More than an athlete: former coaches, friends remember Geri Ann Glasco

Louis Prejean
louisjprejean@gmail.com

An athlete's legacy is often determined by their on-field triumphs. Geri Ann Glasco, Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns volunteer softball coach and daughter of head coach Gerry Glasco, broke the mold when discussing the legacy of a player. Her impact as a person, not just player, is what defined the legacy she left behind.

Geri Ann's influential attitude towards life was felt from Oregon to a Louisiana community that was connected in remembrance after the news of her passing Jan. 24.

Her journey of setting records at Oconee County High School in Georgia through the 2016 National Pro Fastpitch draft showed that Geri Ann had excelled in every facet of her playing career.

"As great a player as she was, she was an even better person. I think that's how she would want to be remembered," said Bryan Eades, who coached Geri Ann at Oconee County in her senior year.

Geri Ann set the Georgia High School Association record for career home runs with 47 but Eades talked about what she was like off the field.

"Imagine your best player, your best and most admired leader both on and off the field, and the kindest and most caring individual all in the same person. That was Geri Ann," Eades said.

The University of Georgia Assistant Softball Coach Troy Baldwin recalled watching Geri Ann play with his two daughters on the sideline in her time with Georgia. Geri Ann played her first two collegiate seasons with Georgia - Baldwin said he also knew her through her father's, Gerry Glasco's, time on Georgia's staff.

Baldwin said his daughters grew an affection for Geri Ann as a person even before they knew what kind of player she was.

GLASCO continued on page 8
gaining Sun Belt supremacy. Louisiana is currently sitting in fifth place with a 4-3 conference record; they will need to continue to strike the perfect combination of effort and execution if they are to keep competing in a tight conference race.

GLASCO continued from page 6

“...if they are to keep competing in a tight conference race.

“...if they are to keep competing in a tight conference race.

“My daughters would hit baseballs in the backyard and ask ‘Is that how ‘0’ would do it?’,” Baldwin said. “If you had a daughter that wanted to learn how to play, Glasco was a good role model for that, but my kids fell in love with her before they knew what kind of player she was.”

When Geri Ann led Georgia to its first ever SEC tournament title in 2014, Baldwin said he attended the game along with his daughters, who came prepared with custom signs for her.

Geri Ann finished out her collegiate career with the University of Oregon, where she was an all-Pac-12 performer in 2015 and 2016.

“Geri Ann was an amazing young woman who always had an extremely positive impact on everyone that she met,” a statement from the university read.

Geri Ann then caught former Akron Racers General Manager Joey Arrietta’s eye leading up to the 2016 National Pro Fastpitch draft. Arrietta said she had been watching Geri Ann at Oregon and communicating with her coaches before selecting her with the 20th overall pick.

“As a GM, you look for players that can play, but also players that can embrace your community,” Arrietta said. “I saw instantly her connection with people beyond the field. That was special.”

Arrietta shared her favorite memory of Geri Ann that reiterated the uplifting and positive quality that she had.

“It was a challenging day for me,” Arrietta said. “(Geri Ann) walked by me maybe not knowing what to say and then she turned back around and came back toward me and said, ‘You know you inspire me every day, just thought maybe you needed to know that.’”

Arrietta said that was the beauty of Geri Ann’s soul and, in that moment, she inspired her.

Geri Ann made the transition to coaching in 2017 as a student assistant on Oregon’s staff and joined the Ragin’ Cajuns staff for the 2018-19 season. Louisiana Head Coach Gerry Glasco and his daughter Geri Ann shared the same field for eight months.

And when you ask anyone, Geri Ann is a reflection of her family.

Geri Ann’s mother, Vickie, and two sisters, Tara and Erin, along with Gerry Glasco carry themselves the same way Geri Ann did.

“Nobody makes the most out of people than Gerry. Vickie is just about the most kind-hearted person that you can ever find. Geri Ann is the culmination of all of their parts,” Baldwin said.

Geri Ann’s latest stop was with the Ragin’ Cajuns and the community rallied with support of the Glasco family. Balloons were tied around a fence of Lamson Park in honor of Geri Ann. The public shared their support on social media and reached out to Gerry Glasco on Facebook and Twitter.

“Thank you to all these Ragin’ Cajun fans for being a community of love and support,” Gerry Glasco said in a Facebook post Jan. 25. “The things you all have done for our family in the last 48 hours could have only been done by a community full of love and kindness.”

Geri Ann was able to spread inspiration at every step of her journey. Georgia, Oregon, Akron, Louisiana and the entire softball community saw Geri Ann as more than just an athlete, but as an influential person.