Emily Brishaber loved softball from the moment she started playing.

She took that love and developed her talent and now the sport is taking her places, literally.

The Salem High School junior-to-be recently played in the East/West All-Start game and is a member of a traveling team that is spending this week in Panama competing in the World Series.

Brishaber said the East/West All-Star game was a good learning experience for her and she enjoyed being around so many talented players.

She is expecting more of the same this week in Panama. Brishaber is joined in Panama by Lady Lion teammates Alex Davidson, Chelsea Strong and Krista Baker. Other players on the team are from Seymour, Brownstown and Corydon.

When she isn't pitching this week in the World Series, Brishaber, who is the daughter of Rondale and Cheryl Brishaber will be working to improve her batting and her play in the outfield.

All of the ball outside of the regular high school season is helping not just Brishaber, but all of her Salem teammates improve.

The Lady Lions lost the sectional championship in their last at-bat this year.

In 2013, the sectional tournament will be in Salem and the goal is simple finishing the job they started this year.

"We talked about that right after the season," Brishaber said. "That's the goal we set as soon as the season ended."

There is no reason to think Salem can't reach that goal. Most of the starting nine return and the Lady Lions pitching unit goes three deep at the varsity level and at least one of the freshman could be pushing for varsity time.

The pitching depth can be both a good and bad thing because there are only so many pitches to be thrown in a season.

Brishaber said the depth hasn't been an issue and she don't think it will be.

"It can be taxing to pitch three games in a week, so it's nice to have some other girls who can come in and pitch some innings," she said. "Amber (Kilburn) really stepped up and pitched big and I was happy with the amount of time I got to pitch."

Brishaber, who throws six different pitches, five of which she said she will go to no matter the situation or the count, said she has started to hear from colleges, but hasn't even started thinking about where she will play college ball.

She said she wants a degree in sports medicine and wants to work with athletes.

As far as coaching, Brishaber smiled when asked if she wanted to do that, but said she isn't sure.

She has plenty of time to make those kind of decisions about her future. Until then she plans to keep playing and improving at the game she loves!