

## Reviglio Way To Go Award

# Stephanie Harper



by Dean Schermerhorn

For the past two summers and falls, Harper has played for Stockton's California Grapettes, an American Softball Association team for girls 18 and under. In only 43 innings this past summer Harper tallied 15 strikeouts and a 1.74 ERA. The previous fall she pitched 53 innings, struck out 40 and had a 0.66 ERA. Playing on this tournament-level team gave Harper the chance to demonstrate her talents for college coaches.

### A winning scholar

Harper also has achieved mastery in the classroom. "In school I want to do my best so I can learn as much as possible," she says. In 2006 she was named to the Nevada Interscholastic Athletics Association all state academic team. This requires a 4.0 grade point average at the midterm. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Scholars Association and Block D, an honors club for Douglas students who earn a letter in a sport and maintain high grades. Block D members also perform community service.

Harper ranks psychology, math and sciences as her favorite subjects. This year she is taking advanced placement psychology. "I am really into that," notes Harper, and sports psychology also interests her as a career.

### Ready for the next step

She has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Concord University in Athens, West Virginia. "They have very good academics for what I want to be," says Harper, adding that its students have nearly 100-percent acceptance to medical school.

The Concord coach is young and understands young students, and the coaches and faculty welcomed the Harper family when they visited West Virginia. While the college is far from home, the weather is similar to northern Nevada, and Athens is about the size of Genoa.

As she prepared to fulfill her dream, Harper finds the greatest fulfillment in being able to continue playing softball while having the game help her cover her college expenses.

The example of Cat Osterman, a University of Texas pitcher who set a strikeout record, "really pushes me to go out there and do something like that," says Harper. She, in turn, motivates and encourages younger softball players by volunteering to give pitching lessons and helping with team practices.

Congratulations to Stephanie Harper for all she has achieved and for the promise that she can realize. 🌟



Although her head coach identifies her best pitch as a screwball, Stephanie Harper's control, clear vision and determination have kept her on a direct path toward her goals.

The pitcher for the Douglas High School Lady Tigers softball team more than qualifies for this month's Wolf Pack Edge "Way to Go" award. On the mound and in the classroom, Harper exemplifies all that a person can accomplish when she sets a goal and pursues it tenaciously.

Softball "is my love," says Harper. Her mother, Christina, is also her assistant coach at Douglas. Coach Harper recalls that her daughter set her sights on playing college softball when she was five.

Harper aims to be a sports medicine physician, a career that combines athletics and academics. "I want to be on the sidelines and help athletes that get hurt" she explains. To reach this goal of working on the sidelines, however, Harper has competed at the center of the action.

### Leading by example

Douglas Head Coach Andy Mitchell describes as Harper "the hardest working player I have ever coached." She sets a great example for her teammates, even creating her own training regimen.

Harper stands atop the field of Douglas High softball pitchers, with 53 career wins in three seasons. In two seasons she has struck out more than 300 batters and thrown two no-hitters.

In 2007-2008, Douglas won 20, tied five and lost zero, ranking second in the North - Sierra League. Harper started in 28 of her 30 games, building a record of 23-6, a 2.69 ERA and 152 strikeouts. For this she was named second team All State and first team for the Sierra Nevada region. Harper was also a threat at the plate, batting .349, with six doubles, two triples and 23 RBI's.