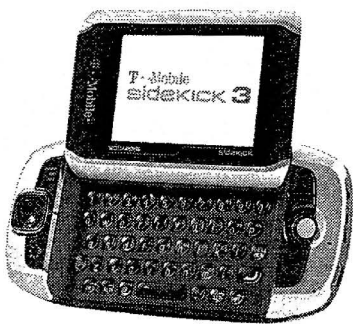


possession
obsession



THE POSSESSION: Sidekick 3

THE OWNER: Alana Beard,
Washington Mystics guard

A Little Friend

■ Unless you have a calculator or a slide rule, it would be extremely difficult to estimate how many hours Alana Beard spends on the road. The Mystics play two to three games per week during



ing their season, which runs from May to August. "If we have a Tuesday game, we leave Monday and come back Wednesday,

so there's three days right there," she said. So when Beard says she's never home, she's not exaggerating.

The long hours on the road explain her T-Mobile Sidekick obsession. She's owned one of the all-in-one phones for about four years, and recently upgraded to the 3. "I'm not really a phone person — I'll do anything to avoid the phone," said Beard, making texting, e-mailing and instant messaging her preferred forms of electronic communication. But the off-season, when she plays in South Korea, is a problem: "It doesn't work in Korea, so that's where I have my huge withdrawals." CAROLYN STEEVES (EXPRESS)