

chicagotribune.com

'I know it won't stop me from doing anything'

By David Murray

Special to The Tribune

May 9, 2010 *Katie Romano is new to the Force but has played with the D.C. Divas. This is an edited e-mail interview.*

What's your day job?

Looking for job ... applying for Peace Corps. **Tell me about your hearing impairment.**

I was born profoundly deaf. I'm proud being deaf, and I know it won't stop me from doing anything. **You're a former soccer player. Did you play around here? How did you find your way to the Force?**

I grew up playing soccer for a Bartlett travel club and two years on Bartlett High School's varsity team. I'm a member of the USA Deaf National Team, and we won two gold medals in Deaflympics, 2005 and 2009. My friend Michelle Mendiola (a former Force player) mentioned the Force in 2006 while I was in D.C. for school, so I joined the Divas. We won the Super Bowl. I graduated and came home and I miss football, so I joined the Force. **You play cornerback, but I see they're working you into the offense. What position do you like the most, receiver, running back, cornerback?**

I love football, so any position is awesome. I also play flag football and I was running back most of the time so I think I really like running back the most because it's fun to carry the ball and go through all the players. **How have you been received and treated by the Force staff and coaches, to whom you present both special challenges and unique skills?**

I appreciated that coaches are treating me the same as other players because I don't see myself as different from anyone on the team. I have their respect and I respect them too.

Copyright © 2010, [Chicago Tribune](http://www.chicagotribune.com)