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Former Trinity Star Walker Signs With Georgia Southern

By PAYTON TOWNS III

Jorie Walker likes to talk from her shortstop position on the field. The former Trinity Christian School star continued talking at her position at Middle Georgia College last spring and plans to have a good spring in 2010.

After that, she plans to take her talents to Statesboro and play at Georgia Southern. Walker signed with the Lady Eagles to play fastpitch softball last month. She enjoyed her visit to the university and heard a lot about it from friends.

"I just like the campus," Walker said. "It's not too big and not too small. The town reminds me a lot of Dublin. I have a lot of friends who go there and I really like the

campus. It's really pretty."

Walker has enjoyed her time at Middle Georgia College, where the Lady Warriors finished as runners-up in the conference.

"I've loved it. We had a good year. Not as good as it should have been but it was all right," she said. "I've met a lot of great girls. I like coach Phillips a lot. He really cares about all of us girls. He's helped me out a lot. Coach Amanda Hall is helping us and she went to Southern last year. She's helped me out too. I'm real excited about the season."

MGC head coach Ken Phillips was pleased with Walker's hustle and example on the field.

"Last year, she brought a

lot of hustle to the field and was a great example to others. This year, as a sophomore, she's demonstrating leadership skills," he said. "I always thought she was a good leader by example. This year she's leading in all matters in the classroom and on the field. She gives you everything she's got all the time."

And he doesn't expect things to change for Walker in Statesboro.

"I expect her to do just as well there as she did here," Phillips said. "Her numbers (might) be a little bit more higher here than at Georgia Southern, but that's because of the level of play. I think you'll see her do as well as

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Special Photo

Walker

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everybody else. She's going to do well."

Walker played shortstop for five years for the Lady Crusaders. She was a member of the back-to-back state champion softball teams and led the team in almost every category for two straight years. She also played point guard for Trinity's state championship basketball team.

Walker said coaches Krista Meadows and Rick Johnson were a big reason she is where she is now. Meadows coached Walker in softball and Johnson coached her in basketball at Trinity.

"Georgia Southern is getting not only one of the best athletes I have ever seen or had the opportunity to coach, but also one of the best softball players to ever come out of Trinity Christian School and Laurens County," Meadows said. "Jorie Walker is a sound, fundamental softball player. Her work ethic is beyond compare. She is a born leader and well respect-

ed by everyone in the GISA softball community. She plays and practices with extreme intensity and has a desire to excel. She places team before herself. Jorie's athletic abilities are accompanied by her desire to demonstrate Christ-like character and integrity on and off the field."

Johnson agreed.

"As headmaster and athletic director during Jorie's time at Trinity Christian School, I will say that she had a stellar athletic career playing on two state championship softball teams for renowned softball coach Krista Meadows and garnering about every award possible during her playing career. As her basketball coach I can attest she is a tremendous competitor. She will be a respected leader and Georgia Southern University is obtaining a great student-athlete that can help their team on and off the field. I'll observe with interest as she makes this transition to the highest level of collegiate sports."

Walker said the transition

from high school to college was good.

"(College) is much different," Walker said. "I came from Trinity, which was a small private school. I've met a lot of people. I've met a lot of good friends who'll probably be friends for the rest of my life. It's a lot of good work and a lot more hours put into it. I've enjoyed it."

And she's also going to enjoy having a former teammate with her at Georgia Southern. Nicole Benton signed to play softball for the Lady Eagles last month also.

"It's definitely comforting knowing that you know somebody going into it," Walker said. "I've always enjoyed playing with Nicole. I'll enjoy playing with her on the same team again."

And rest assure, Walker will be at shortstop trying to get everyone pumped up.

"I like to talk, bounce around and be real active on the field," Walker said. "I like to talk and encourage everybody."

MOVING ON UP

...Jorie Walker will play at Georgia Southern next year after she completes her sophomore season at Middle Georgia College.