

Kincaid Transfers To LMC

Written by Mike Kelly
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Kala Kincaid, who played softball and basketball at Watauga High, has transferred to Lees McCrae College in Banner Elk, NC.

Kincaid, a four-year varsity player with WHS softball program, played for the Pioneers from 2007-2010. She comes to LMC from North Carolina Central (a Division I school and a member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference), where she left after the fall semester last season. She joins LMC, a Division II school and a member of Conference Carolinas. The Bobcats, led by coach Merritt Yackey, were 26-27 last season and lost to Erskine College in the conference tournament finals.

Kincaid put together two solid years with the softball team at WHS, batting .319 in 22 games as a freshman with a home run and eight runs-batted-in, and batting .333 with a home run and eight RBI her senior year. Unfortunately, she was hampered by a nagging back injury her sophomore and junior years that eventually forced her to have surgery.

"Kala always had the talent to be an excellent player," said former WHS softball coach Brian Vannoy, who coached Kincaid for four years. "She was always one of those players you knew had the potential to do great things, but that injury really set her back a bit. But she's pretty tough, and she bounced back from it."

Kincaid, an outfielder by trade, has been looked at by Yackey as a possible first baseman, a position she's never played before.

"I had a tryout with them and they liked what they saw," Kincaid said. "I received a scholarship. Yea, I primarily play the outfield, but the coach has looked at me to possibly play first base. It doesn't matter. I just want to play, and I'm glad to get the chance."

And Vannoy feels Kincaid can make the switch, if necessary. After all, she battled through what many thought was a possible career-ending injury.

"Kala is real serious about playing softball," he said. "She had considered basketball at one time, but by her junior year that all changed. She really wants to succeed at this game, and she has worked hard at it. She has the ability to do it."

"And she's joining a good program. I'm glad I got the chance to coach her, and I wish her nothing but the best at Lees McCrae."