmann excelled on the field, she earned the MIAA Academic Excellence Award last season.

"Morgan, for all four years, is one of those athletes that does things the right way," Trotter said. "She's a smart student, she works hard in the classroom. At practice she works hard and she's an example for underclassmen to follow."

This season, the Neosho, Missouri, native is hitting .323 with a homer and seven RBIs.

On the basepaths, Rathmann has 12 steals in 14 attempts.

Western is near the midway point of its schedule this season and currently holds a 22-6 record after Sunday's loss to Minnesota State-Mankato.

With only two conference games under its belt, Western will try to retain its MIAA title starting with three-straight conference doubleheaders starting on March 31.

"There is always room for improvement," Rathmann said. "I think that's what makes our team special. We're never satisfied with where we are. There are obviously things that we are aware of that we're working on but we're still winning ball games with room to improve."

The Griffons will travel to Northeastern State on Saturday.

John Zetmeir can be reached at John.Zetmeir@newspressnow.com. Follow him on Twitter: @NPNOWZetmeir.



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