

## **Next Level Passion**

### **Ready:**

I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me. - Philippians 4:13

### **Set**

Winning Olympic gold for USA Softball in 1996, 2000 and 2004 were true highlights in my softball career. As I look back on my all my experiences I am most grateful for the people I met along the way. From the lifelong friendships, to the coaches who were father figures, to my husband, whom I met at a tournament, and to the fans who always supported our teams?my life was truly impacted by so many people in this sport.

The biggest impact of all was when I gave my life wholeheartedly to God in college and made Jesus the Lord of my life. I had believed in God since I was a young girl, but I didn't understand that a relationship with God included seeking and following Him. As I learned what the Bible says, God began changing who I was on the inside and gave me a purpose beyond the playing field and a new perspective in life. I had always been a passionate player on the field, but when I began growing in my faith, I became just as passionate about being an example of God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness. I wanted to use my whole life to bring glory to God, and that included playing for Him.

I began to trust God in the trials and slumps and to give God all the praise in the victories. I also learned that no matter what the outcome was in any game, God loved me just the same. Now I'm passionate about encouraging people to use their talents for God's glory and to seek Him with all their hearts. I want people to know that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them (Philippians 4:13). We have the ultimate victory and the promise of eternal life through Jesus, and that is better than any medal or award we could ever win.

### **Go**

1. Have you given your life over to God wholeheartedly? If so, how did it change the way you compete?
2. How can trusting God through the ?trials and slumps? change the way you play?

### **Workout**

Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 1:19

### **Overtime**

Lord, give me a renewed passion to compete not just for myself and my teammates, but for you first and foremost. Give me a fresh perspective and reveal a purpose beyond just playing

the game. Amen.

**Bible Reference:**

Philippians 4:13

2 Corinthians 4:7

Ephesians 1:19



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