



Softball | 11/7/2016 1:11:00 PM | Don Stopa, Assistant Sports Information Director

Soaring with Hailey Fitzpatrick



CROOKSTON, Minn.- Each year the UMC softball program welcomes players from all parts of the United States and Canada with varying backgrounds and with a wide array of academic interests. The 2016-17 Golden Eagles team isn't any different, with the exception of one freshman who has an above average academic interest...flight.

Hailey Fitzpatrick is true freshman from Becker, Minnesota and her intended major is Natural Resources and Aviation. The speedy middle infielder/outfielder has even begun the process of becoming a licensed pilot as she has logged nearly twenty hours of flight time this semester as part of her aviation lab. Through 29 lessons, Fitzpatrick will log around 35 hours of flight time during her lab in addition to three more flight labs that she will be a part of through her academic career at UMC. In total Hailey will need to log 190 hours to qualify for her commercial license. With all of the air time, she even plans on learning to fly a helicopter, which is part of her future career aspirations.

"It is a pretty cool major," said head softball coach [Don Stopa](#). "She is my first player in that major and over my nearly 20 years of college coaching, I think she has my favorite major. Every time I see a small plane buzzing above campus, I wonder if it is Hailey."

Get To Know: Hailey Fitzpatrick

Why natural resources and aviation?

"This was the most adventurous thing I could think of."

Were your parents nervous about you flying?

"Not really. They are very supportive but my mom is a little nervous as I fly my first solo this week."

What is your ultimate dream job?

"I would love to be a lifeline helicopter pilot. The whole medical rescue thing is awesome. If that doesn't work out, I'm thinking...commercial pilot and fly the big planes."

Why UMC?

"Many reasons. They are one of the only schools with a natural resources and aviation major. Most places you have to double major and I like the combined major. My older sister goes here and of course playing softball is a big part of my decision. After my first real visit to campus, the place just felt right."

Follow Fitzpatrick and Golden Eagle softball team this spring as they kick things off February 11th and 12th at the Presentation College indoor tournament in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

The University of Minnesota Crookston is a four-year institution located in the heart of the Red River Valley in Northwest Minnesota. Established in 1966 as a degree-granting institution and in 1993 as a four-year institution. UMC is a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, which is a NCAA Division II conference that consists of 16 teams located in the Upper Midwest states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

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