

Swedes sign pledge to play softball at McCook

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Barkmeier, Wear to join Indian team

Two of the mainstays on the Gothenburg softball team for the past four years will continue as teammates next fall.

Amanda Barkmeier and Shay Wear signed letters of intent last Wednesday to play softball at McCook Community College. Coach Ben Greer picked up the paperwork following a signing ceremony.

The coach said he and his assistant were looking to improve team speed and pitching as they developed their recruiting prospect list.

Greer said he discovered both players somewhat by accident while scouting a McCook game early last season when the Bison were playing the Swedes.

“I’m watching Shay and she’s quick, which is great because we are looking to get faster,” he said. “Not only was she beating them with her feet, but she was beating them with her bat. She has the complete package at the plate.”

Wear holds the career, season and single game records in stolen bases and she hit .400 last year while achieving a .518 on-base percentage.

“Shay is the ideal lead-off hitter,” Greer said. “She’s quick, but not only can she beat you with her feet, she’s got a little power for a girl her size. But when you think of a lead-off hitter you want someone who gets on base, scores runs and causes a little havoc while she’s doing it.”

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In the bottom half of the first inning of the McCook-Gothenburg game, Greer was pleasantly surprised while watching Barkmeier.

“I’m like, ‘I’ve got to take a look at this girl. She can throw it,’” he said.

Barkmeier dominates the Gothenburg record book after starting for four years.

“Bark clearly has a sound history of pitching excellence,” Greer said. “She holds just about every school record imaginable and I expect big things from her during her time at McCook.”

Barkmeier is the daughter of Leonard and Angie Barkmeier while Wear is the daughter of Milton and Sheila Wear.

Other members of the McCook recruiting class are: Brittany Broomfield and Madison Chitwood, both of McCook; Kelsey Karr, of Blue Hill; Jasmine Pemble and Adriana Beaver, both of Cheyenne, WY; Alexis Boas of Lancaster, MO; Stephenie Johnson of Roseville, CA; Amber Madigan of Peyton, CO.