

Kohr signs to take to the court for BMCC



Staff photo by Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Union's Brianna Kohr, right, puts defensive pressure on Cove's Austin Kendall during a game earlier this season. Kohr has signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

UNION — Until just a couple months ago, playing basketball at the collegiate level wasn't in the plan for Union senior Brianna Kohr.

Little did she know, though, she was being scouted during her final year for the Bobcats.

And now she is set to play for the school that was watching her.

Kohr on Wednesday signed her letter of intent to play for Blue Mountain Community College, inking herself an opportunity to continue playing a sport she grew up around and loves.

"Sports has always been a big part of my life, and being able to continue that brings joy to me," she said. "I love being involved in stuff like that."

Kohr, who was honorable mention all-state and helped the Bobcats take fifth at state, is a three-sport athlete, also playing volleyball and softball during her time at Union, and initially had hopes of playing softball collegiately.

"That was my dream," she said. "That is what I really loved. I had a few opportunities but nothing that really popped out to me."

College basketball wasn't in the cards for Kohr — or so she thought — until she was approached by BMCC assistant coach Chance Norquist at the 2A state tournament in Pendleton in March. According to Kohr, after the Bobcats' quarterfinal win over Portland Christian, Norquist "came up to me and said he watched a couple times. He told me he really enjoyed my attitude and the way I played. He gave me his card and said to keep in contact."

Basketball is in Kohr's blood. Her mother, Rhondie Rickman-Johansen, is the girls coach at Union and was a former high school player for the Bobcats. Her older sister, Delanie, also played for Union.

Rickman-Johansen said she's excited not only for her daughter to be able to play college ball, but to do so just over the hill in Pendleton.

"I'm super duper excited to have her close by," the coach said.

Playing at the collegiate level is something Rickman-Johansen set out to do after she graduated high school, but she made a late decision to forego playing at Linfield and instead chose to attend the University of Idaho.

"I share with all my athletes about my late decision not to go play, and looking back you can never get it back," she said. "You give up opportunities (and) you



Submitted photo

Brianna Kohr on Wednesday signs her letter of intent to join the Blue Mountain Community College women's basketball team.

get sidetracked."

Part of her message to her players is to not "give up things that are of interest to you or are your passion."

Now she'll get to watch her daughter do just that.

"I am looking forward to experiencing the game at a different level with her," she said. "I want to be her biggest fan — getting to watch (her play) at a different level and be excited that she took the opportunity that was presented to her."

Kohr said she has played basketball consistently since about fourth grade and always enjoyed the sport, but this past season she found a new passion for the game.

"I really learned to fall in love with the game," she said. "I've hit a new level of what basketball has taught me and stuff like that. I feel like last year I really started to open up to what I'm capable of doing. This year we had a really successful basketball season. I opened up and tried new things. By doing that I feel more comfortable and started to fall in love with basketball."

Kohr said she has a defensive approach and a competitiveness that came from her mom. But she also has range on the court. That was put on full display in Union's first-round home playoff win in late February when she connected for 10 3-pointers and went off for 35 points in a 65-31 thumping of Lakeview.

Rickman-Johansen said Kohr's touch from deep was another aspect BMCC liked about her.

"She'll fill a spot as an outside shooter as well as a defensive specialist," she said. "They're setting their sights high. They want to sign the best personnel for their program, and they are positive on her."

Kohr said that Norquist wasn't at that performance but he "heard about it and mentioned it a few times."

She added she wants to develop her ball-handling skills at the next level.

"You also need drivers so my goal is to be more confident with my ball-handling skills so I can be a driver and an outside shooter," she said.

Her mom agreed with the assessment and said Kohr already is "getting more comfortable handling the basketball. She started a workout program, and handling the basketball, making sure she is in tip-top shape, getting into a routine where she is putting up shots" are the focus.

NCAA may allow paid endorsements

By Ralph Russo
The Associated Press

The NCAA is moving forward with a plan to allow college athletes to earn money for endorsements and a host of other activities involving personal appearances and social media content.

The NCAA announced Wednesday that its Board of Governors supports permitting athletes the ability to cash in on their names, images and likenesses as never before and without involvement from the association, schools or conferences.

The next step is for membership to draft legislation by Oct. 30. Plenty of details still need to be worked out, including how to ensure that these sponsorship deals aren't being used as

improper inducements to recruits. A formal vote will be taken by schools at the next convention in January and new rules will go into effect no later than the 2021-22 academic year.

The nation's largest governing body for college sports said it will still seek a federal law to keep individual states from passing their own laws on compensation for college athletes.

The board reviewed detailed recommendations that open the door for athletes to make money on everything from autograph signings and memorabilia sales to signing endorsement deals with companies. College athletes will not be allowed to use their schools' logos or markings in any sponsorship deals.

TVS TREASURE VALLEY STEEL, INC.

Quality Steel Roofing & Siding Products Since 1982

Manufacturing Zee & Cee Purlins
In-House Custom Cut Exact Lengths




- 24 Colors
- Custom Trim
- 2 1/2" Corrugated
- Delivery Available
- Full Soffitt Line
- 3 ft. Gulf Coast Panel
- 3 ft. PBR Panel
- 3 ft. Mesa Panel
- 3 ft. Tuff Rib Panel
- Standing Seam
- 2 ft. Delta Rib
- 3 ft. Pro Panel



40 Year Full Paint Warranty • WeatherX Paint System




ONTARIO

541-889-4214

1460 N. Verde Dr.

Toll Free 1-866-887-8335

BOISE

208-336-7505

6619 S. Supply Way

Toll Free 1-888-717-8335

WWW.TREASUREVALLEYSTEEL.COM




GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL & CLINICS

TELEHEALTH SERVICES

Did you know we expanded telehealth services to offer
GRH Virtual Visits as an option in some of our clinics?

To protect our patients, improve access and convenience, and decrease potential exposure to germs, we have now expanded our award-winning telehealth services to include **Virtual Visits** at many of our clinics!

If a GRH Virtual Visit makes sense for your next appointment, either call your GRH clinic today to find out more, or message your care team via MyChart!



Frank Szumski, DO, Family Medicine—Regional Medical Clinic

Some health concerns are best evaluated face-to-face, so if your provider decides a GRH Virtual Visit is not right for you, please know we're taking every precaution to keep you safe, including screening patients and employees, enforcing strict cleaning routines, and using medical masks and other PPE as the situation requires it. We're committed to keeping you safe and healthy!

For trusted health information you need right now, visit GRH.org or follow us:

facebook.com/grh01
[@granderondehospital](https://www.instagram.com/granderondehospital)