

My entire athletic career I've been a "jack of all trades". Whether it was basketball, volleyball, or softball. I was always the player you could throw into a different role when needed. And I believe that being able to play multiple positions when needed, is the key to success in any sports. I have played just about every position in softball, minus first base. And every time I have a new coach and they ask what position I play, I just tell them, "wherever you need me." My freshman year I played centerfield, My sophomore year I caught and played shortstop, that summer I bounced around in the outfield, second base, shortstop, and catcher. My junior year was cancelled due to COVID-19, but for travel ball I mostly played short. My senior year however I had to acquire a new position. A more important role on the team. I had to learn to pitch. But because I was able to learn to pitch my current college coach is building on that so I can be available just in case she needs me.

Coaches want players who are great at what they do, but they also want to see more. I learned that there is always more that people want to see. If you can be the player that is able to save the game by being able to play multiple positions in an emergency, you are greatly valuable. I have seen the best high school and travel ball teams struggle because their ace isn't in their position. But I have also been on the team that has thrived because they had someone who was able to fill that spot effortlessly. No matter what sport it is, the more "tools" you have in your belt, the more valuable you will be.

I have preached that to teammates and girls who are just learning the sport. If you are willing to be flexible, and to learn more, you will be extremely powerful and useful. I have seen teammates sit the bench because they didn't want to play a position besides their primary. But just because you are a utility doesn't mean you can't have a home. You can definitely have a preferred position, but having the mindset of playing wherever it takes to get you on the field or court, will take you farther than just sticking to one position. Take it from someone who had a coach who told my dad the reason he never sat me, was because he knew he could trust me wherever he put me, and he could place me wherever he needed based on everyone else.

Perfect what your good at, but never lose the hunger to learn more.