

Nix signs letter to play for Vikings

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

Robbie Nix will play basketball for Portland State University next year.

The 6'1" sophomore signed her letter of intent last Wednesday, accepting the full basketball scholarship offered by the Vikings.

"I'm really excited," said Nix. "It's a great program and I can't wait to play for them next season."

Nix, the Cougars' second leading scorer last winter [13.8 p.p.g., 9.1 r.p.g.], has been a Division I college prospect since high school where she attended West Linn.

"Robbie was a quality Division I player coming out of high school," said Clackamas Head Coach Karen Twain. "I felt that the right step for her was to come and get lots of playing time as a freshman and sophomore and get on the right track academically and she's done that."

"Robbie's worked really hard and she deserves everything she's getting. A lot of colleges were interested in her, but I think Portland State is the right fit for her. She'll step into that program and make an impact immediately."

According to Nix, Portland State was interested in her becoming a Viking when she was a senior in high school. When she opted to play for Clackamas, P S U coaches

kept up communication with her and her family. When signing day came for the towering athlete, the choice was obvious.

"[Portland State] is the best option for Robbie right now," said her father, Glenn Elliot. "It's a great school in terms of education and has great programs that she's interested in like business and sociology. In terms of basketball, the coaches are terrific."

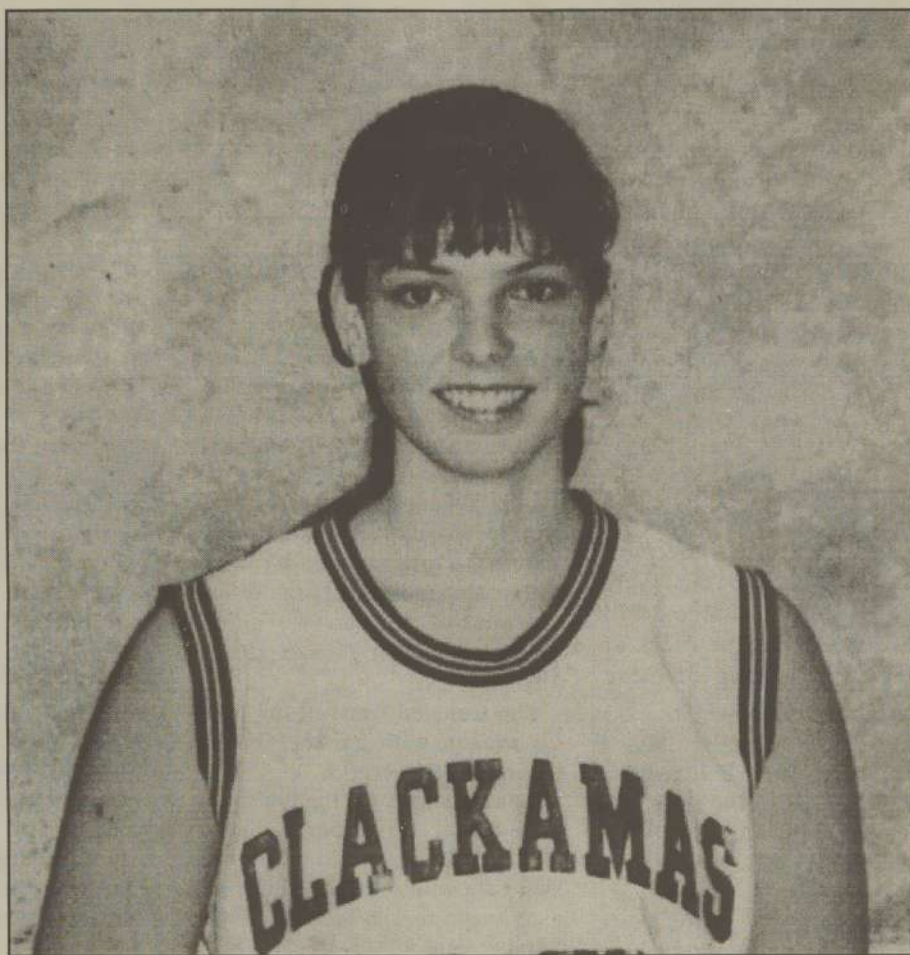
Nix joined the Cougars last winter and made a tremendous impact in her freshman season. Her 6'1" frame is misleading as most opponents expect her play to be restricted to beneath the basket. Her shooting ability, however, is phenomenal with a 36% three-point percentage last year.

"She will definitely be an impact player next year," added Twain. "They need big girls badly and Robbie certainly fits that. She can play guard, she can play inside and outside. Whatever they want of her she is able to do. She's got great speed; she can get up and down the court and is just a tremendous shooter. Even though she was a big college recruit coming out of high school, she's a lot better than she was two years ago. She's really something else."

Nix already has big plans for her days at Portland State.

"I want to take care of my degree first," said Nix. "That's my first priority. Then I want to go for a championship and just contribute in any way I can."

Gina Elliot, Robbie's



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print

Robbie Nix, the Cougars' second leading scorer and top returning player opting to remain in the Portland area, made the commitment to PSU last Wednesday.

mother, remembers the first time her daughter picked up a ball.

"When Robbie first began playing she was pretty small," said Elliot. "We're thrilled for her and extremely proud of all of her accomplishments. Maybe one day she'll be playing in the ABL. We'll settle for the WNBA though."

"I'd like to continue to play after PSU, but I'm just taking things a season at a time and a step at a time. This is another step towards that goal though," added Nix.

This season, Coach Twain hopes that Robbie will step up and be a true leader on the court.

"At every practice she's very intense," said Twain. "I like the idea of playing her at the center spot and then swinging her outside to bring the big girls out on her because they can't guard her. She's just so much quicker. She likes to go inside because she likes to play around with the boards and put a lot of shots back in. She's one of our best outside shooters. She's very versatile and she'll be a real leader and definitely one of our top ballplayers."

Robbie Nix

- Signed letter of intent to play basketball for Portland State
- 6'1" Sophomore
- Graduate of West Linn High School
- 13.8 p.p.g, 9.1 r.p.g.
- 36% three-point percent age



Winter Hawks bolster offensive firepower

KIM HARNEY
Staff Writer

The Portland Winter Hawks are preparing to play their final game of their six game Eastern road trip tonight against the Saskatoon Blades. Ranked number three in all of junior hockey heading into the swing, the Hawks were looking forward to a strong outing in the east. With a record of 16-5-1, the Hawks hope to gain one more win before boarding a bus for their 22 hour ride back to Portland.

The Eastern swing is the first big test for the Hawks in their quest for the league championship. Starting the season with a veteran group of players, the Hawks are looking forward to being front-runners in the division. Recent player moves have made that dream become closer to reality.

The Ottawa Senators, of the NHL, did the Hawks a favor last month when they sent Slovakian winger Marian Hossa to Portland. "Hurricane Hossa" is sure to take this Portland team to great heights. Having 22 points in just 13 games, Hossa has given the Hawks the finish they were looking for. Along with Hossa, Hawks management may have gotten a steal in acquiring winger Josh Green from

the Swift Current Broncos. Green is a veteran WHLer who has certainly made his presence felt on the ice netting 19 goals already in this two month old season.

The Hawks were forced to trade 20-year-old European Ondrej Vesely to the Tri City Americans, due to Hossa's arrival. Although Ondrej was definitely a fan favorite and one of his teammates' favorites, Hossa's arrival has worked out well for everyone. The Hawks also changed the look of the team when they traded center Tyler Murray to Swift Current in exchange for Green. Murray has assumed a bigger role on his new team and assisted on a goal against the Hawks in their first meeting since the trade.

The Hawks are looking forward to the long season ahead; however, the true test is yet to come.

December may be a long month for the younger Hawks. They will be without the services of Slovaks Andrej Podkonicky and Marian Hossa due to the World Junior Championships in Finland. Both could miss up to 10 games for the Hawks. They will also be without 16-year-olds Ken Davis and Ryan Thrussell who will both be at the under-17 tournament in Canada.

The Hawks will welcome the Spokane Chiefs to the Memorial Coliseum on Sunday for the first time this season in their first home game since Nov. 8. The Hawks have been holding on to a one point lead over the Chiefs for first place in the West all season. The head-to-head battle for first place begins Sunday and will continue Nov. 30 when the Chiefs come to town for the second time in a week.



Ottawa draft pick Marian "Hurricane" Hossa