

Pro Softball - 3/19/08
Clark Davis

Anchor: Last weekend Marshall University opened its new softball field. Five hundred people were in attendance. Another sign that the program is growing is that a number of players are playing professional softball. Clark Davis has more.

Davis: Rachel Folden has accomplished a lot in her four years at Marshall. Especially at the plate. Last year she hit 14 homers and was named 2nd-team All-American as a catcher. Her success has been noticed at the next level. Last month she was taken with the first pick of the second round by the Chicago Bandits of the National Pro Fast Pitch Softball League.

Folden: “Kind of want to go out there and show all these girls that I haven’t played against what I’m all about and I want to represent the school I came from to cause I get it a lot you know how come you are at Marshall, why Marshall and all those kinds of things and I enjoy it here. I came here for a reason and I want everybody to see that players of professional caliber can come from Marshall.

Davis: The National Pro Fastpitch softball league is entering its 12th season. The league has just six teams, and Folden is heading to one of the stronger franchises. It’s common for the Chicago Bandits to draw 2500 fans. But it’s not a life with big financial rewards. Salaries range from \$1500 to \$12K for a three month season.

Folden: Well for me I’m going to grad school for a couple of years so I’ll at least have the summers free while I’m going to grad school, but I mean most people play for two or three years max and then get out of there and move on with their lives cause it doesn’t pay well enough for you to do it full time unless you’re one of the, like a Jennie Finch or Cat Osterman who get endorsements and all they do.

Davis: Folden’s career goal is to coach. She figures playing pro ball will help build her resume.

Folden: You look at these players and what they have from what the people who aren’t in the league don’t have and you just learn from them. I just want to learn from all those players the things that keep them so motivated day in and day out. I want to learn how to coach my kids to do that.

Davis: Folden is the fourth Marshall player in the league. The professional softball season begins May 29th. But first, she must finish her collegiate career.

For West Virginia Public Broadcasting I’m Clark Davis in Huntington.