

Knoxville Explosion Welcomes the Next Generation of Coaches to Organization Roster

Written by Joe Birchfield

KNOXVILLE EXPLOSION FAST PITCH SOFTBALL HEAD COACH BIOGRAPHIES



PAYTON KNEIER (18U SELECT)

Occupation: Pitching coach at Bryan College
Years playing softball: 18 years
Years Coaching Fastpitch softball: 3 years
First Year with Knoxville Explosion Softball Organization: I started playing with this organization in 2010, and coaching in 2018
Collegiate Softball Career Highlights: I played softball at Bryan College for four years. However due to injuries I did not get a chance to play much. Instead during this time, I focused on being a student of the game, and it has led me to have a passion for coaching.
Coaches Philosophy: Through coaching I want to help develop athletes on and off the field. I believe that softball teaches life lessons and character traits that we carry with us long after we are done playing. While coaching I want to lead by example and always display a Christ centered program with an athletes first mindset.
Coaching Certifications: Positive Coaching Alliance Double Goal Coach

KNOXVILLE EXPLOSION FAST PITCH SOFTBALL ASSISTANT COACH BIOGRAPHIES



KELSEY BIRCHFIELD (18U EXPLOSION)

Occupation: Undergraduate Student
Major: Biology B.S./Chemistry Minor
Years playing softball: 16 years
Years Coaching Fastpitch softball: 2 Years
First Year with Knoxville Explosion Softball Organization: 2005
Coaches Philosophy: The game of softball is much deeper than just a sport. It is a place to build relationships, self-confidence, and character. Mistakes should always be regarded as learning opportunities, as they are moments of growth. Attitude, effort, and focus are the 3 main objects of the game, and they are keystones that help players arrive at the realization of their best selves. With support and encouragement from teammates and coaches, the player blossoms into a strong, cooperative leader.
Coaching Certifications: Positive Coaching Alliance Double-Goal Coach

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TIFFANY SNELL (2024 EXPLOSION)

Occupation: Graduate Student – Master of Teaching, Private Pitching Instructor

Years playing softball: 15 years Travel Ball, 4 Years NCAA Division II Collegiate Level

Years Coaching Fastpitch softball: 2 years, Pitching Coach at Tiffin University, 1 Year 18u Travel Softball

First Year with Knoxville Explosion Softball Organization: 2020

Coaches Philosophy: Children and athletes grow and become into their own, there are many lessons to be learned and experiences to be had. I hope that through this sport that I and so many others love can be a positive mentor and role model to young females. I hope to share all I know about softball and life to not only prepare them for the collegiate level but also help them become the best versions of themselves and respectful young ladies.

Coaching Certifications: Positive Coaching Alliance Double Goal Coach

KNOXVILLE EXPLOSION FAST PITCH SOFTBALL COACH BIOGRAPHIES



KAT CHECHINI (07 EXPLOSION)

Occupation: Full Time Student, University of Tennessee

Years playing softball: 2 years Travel Ball, 2 Years Cleveland State Community College

Years Coaching Fastpitch softball: 1st Year

First Year with Knoxville Explosion Softball Organization: 2018

Collegiate Softball Career Highlights: I started my collegiate softball career at Cleveland State Community College in 2018. In my years there I played under Steve Jakes and Katie Rominger. 2019 and 2020. I finished the 2020 season with a .354 batting average leading the team in RBI's with a total of 7 collegiate home runs. I also made third team academics (reserved for student that have a GPA of 3.60-3.79).

Coaches Philosophy: Coaching is an opportunity to encourage, motivate and challenge both athletes and coaches to reach for and find their potential together as a team. This is done by creating a positive environment for the advancement of softball skills, and knowledge of the game. I am a firm believer that if there knowledge is pass it on to those who are willing to learn then they can go forth and teach. I believe that playing sports not only build character and confidence but also gives a sense of accomplishment. A coach should never place the value of winning above the welfare of his/her players. Winning should be a end result of preparation and discipline.

Coaching Certifications: Positive Coaching Alliance Double Goal Coach