

Sports

THREE BAKER HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS PLAYERS SIGN COLLEGE LETTERS OF INTENT

Trio of Bulldogs makes college plans official

■ Teammates Jayme Ramos and Rose Gwillim will play at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, while Kaden Sand heads to Northwest Christian University in Eugene

By Jayson Jacoby
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Jeremy Vandenboer drove more than halfway across Oregon to claim two-fifths of Baker High School's girls state championship basketball team's starting lineup.

Gresham might become a western extension of Baker City.

Vandenboer, who coaches the women's hoops team at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, left Baker with signed letters of intent from Jayme Ramos and Rose Gwillim, who helped lead the Bulldogs to the Class 4A state title in March.

The senior pair signed their letters Tuesday night in the BHS gym prior to joining their teammates to receive their state championship rings.

Gwillim, 18, said she's excited not only about the chance to play college basketball, but also to extend her friendship with Ramos.

The two, who visited Mount Hood earlier this spring and met some of the school's current players, plan to room together in Gresham.

"I'd love to continue playing with her," Gwillim said of Ramos. "She totally understands the game of basketball. I'm excited about continuing our basketball careers together."

Gwillim said Vandenboer sent her a text early in the season and then stayed in touch through Baker's championship run.

She said coaches from several other schools, including Willamette University in Salem, were interested in her.

"I prayed about it, and I felt like God was telling me it's

"It's fun since Rose is going there too, to experience this with her. I'm excited."

— Jayme Ramos, who will play basketball at Mount Hood Community College with her BHS teammate, Rose Gwillim

Mount Hood," Gwillim said. "Coach Mat (Sand, the BHS coach) also had great things to say about Jeremy."

Gwillim plans to earn her associate degree and then transfer to a four-year school and pursue a doctorate in psychology. She would like to work as a marriage and family therapist, or to work with younger children.

Ramos, 18, said Sand told her after Baker won the state title that Vandenboer was recruiting her.

Ramos said coaches from other schools had also contacted her, but after traveling to Gresham with Gwillim, she decided to accept Vandenboer's offer.

"I think this one's the best fit," Ramos said. "It's not too far. It's fun since Rose is going there too, to experience this with her. I'm excited."

Ramos said she intends to pursue a career in the medical field — she hasn't decided on the specifics.

"I've got time to figure that out," she said with a smile.

Vandenboer, who in his second year at Gresham and led the Mount Hood Saints to the Northwest Athletic Conference championship tournament, said he recruits players from across the West.

He said he learned about Gwillim from an acquaintance whose daughter played against Baker at a holiday tournament.

This year he's been following both Gwillim and

Ramos as they helped lead Baker to the state title.

Vandenboer said he watched all three of the Bulldogs' games at the state tournament via an online streaming service.

"Both fill needs that we have, and both are good kids," Vandenboer said. "I'm excited."

He said it was a bonus to be able to recruit two players who have been teammates for two years.

"They know how to play off each other, so there's that continuity," Vandenboer said.

After Gwillim and Ramos signed their letters, their fellow BHS senior, Kaden Sand, took a seat and signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Northwest Christian University in Eugene.

Sand, 18, will follow in the sneakers of both his dad, Mat, who played at the school, and his older brother, Logan, who will be a sophomore at Northwest Christian this fall.

Mat Sand is a member of the college's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Kaden Sand, who helped lead Baker to the state playoffs and, like his brother, was named Greater Oregon League player of the year, said he has always wanted to play at his father's alma mater.

"I'm really happy to go back and continue the legacy," said Kaden, who was born in Eugene.



Jayson Jacoby / Baker City Herald

Baker High School teammates Jayme Ramos, second from right, and Rose Gwillim signed their letters of intent Tuesday night to play basketball at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham. They were flanked by their high school coach, Mat Sand, far right, and Mount Hood Coach Jeremy Vandenboer.



Jayson Jacoby / Baker City Herald

Baker senior Kaden Sand, second from right, signs his letter of intent to play basketball at Northwest Christian University in Eugene. His dad, Mat Sand, far right, also played at the school, and his older brother, Logan, is a sophomore on the NCU team. Looking on are Kaden's mother, Sherri, and, at far left, his coach at Baker High School, Jabron Jones.

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Lance Lynn allowed two runs over seven innings and Shawn Kelley earned the save hours after learning that two lumps removed from his throat last week were benign.

Lynn (6-3) gave up five

singles and one walk and had a season-high 11 strikeouts in his 200th career start. Kelley allowed a two-out ninth-inning homer to Omar Narváez, who had three hits, in earning his third save of the season.

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