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McNary senior Chandler Cavell, left, signed to play basketball at Corban University. Softball players Nadia Witt, left, and Haley Ebner signed with University of California, Riverside and Eastern Oregon University. Jessy Shore signed to play soccer at the University of New England in Maine.

National signing day at McNary

Witt going to California, Ebner to Eastern Oregon

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary seniors Nadia Witt and Haley Ebner weren't always good at softball.

According to the girls, they were actually quite bad.

"I was so bad. It was rough," Witt said, remembering her early playing days on the Oregon Titans as a nine-year-old. "Going up to bat, almost in tears because I knew I wouldn't hit it. I didn't play that much either. It was so sad. I don't know why I didn't quit but I didn't."

Ebner told a similar tale.

"I would walk up to the plate crying and dragging my bat every time because I just didn't want to go up there," Ebner said.

For Witt, the breakthrough came when she began hitting left-handed. Ebner just needed to open her eyes at the plate.

They both also had to ma-

ture.

"It's a mental game so you can't go up there already defeated," Witt said.

Their coach with the Oregon Titans, Rick Muranaka, confirmed their story.

"They were like the Bad News Bears," Muranaka said. "There was times when they were crying and I had to console them and they'd come up and I'd give them a hug and say, 'You can do it.' I just kept building them up like I would my own daughter, and over time they started to get a lot better."

On Wednesday, April 11, Witt and Ebner celebrated how far they'd come, announcing their college decisions to play softball at the University of California, Riverside and Eastern Oregon.

Ebner committed to Eastern Oregon in December of 2016.

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KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary seniors Nadia Witt, left, and Haley Ebner, teammates since they were 13 years old with the Oregon Titans, will play on different college programs next year.



Shore heading Northeast to UNE

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

When McNary senior Jessy Shore narrowed her college decision down to four schools, not one was closer than 3,000 miles from home.

"I knew I wanted to go somewhere far away," Shore said. "I'm not fond of the midwest and I've been on a couple of (Washington) D.C. trips and I liked the east coast."

Shore got to her final four colleges by using Oregon's Career Information System, which allows students to plug in the major, location and type of college they are looking for and then gives them a list of schools.

After visiting Bridgewater State and Fitchburg State in Massachusetts, the University of New England in Maine and the University of New Hampshire, Shore narrowed her choice down to two and over spring break went to Bridgewater and New England for a second time.

She then signed with New England in the McNary library on Wednesday, April 11.

While Shore was determined to play soccer in college, academics was the most important part of her decision.

"It was definitely first ac-



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary senior Jessy Shore heads the ball during a game played last season.

demics and then I looked at soccer, just because I love it and I didn't want to part with it so soon," Shore said. "I really wanted to play, but I wasn't willing to sacrifice my schooling for the ability to play."

Choosing between her final two came down to team chemistry.

"Both times I met one-on-one with the players and to see how I meshed with their style of living and how they were as people and I bonded

a lot better with UNE and those players," Shore said.

Shore began playing when she was six with Keizer Soccer Club.

"I've never played another sport," Shore said.

"I've always loved it (soccer). I know my first year playing I was one of the worst people on the team. I was definitely not the best player out there but I loved it enough that I kept working at it."

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Cavell to stay home, play at Corban

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

McNary senior Chandler Cavell was ready to follow his brother and walk on at Seattle Pacific University until he met Austin Johnson, head coach at Corban University, late in the season.

And on Wednesday, April 11, Cavell signed with the Warriors.

"I like the coach a lot and being close to home was probably the biggest thing for me, just having a little bit of that security in my back pocket and going home and doing laundry and having my parents to support me," Cavell said.

Johnson attended several of Cavell's games late in the season as McNary finished the regular season on a six-game winning streak to win the Greater Valley Conference.

Cavell played in open gyms at Corban as well as toured the campus before making his decision.

"It was pretty tough for me to pick between there and Seattle Pacific but my family supported me through it all



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

Chandler Cavell, who led the Celtics in points, rebounds, assists and steals last season, will play at Corban University.

so that was nice," Cavell said. "My parents are happy because it's a lot closer so they can watch me."

Chandler is the third Cavell sibling to play a sport in college after Madi and Harry went to Seattle Pacific to play volleyball and basketball. But Chandler never felt pressured to follow in their footsteps.

"My parents did a good job of not forcing me to go into one thing," Cavell said. "They didn't pressure

me into getting a college basketball offer or anything like that. It was something I wanted to do."

Cavell, who has played basketball for as long as he can remember, joined the Keizer Youth Basketball Association in the fourth grade and then began playing on tournament teams in middle school.

McNary head coach Ryan Kirch has known Cavell since he was in the fourth grade.

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