

Penn Kingsmen athletics

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SIGNING DAY FOR PENN STUDENT-ATHLETES

Four Penn High School student-athletes will be participating in the February National Signing Day Event – Kingsmen baseball player Riley Stratford, Kingsmen football players Camden Bohn and Ben Knutson, and Kingsmen softball player Emma Ledbetter.

Stratford, a member of Penn's state championship baseball team, will attend Bethel College and pitch for the Pilots. Quarterback Camden Bohn and offensive tackle Ben Knutson, who helped the Kingsmen reach the Class 6-A state championship game, will continue their academic and athletic careers at Harvard and the University of Virginia, respectively. Emma Ledbetter, a member of Penn's Final Four softball team, will attend Kankakee College and play softball for the Cavaliers.

Penn-Harris-Madison Supt. Dr. Jerry Thacker, Penn High School Principal Steve Hope, Penn High School Athletic Director Aaron Leniski, and Penn High School Assistant Athletic Director Bridget Williams are expected to be in attendance at the event.

"As I often say, 'At Penn High School we do not have athletes. Rather, we have student-athletes.'" Hope said. "These four students embody what it means to be a student-athlete succeeding both on the field and in the classroom. Mr. Leniski and Mrs. Williams, along with all of our coaches, see to it that success in classroom always comes first."

Leniski appreciated the efforts of the student-athletes and the way they have represented Penn.

"Penn High School is extremely proud of all of our student-athletes signing to continue their academic and athletic careers in college next fall. These accomplishments were made possible through work hard, dedication, and perseverance in the classroom as well as in athletic competition. Our Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Thacker, often reminds us that great things don't happen by chance. Through committed parents, teachers, and coaches the students of P-H-M find success in all facets of life."



BASEBALL – head coach Greg Dikos



RILEY STRATFORD – Bethel

Played a huge part in the Penn baseball team's state championship run last season. A 6-foot-4 right-handed pitcher. Had a 6-1 record last season as a junior. Ranked second on the team in most innings pitched for the Kingsmen. Posted a 2.05 ERA and struck out 52 batters. Pitched five scoreless innings in Penn's 3-1 victory against Chesterton in the regional championship at LaPorte.

"I really liked the coaches and I am interested in their engineering program," Stratford said about Bethel.

FOOTBALL – head coach Cory Yeoman



CAMDEN BOHN – Harvard

A 6-foot-5, 225 quarterback. Named the Indiana High School Athletic Association Mental Attitude Award Winner in football. Led the Kingsmen to the Class 6-A state championship game. A dual-threat quarterback. Gained more than 1,000 yards rushing and passed for more than 1,000 yards in the 2015 season. Has a 4.0-plus grade-point average. "Cam has set the standard for all future Penn quarterbacks," said Penn assistant coach Brandon Tugmon. Harvard is gaining a talented athlete, but also a well-rounded young man."



BEN KNUTSON – Virginia

A 6-foot-7, 285-pound offensive tackle. A valuable asset to the varsity for four seasons. Has also played defense. Anchored an offensive line that strong-armed opponents on the way to the state championship game. "Ben is a very versatile athlete," Penn offensive line coach Brent Laidig said. "He has played three different positions over the past four years, and has excelled in all. Virginia is gaining a talented athlete and should expect good things from him."

SOFTBALL – head coach Beth Zachary



EMMA LEDBETTER – Kankakee

The fifth senior on the Penn High School softball team to earn a college opportunity playing softball. "Emma has been a key player for the Penn Softball team throughout her career," Penn head coach Beth Zachary said. "Emma has a strong arm, powerful bat, and the ability to play both infield and outfield defensively for us. Emma's positive attitude and disciplined work ethic are the things that we love the most about her and are what will make her such a huge asset to her coaches and teammates at Kankakee in the future. We are looking forward to cheering Emma on as she finishes out her time here at Penn as a senior leader and moves on to become a collegiate athlete."