

Sampson shines at shortstop for Saints, but she'll run track in college

Written by Jim Ecker

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Tyler Sampson likes softball and is an outstanding shortstop for Xavier High School, but her days on the softball diamond are starting to dwindle away.

Sampson has accepted a scholarship to run track at Western Illinois University, so her softball career will end in July with the end of the high school season.

She'll report to college in Macomb, Ill., in August and specialize in the sprints at Western Illinois.

"I just like running," Sampson said Tuesday after the Saints split a Mississippi Valley Conference doubleheader with Iowa City High at Bob Erusha Field. "I like the school, it's a good distance from home, and they have my major and everything."

The Saints (9-4, 8-4) and Little Hawks (6-9, 5-5) played two tight games. Xavier won the opener, 3-1, and Iowa City High grabbed the nightcap, 3-2, in 10 innings.

Sampson plans to major in physical education at Western Illinois, which makes sense. She's been a four-sport athlete at Xavier and won 15 varsity letters in volleyball, basketball, track and softball.

Sampson was named Xavier's Female Athlete of the Year and was honored at the 11th Annual Celebration of Sports banquet at the Clarion Hotel Sunday evening.

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