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St. Andrews gets Lakeside senior

By **Justin Williams**
Staff Writer

Ever since she started playing softball in fourth grade, Jessie Wieggers has been enamored with the idea of playing in college.

"I used to watch the girls play on TV," the Lakeside High School senior said. "I thought, 'I want to do this. That's so cool.'"

As she got older, though, she became less interested in playing for a giant school at a major program.

Recently, Wieggers signed a letter of intent to play softball at St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

"I didn't want to go anywhere big," she stressed. "I'd rather be a name than a number."

St. Andrews plays in Division II.

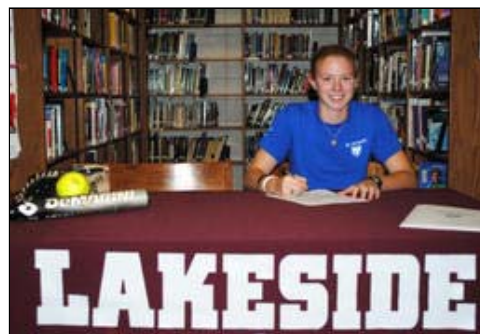
Wieggers, who will be able to start right away at St. Andrews, led the way for Lakeside on the mound this past season.

She also serves as a utility player who can play pretty much anywhere on the field. It's something she became adept at doing while playing travel ball with Georgia Rockers Gold.

"It's important to play as many games as you can, whether it be travel ball, (recreation) ball or high school," second-year Lakeside coach Christy Jackson said. "It's only going to help you. With her seeing the game time she has ... that helped a lot."

Wieggers has also pitched during each of her seven seasons with the Georgia Rockers.

Drew Gaddy, who coaches the Gold squad, believes Wieggers is a model for younger players.



Justin Williams/Staff

Lakeside High School senior Jessie Wieggers signed to play softball at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, N.C.

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"You're looking at one of the hardest working players around," Gaddy said at the senior's signing ceremony.

On the mound, Wiegers said she relies on movement off the plate to fool batters.

At the plate, she is as versatile as she is in the field.

"I believe my coaches feel like they can put me either as a hitter or a bunter, and I can get on either way or move runners over," Wiegers said.

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