

## Playing for Something Bigger – An Opportunity to Glorify God

During recent weeks we have enjoyed watching the Oklahoma Sooner’s women’s softball team in the 2023 College World Series. Our interest in Oklahoma softball started with a local girl who just joined the Sooner team as a highly recruited freshman. Following the championship game, an interview revealed their thoughts about playing under the pressure of high expectations and the ups and downs of competitive sports. The question was asked about experiencing joy when there is so much anxiety in whether or not you win. Three members of their team echoed similar sentiments at a press conference.



Grace Lyons, a senior infielder, said, “The only way you can have a joy that doesn’t fade away is from the Lord.” She said, “Joy from the Lord keeps you motivated, no matter the outcome. Happiness comes from circumstances and outcomes, but is conditional and temporary. Joy from the Lord embraces memories, moments, and friendships.” It isn’t a joy that is only based on whether or not you win. It is a Joy that doesn’t fade away.”

Jadya Coleman, a Junior outfielder, talked about her freshman year, when they also won the College World Series. We were happy to win, but then next week came. Jayda didn’t know what to do after winning. Life without Jesus wasn’t fulfilling, even after winning the national softball championship. As a result of her faith now, she is not afraid to lose, because the game – win or lose -- is not the end of the world. Her life is now in Christ.



A third team member, Alyssa Britto, spoke up about their “eyes up” attitude. You see players pointing upward, as they fix their eyes on Christ. Britto said, “You can’t find fulfillment in an outcome, good or bad. You find fulfillment in Christ. That’s why we are so steady in what we do, and in our love for each other.” She said, “The game gives me the opportunity to glorify God. Once we figured it out and our purpose, all of us are all in on that.” She went on to say, “We all have testimonies, and we have shown how awesome it is to play for something bigger, because it brings me so much joy.”



“We have an eternity of joy.”

The Bible Says: *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13).*

**Question:** Are you merely seeking the temporary happiness from circumstances or the eternal Joy of the Lord?

Link to interview: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicVote/videos/792466318949574>