

Moving from the hardwood to the sand

■ Union's Autumn Daggett signs to join Corban's beach volleyball program

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

UNION — Autumn Daggett was an offensive spark and a clutch performer for the Union volleyball team last fall as she helped the Bobcats to a 24-4 record, a perfect season in Blue Mountain Conference play and a fourth-place finish at state.

She'll look to make a similar contribution next season at Corban University, though in a different vein.

Daggett has signed a letter of intent to play for Corban's up-and-coming beach volleyball team, which will officially take to the sand for the first time next season.

"It felt like it was the right place for me," Daggett said, noting her sister, Emilee, also attends the Salem school. "This was the only (school) where I get to be with friends and family, it's not too far from home and I'd get to pursue volleyball."

The Warriors' program was supposed to open play this spring, but their inaugural season ended before it began due to the spread of the coronavirus, which means Autumn Daggett will be on the team when it does finally begin action.

"It's been Autumn's



Union's Autumn Daggett, right, has one of her 22 kills during a Sept. 19 sweep of Stanfield. The senior outside hitter has signed a letter of intent to play beach volleyball for Corban University.

File photo by Ronald Bond

"It felt like it was the right place for me. This was the only (school) where I get to be with friends and family, it's not too far from home and I'd get to pursue volleyball."

Autumn Daggett, Union High School volleyball standout, who has signed to play at Corban University in Salem. Her sister, Emilee, also attends Corban.

dream to move forward and play college volleyball for quite some time," Union head coach Karly Knapp said.

The Union senior originally sent film to the school's indoor volleyball coach but beach volleyball coach Diana Villalpando was the one who reached out to her.

"She said I would be a

good fit for the team," Daggett said. "She thought I would have a good spot and fit in with the girls well."

Daggett will not only face the typical changes of adapting to the college level when she heads to Corban, but also will have to adjust to the differences the beach game brings.

Rather than six players on either side of the net,

there are just two in beach volleyball, and the sandy surface adds its own challenges.

Daggett, though, is confident she will hit the ground running.

"I'm a fast learner. With the new skills, it'll be different for me, but I think I'll get the hang of it and be able to adapt pretty quickly," she said.



Contributed photo by Amber Daggett

Union senior Autumn Daggett signs her letter of intent to play beach volleyball for Corban University.

Knapp also believes Daggett has what it takes to succeed, not only in sand but at the college level.

"High level, (it's) quicker, gotta be tougher and gotta be able to be more advanced obviously than high school would be," Knapp said. "I think she's ready for that, ready to move on and take on a new challenge."

Daggett was Union's top attacker during the season. In BMC play she tallied a team-best 170 kills and also had 27 aces and 44 digs. She played both front and back row for the Bobcats, and Knapp thinks that versatility will also help in the transition.

"She was one of my best back row athletes," Knapp said. "That should benefit her."

Knapp said Villalpando and Daggett have similarities as well.

"She's a tough coach.

She's a go-getter," Knapp said of Villalpando. "Very similar to Autumn personality wise."

Daggett also noted that her height — she is shorter than most outside hitters at 5-foot-6 — could actually be a positive in the beach game.

"You have to have two people who can get the ball up and still approach (the net)," she said. "I think that it will help, not being as tall but also having a decent vertical so I can get up and move."

Daggett, who is planning to study elementary education, will have a chance in the fall to get a feel for the sport more, noting the team has some fall competitions.

"I'm just really excited," she said. "It's been a lifelong dream for me to pursue volleyball. It's always been a passion of mine and I really enjoy it."

British Open canceled; Masters delayed

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

The British Open will not be played this year for the first time since 1945, golf officials announced Monday as they tried to reconfigure a major championship schedule that would end with the Masters being played two weeks before Thanksgiving.

Still to be determined is when — or even if — golf can resume depending on the spread of COVID-19 that has shut down sports worldwide.

The R&A announced that the British Open, scheduled for July 16-19 at Royal St. George's in England, will be pushed back until July 15-18 in 2021, leaving the 150th Open for St. Andrews in 2022.

"I can assure everyone that we have explored every option for playing The Open this year, but it is not going to be possible," R&A chief Martin Slumbers said.

The Masters, which was supposed to start Thursday, was rescheduled for Nov. 12-15. That would follow the PGA Championship on Aug. 6-9 at Harding Park in San Francisco and the U.S. Open — still at Winged Foot in New York — for Sept. 17-20.

"We hope the anticipation of staging the Masters Tournament in the fall brings a moment of joy to the Augusta community and all those who love the sport," Augusta National Chairman Fred Ridley said. "We want to emphasize that our future plans are incumbent upon favorable counsel and direction from health officials."

Golf's major organizations have been trying to piece together a puzzle for the last three weeks and each agreed to announce their schedules at the same time in a show of collaboration. Still missing is the starting line, along with details on what could be the

most hectic pace golf has ever known.

The PGA Tour has the most moving parts, and it tentatively has planned to complete its FedEx Cup season close to schedule, with the Tour Championship wrapping up the postseason run on Labor Day. It also is contemplating putting tournaments in dates that previously belonged to the U.S. Open, British Open and Olympics.

"It's a complex situation, and we want to balance the commitments to our various partners with playing opportunities for our members — while providing compelling competition to our fans," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "But all of that must be done while navigating the unprecedented global crisis that is impacting every single one of us."

The new schedule features:

— Aug. 6-9: PGA Championship.

— Aug. 13-16: End of PGA Tour regular season at Wyndham Championship.

— Aug. 20-23: Start of FedEx Cup playoffs at The Northern Trust.

— Aug. 27-30: BMW Championship, second playoff event.

— Sept. 4-7: Tour Championship for the FedEx Cup.

— Sept. 17-20: U.S. Open at Winged Foot.

— Sept. 25-27: Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits.

It was not immediately clear how the teams from Europe and the United States would be determined for the Ryder Cup, although European captain Pádraig Harrington has said he would not be opposed to picking all 12 players.

For the 24 players, that means going from what long has been regarded as the toughest test in golf to what has become the most tiresome three days in golf at the Ryder Cup.

Other details still to be

sorted out is U.S. Open qualifying. Like everything else, it all starts with when golf resumes. The next tournament still on the schedule is Colonial on May 21-24, though that appears unlikely.

Ridley said every player who received invitations to play the Masters in April will stay on the list.

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