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## Jayne Morrison

### Takoma Park Diva rocks DC football

BY JANICE PARK

She was the little girl that could be seen playing football with the boys on Takoma field a time and a place where kids were allowed to have fun and just be kids. This is the loving atmosphere that Jayme Morrison so fondly remembers.

From her days at Takoma Park Elementary to far beyond her Montgomery Blair High School days, Morrison says Takoma Park is the village that raised and shaped her. She is a poet, a motivational speaker, and most recently, a member of the woman's football team the DC Divas.

Nicknamed "Rookie" by the team, Morrison has helped the Divas crush their last opponent the Erie Illusions by a score of 74-7 to bring their record to 5-0. Whether playing right or left offensive guard, she always implements her work ethic to work hard, play hard, and hit hard, every play.

Morrison says that people are always amazed after watching their first game. "People are really fooled. They can't believe it's women playing until the helmets come off. They are amazed at just how hard we hit," she says.

And the Divas, with their undefeated record are hitting their way to what the team calls the "ship," or championship. Morrison says they will bring nothing short of the "ship" back home.

This confidence is in part due to the fact that Morrison is no stranger to success. While at Blair High School, she wrote, directed, produced, and acted in a stage play, with the help of her teacher Diane Swift. The play "Young Sisters and Brothers in Society," examined a problem facing all young



people, the difficult transition from high school to adulthood.

A celebrated poet who has performed on Showtime at the Apollo several times, Morrison brought her talent back home right after September 11, 2001. She got together with the musical group Drop Step and Xquisite to share poetry, world music, and reggae to a full house at Taliano's in Old Town Takoma Park. She fondly remembers the reaction of Taliano's owner: "He was just so happy that there was a crowd, since so many people had stopped coming because of the tragedy."

Morrison is truly grateful for her experience growing up in Takoma Park getting help with her technique in basketball at the rec center from Matt, Calvin, or Ray; listening to the Takoma Park Police officers who took time out to give a few pointers on life; spending her Thursday nights playing basketball and pool at "girl's night" at the fire station.

"Being able to feel like you are wanted as a child is very important," she says. And the Takoma Park community showed her that people besides your parents and family can have love for you. It is a place that takes care of its kids. And all of this has been a big influence on Jayme's performance now. She hopes that this community that has supported her so much will come and support the Divas June 7, in their next game against the Columbus Flames.

*For game location and more information about the Divas, visit [www.dcdivas.com](http://www.dcdivas.com).*

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