

CAREY SOFTBALL ANNOUNCES 2008-09 SIGNEES

HATTISBURG, MS- William Carey University Softball is proud to announce the signing of 5 outstanding student-athletes for the 2008-09 academic year. Carey Head Coach Wendy Hogue has nabbed local standouts; Nikki Sanders from Purvis High School, Larke Nightengale from Poplarville High School, Alyssa Boutwell from Columbia Academy, Casey Alexander from Amite School Center in Liberty, MS, and Gabby Givens from Franklinton, LA.

“We are extremely excited about next year’s freshman class. These girls not only have the ability to make an immediate impact on the field, but in other areas as well. They will be excellent representatives of the University on campus, in the classroom, as well as in the community. We are very fortunate to have them as a part of our team,” said Lady Crusader Head Coach Wendy Hogue.

Nikki Sanders is a speedy shortstop/outfielder for Purvis High School. Sanders has earned All-Region honors since her 8th grade year and boasts a solid .452 batting average. Sanders plays summer ball with the nationally recognized travel team, Southern Storm. “Nikki is an athlete that I’ve been following since she was 12 years old. She has the ability, work ethic, and attitude that a coach dreams of having in every player. I look for her to make an immediate impact on the field and in the lineup next season”



From L to R: Alexander, Boutwell, Sanders, Nightengale

Larke Nightengale is an outfielder at Poplarville HS. Coach Hogue feels that she possesses all the tools needed to excel at the next level. “Larke is another player that really appealed to us at camp. She can hit, runs very well, has a great arm and is the most coachable player I’ve ever been around.”

Alyssa Boutwell is a pitcher at Columbia Academy. In her senior season, Boutwell has

held opposing teams to a .082 batting average and had an ERA of 0.35 while recording 370 strikeouts. Boutwell was chosen to pitch for the MPSA All-Star Team in October. Boutwell also helped her cause at the plate by posting a .396 average for the year. “Alyssa is a true athlete. She’s a player that is going to be one of the best on the field no matter what position she’s playing. Though we signed her as a pitcher, I would feel comfortable playing her at any position on the field.”

Casey Alexander is a left-handed pitcher for Amite School Center. Alexander has been a starter for the varsity team since her 7th grade year and helped lead the team to a state championship in 2002. As a repeat All-District player, Alexander posted a hefty .470 batting average and was chosen to represent her team in the MPSA All-Star Game. Alexander plays summer ball with the nationally known LA Patriots. The Patriots have won numerous state titles and went undefeated at Gold Nationals this past summer.

“Casey can play! She’s a 5 tool athlete that we were very fortunate to sign. Although she’s an excellent pitcher, we look to see her as a permanent fixture in the outfield and at the top of the line up.”

Gabby Givens is a pitcher/first baseman for Bowling Green High School in Franklinton, LA. Givens was chosen All-District every year and was this year’s district MVP. Givens carried an impressive .562 batting average her senior season and led the district with 17 homeruns. Givens also represented her team at the MPSA All-Star game in October. “We are excited about having Gabby as part of our team. She’s a very disciplined hitter and has a great mind for the game.”

Carey will begin their 2008 season at home on February 8th against regional foe, Faulkner University.