



Softball | 3/16/2017 9:07:00 AM | Maggie Morales, Sports Information Intern

## Coming Home: Maggie Morales' journey home with UMC softball to play Spring Break Games



***Maggie Morales*, a sophomore on the University of Minnesota Crookston softball team wrote the first of two blogs about her journey home to Tucson with the softball team to play 11 games at Lincoln Regional Park. Morales talks about the games, the great food, the beautiful scenery and getting to spend time with her family and the other player's families who have been great supporters of their daughters during their time with the Golden Eagles.**

The best way to describe Tucson, Ariz., is extreme heat, beautiful sunsets, beautiful mountain views and Eegees. Oh and not to mention all of the lovely cacti. But the best thing about Tucson is the fact that you can play softball, outside. Bye bye dome ball and hello brown dirt and green grass. Getting to play our beautiful game while staring at the mountains, especially as the sunsets behind them is my favorite part about playing in Tucson.

If you have never been on a bus with 21 girls let's just say it is an adventure and I'm not just talking about how much of an obstacle course it is to try and get to the bathroom. But hey, at least we got to watch Moana. Flying with 21 girls is even better than driving. Luckily, none of us got stopped at security... except for Scuba (Athletic Trainer [Steven Krouse](#)) who was subject to a standard check of his shoes. As soon as our first flight landed we had to run to our next one, even though none of us knew what gate to go to. The best part about our trip down south was the In-N-Out. They have juicy burgers and great fries, nothing can beat that after a long day.

The first day we got off to a slow start and we ended up losing the first game and winning the second. But we did have a couple of people get great milestones. (Samantha) LeMay hit her first NCAA homerun on the first pitch of a pinch-hit at-bat. In the second game, she continued her great day at the plate. (Samantha) Proctor added herself to the home run club after hitting her first collegiate homer in game two. Game two was also highlighted by a five inning no hit shut out by Cassidy (Klaphake).

Day two started off with a win against Dickinson State. This was a sweet victory because we dropped two games to them last spring break. We had some really great plays on defense during this game, especially the diving catch by JZ ([Jozie Garner](#)) in center. Even though we got great performances from all four pitchers, we dropped the second game to Mayville State. A diving catch to end the fourth by Lexie (Santoyo) lit a fire under our butts and we were able to load the bases in the top of the fifth, but we were only able to push one run across. The great thing about Monday was that everyone, all 21 of us, contributed in some way and whenever someone was called upon, that person stepped up and did what we needed them to do. That is one of the best parts about this team, everyone knows their roles and is ready to step up when their name is called.

Day three brought another two game split. In game one everyone on our team performed and we got the victory in five innings. Paige was able to hit her first bomb and Lexie barely missed hers. It was a very fun game to play in and it was even better to see all of the non-starters contribute so well to lead us to victory. Our great hitting continued in game two. We were able to go up six nothing. Unfortunately we would not be able to hold on for the victory and we ended up losing. Even though we lost, this game was full of great efforts and was a hard-fought battle.

We might have come down here to play softball, but let's be real, we were all mostly looking forward to the food. In-N-Out, Eegees and homemade Mexican food just to name a few. Eegees might not be the best food-wise, but their slushies make it my favorite place to eat in Tucson, especially on a hot day and pretty much every day here is hot. And you can never go wrong with Mexican food in Arizona. Just look for the most run-down, hole-in-the-wall place and you will find it has great food. And a big shout out to the eight families who made us food. Eating out is great and all, but nothing beats a home cooked meal.

Unfortunately, our schedule these first couple of days has not allowed for much exploring, but it has allowed for a lot of time spent with the family. Getting to play in my hometown is great because it is the only time my family can watch me play. I, along with most of my teammates, have had a big cheering section for all of the games. We definitely have had the most fans at all of our games and that would not be possible with all of our great parents, siblings, grandparents and everyone else who came to watch us play.

We did however get Wednesday off. We took advantage of the beautiful weather and explored the San Xavier Mission. Located about an hour from the Mexican border, San Xavier was built in 1783 and was finished 4 years later. It is the oldest European structure that is still intact in Arizona. The church is filled with over fifty statues and many hand painted murals. Besides looking at all of the art, visitors can light candles and listen to the great history of the mission. The main church still holds regular masses. If you are ever in Tucson I would definitely recommend going to see this beautiful piece of history, even if it is not your religion.

I spent the rest of the off day away from the team. The Joneses joined my family as we visited another one of my favorite pieces of Tucson history. Located on the outskirts of downtown is the old wall that was built around the original boundaries of the city to keep the Native Americans out of Tucson. Many original structures still stand including wells and a couple of jail cells. Many shops have been added that sell a lot of handmade goods from artists all over Arizona and Mexico. Also located in this area is a nativity scene that is up all year round. The case is filled with over 50 sets and tells the story of the birth of Christ through these nativity scenes and other figures. It was nice to have a day to hang out with my family.

We have five games left here in Tucson and are looking forward to ending the week with some more W's.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

<b>#22 Jozie Garner</b> OF / 5' 4" / Senior / L	<b>#26 Maggie Morales</b> OF / 5' 7" / Sophomore / R
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