



October 14, 2014

**FORMER ST. MARY'S ACADEMY SOFTBALL PLAYER RECEIVES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FROM MLB URBAN YOUTH FOUNDATION AND JACK FIELKOW SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**Daja Vigne, who currently attends Belhaven University in Jackson, MS, selected for scholarship based on her participation in the MLB Urban Youth Academy, Extracurricular Activities, Outstanding GPA and Sportsmanship**

Daja Vigne, a former standout shortstop for St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans, has been selected as the inaugural recipient of a college scholarship program developed by the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Foundation and the Jack Fielkow Scholarship Fund. Vigne, who is currently studying Pre-Physical Therapy at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi, has been selected based on her consistent participation in the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy's softball program, her various extracurricular activities, her outstanding high grade point average and demonstrations of good sportsmanship.

Vigne played softball all four years at St. Mary's Academy and was acknowledged as an All-District player and was a part of the All-District Team. She was an active member of the Urban Youth League as well. Vigne is currently an active member of the New Life Ministry Baptist Church, where she engages in the technical and youth ministry.

Vigne was selected by a committee of individuals involved in the establishment of the program. This includes Arnie Fielkow, the former New Orleans City Council President and current CEO of the NBA Retired Players Association, who made a \$40,000 donation in his father's name via the Jack Fielkow Scholarship Fund. Louisiana-based First NBC Bank matched Fielkow's donation to the scholarship program, bringing the scholarship fund total to \$80,000. Arnie Fielkow was instrumental in the establishment of the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy. Arnie Fielkow was instrumental in the establishment of the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy. The scholarship program also benefits young members of the Each One Save One non-profit organization. Only members of the New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy and Each One Save One are eligible for scholarships.

The New Orleans MLB Urban Youth Academy at Wesley Barrow Stadium opened in 2012, replacing a 55-year-old facility that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The facility operates in partnership with the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission on a dynamic youth program that provides free, year-round baseball and softball instruction as well as educational and baseball vocation programming for young people from underserved and urban communities throughout southern Louisiana. For more information on the New Orleans Urban Youth Academy and how to get involved, please visit [MLB.com/urbanyouthacademy](http://MLB.com/urbanyouthacademy) or call Eddie Davis at 504-282-0443.

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