

Elizabeth Pelezo, B.S., PA-C, MEd.

616 Memorial Heights Dr. #10108

Houston, Tx 77007

713-851-8008

okragirl@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I have the honor and privilege of writing a letter of recommendation for Mr. John Garris for the position of Head Softball Coach.

Professionally, John is very versatile coach. He has worked at a multitude of levels and in a variety of positions. He has done everything from digging a warning track and painting fences to negotiating scholarships with top athletes. He's managed team finances, coordinated fundraisers for equipment, and taken teams to compete internationally. He understands how to develop the fundamentals on the field as well as fine tune athletic ability with organized practices. He motivates young athletes to push beyond what they think is possible to achieve success. He worked with very humble resources at Delta State, but developed a nationally competitive group of young women.

One of John's strongest attributes is his recruiting. As part of his first recruiting class as a head coach at Delta State University, I witnessed firsthand his recruiting ability. After meeting with him, touring the campus, and watching the team play, he convinced me to turn down a full scholarship to walk on. It was the best decision I've ever made. He will continue to recruit competitive, talented athletes that can maintain high standards on the field and in the classroom. His commitment to education and success of the student athlete as well as his work ethic on the field contributed greatly to many of my teammates' successes.

Personally, John Garris sets the standard on class, charisma, and loyalty for his players. Throughout my professional career, I have had the privilege of working with some of the world's leading Trauma Surgeons. They have published cutting edge research and even invented surgical procedures. At no time did any of my interactions with these phenomenal physicians become more influential than the 4 years I spent playing softball under John Garris at Delta State University. When asked to list the most influential people in my life, John Garris is at the top of my list. He taught me loyalty, commitment, dedication, and determination. The undergraduate years are made of a series of events geared toward self-actualization and personal discovery. It is imperative that young women have a strong mentor to guide, motivate, encourage, and teach. I am very grateful for the four years of his guidance and mentorship.

Fifteen years later, many of my teammates now refer to him as "John". He will always be "Coach Garris" to me. For me, the title of "Coach" means a lot. He's earned my respect and loyalty. He wasn't just a coach on the field. He was an influence in my life. I don't just consider him a coach. I consider him a friend. Your young would be very fortunate to have his leadership.

Kindest regards and best of luck in the coming season,

Elizabeth Pelezo