



Penn
KINGSMEN

Penn Athletics

Signing Day

**Principal Sean Galiher
Athletic Director Jeff Hart
Assistant Athletic Directors Bridget Williams and Marie Doan**

Student-Athlete	College	Sport/H.S. Coach
RYNE BUCKLEY	Lake Erie College	Baseball/Greg Dikos
BEN GREGORY	Maryville University	Baseball/Greg Dikos
ZACH HOSKINS	Lake Erie College	Baseball/Greg Dikos
CARTER McFARLAND	Ashland University	Baseball/Greg Dikos
GRACIE BOBO	Lawrence Tech	Basketball/Kristi Ulrich
JADA PATTON	University of Indianapolis	Basketball/Kristi Ulrich
MARIANO RETZLOFF	IUPUI	Cross Country/Track - Tom Miller/Chad Wetzel
JULIE SMITH	IUPUI	Cross Country /Track - Michael Clements/Melissa Danner
GILLIAN LIPPERT	Bethel College	Golf/Katie Bella
KALEY BUTLER	Bethel College	Lacrosse/Annie Eutsey
AVERIE PRATT	Winchester College	Lacrosse/Annie Eutsey
MADI BOTTORFF	Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis	Swimming/Jess Preston
INGRID FRETZ	University of Cincinnati	Swimming/Jess Preston
ALYSSA MESSENGER	Ball State University	Swimming/Jess Preston
TOMAS SALAS	IUPUI	Swimming/Jess Preston
EMMA HICKEY	Valparaiso University	Volleyball/Lisa Pawlik



#nationalsigningday



BASEBALL
LAKE ERIE COLLEGE

Ryne Buckley

RYNE BUCKLEY



Penn baseball and football player Ryne Buckley will continue his academic and athletic career at Lake Erie College.

Buckley, a 6-foot-2, 180-pound Senior, will be a catcher for Lake Erie.

During his Junior year for Penn Baseball, Buckley hit .369 (24-for-65), 5 doubles, 3 home runs, 17 RBIs, .538 slugging percentage, and hit .333 with runners in scoring position. Defensively, he had a .976 fielding percentage, (83-for-85 in total chances).

“I chose Lake Erie because of the home feeling I got on my visit,” said Buckley. “Everyone was welcoming and very nice. Coach Hutch is an amazing coach who I would love to play for in college.”

According to Buckley, Penn baseball has helped him prepare because of his teammates around him, “They help me to become a better player and teammate.”

Penn Senior Baseball Leader Zach Hoskins said that Buckley has qualities that will help him succeed in college.

“Ryne has the ability to lead through the good and bad times,” Hoskins said. “Along with that is his resilience, no matter what type of adversity he is faced with, which makes him such a great teammate. You always want him on your side of the field, because he will not stop fighting until the end.”

#nationalsigningday



BASEBALL
MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY

Ben Gregory

BEN GREGORY



Penn Baseball's Ben Gregory has committed to Maryville University in St. Louis.

"Maryville felt like home as soon as I stepped on campus," Gregory said. "The coaching staff made me feel like a part of the Saints family from the first conversation. I also chose Maryville for the sports business management program and all of the connections and opportunities that it offers."

Gregory, a 6-foot-3, 180-pound right-handed starting pitcher for the Kingsmen, led Penn to a Northern Indiana Conference championship last season. During the 2021 season, Gregory had an impressive 1.11 ERA overall, complemented by an outstanding 0.00 ERA in conference play. He helped the Kingsmen with a 7-0 record in his starts at pitcher. He also had a batting average of .367 and 11 RBIs.

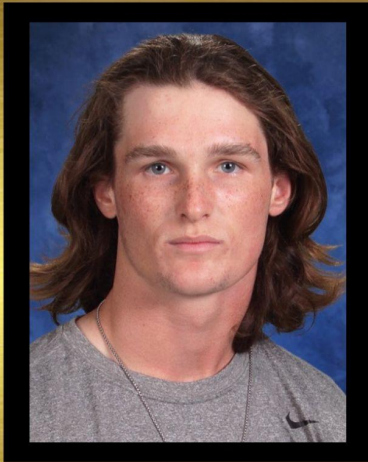
"Penn Baseball showed me how the next level teams, practices, and coaching staffs operate," Gregory remarked. "Coach Dikos and the rest of the coaching staff gave me, and every other player who has entered the program, every possible opportunity to succeed."

Gregory won both Conference MVP and First Team All-Conference honors in 2021 and will look to continue his success on the mound this season as a second year starter.

According to Penn Baseball Head Coach Greg Dikos, Gregory has the tools he will need to compete at the college level.

"Not only does he have a great arm, but he also can run and swing the bat," Dikos said. "I would not be surprised if he is a two-way player in college I see him making an immediate impact in his freshman year."

#nationalsigningday



BASEBALL
LAKE ERIE COLLEGE

Zach Hoskins

ZACH HOSKINS



Penn baseball and football player Zach Hoskins will continue his academic and athletic career at Lake Erie College.

Hoskins, a 5-foot-10, 170 pound Senior, will be a center fielder for Lake Erie.

During his junior year for Penn Baseball, Hoskins hit .412, 9 doubles, 18 RBI's, 20 HBP, and hit .367 with runners in scoring position.

"I chose Lake Erie because after my visit and talking with Hutch, he explained to me how they are rebuilding the relationship of the team and making it more of a family. I hope to help with rebuilding the chemistry, along with Buckley and also finding out what career path I want to pursue outside of baseball with the great business program Lake Erie has to offer."

According to Hoskins, Penn baseball has gotten him prepared for the collegiate level. His teammates around him have shaped him into the person and player he is today.

Penn Junior Baseball Leader Cooper Hums said that Hoskins has a great work ethic that will help him succeed in college.

"Hoskins is a great teammate and always encourages everyone to do their best. In practice and in game. He is a teammate that pushes everyone to do their best on and off the field."

#nationalsigningday



BASEBALL
ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

Carter McFarland

CARTER MCFARLAND



Carter McFarland will be continuing his athletic and academic careers at Ashland University.

"I picked Ashland University because I connected better with the coach," McFarland said. "He teaches a lot of the things I grew up working on."

Carter McFarland, a 6-foot-4, 180-pound right-handed pitcher/first baseman, appreciates the culture of the Ashland program.

"The players were very welcoming," McFarland said. "The campus was a perfect fit for me as an incoming freshman in a new state. Also, the program is very successful."

McFarland credited Penn with playing a key role with his development.

"Penn has helped me by showing me what playing hard and competitive baseball looks like."

Head coach Greg Dikos believes that Carter will thrive in college.

"Carter is great at doing the little things," Dikos said. "He doesn't talk about it - he gets it done. He is selfless and puts his teammates before himself. He commits and takes it one day at a time then follows and attacks the process."

#nationalsigningday



BASKETBALL
LAWRENCE TECH

Gracie Bobo

GRACIE BOBO



Gracie Bobo, a 5-foot-10 senior shooter and a three-year varsity player for the Penn Girls Basketball team, has committed to Lawrence Tech University.

Bobo has carved out a reputation as an outstanding team player and is highly regarded for her shooting skills. She's made tough shots when the team needs them and played key roles as the Kingsmen earned Northern Indiana Conference and Sectional Championships last season. Penn finished the 2020-2021 campaign with a 21-4 record.

"I chose LTU because I loved the school as a whole, and I loved the coaches and just the environment at the school," Bobo said.

Bobo said that Penn's program has helped her earn an opportunity to play college basketball.

"Penn Girls Basketball has helped me to be disciplined and has taught me to work hard on the court and in the classroom," Bobo said. "Coach (Ulrich) has helped me by instilling important lessons like time management, team work, and just working hard in general."

Penn Head Coach Kristi Ulrich said Lawrence Tech is getting a true winner in Bobo.

"Gracie is a driven and hardworking student athlete who is passionate about the game and her teammates," Ulrich said. "Gracie is a culture contributor and has really grown into a leader here at Penn. She excels in the classroom, just like on the court.

"Gracie is a long lanky guard that has tremendous sharp shooting abilities," Ulrich added. "LTU's opponents will not be able to lose her on defense or she will make them pay from the outside."

#nationalsigningday



BASKETBALL
UNIV. OF INDIANAPOLIS

Jada Patton

JADA PATTON



Jada Patton, a 5-11 senior power forward and a three-year varsity player for the Penn Girls Basketball Team, will be taking her skills to the University of Indianapolis.

Patton was a key player for a Kingsmen team that was ranked No. 1 in the state for several weeks last season. She helped the Kingsmen earn Northern Indiana Conference and Sectional Championships last season. Penn finished the 2020-2021 campaign with a 21-4 record.

"I chose the University of Indianapolis because I fell in love with the coaching staff, they're amazing people and I know they can help me succeed at that next level," Patton said.

Patton said that Penn has prepared her for collegiate athletics.

"Penn Girls Basketball has helped in the way of how this program we don't settle for average," Patton said. "We compete everyday and challenge each other.

"Coach Kristi Ulrich has helped prepare me for the next level by showing me everything is earned and not given, not only on the court but off the court in life as well."

Penn head coach Kristi Ulrich said that Patton has the skills to thrive in college basketball.

"Jada is a match-up nightmare for opponents because of her level of versatility to her game," Ulrich said. "She is physical and can dominate on the inside. Jada also has the ability to handle the ball and attack the rim with her most unique quality being her ability to see the next play before it even happens. She has a solid feel for the game and an excellent court vision."

Coach Kristi Ulrich believes University of Indianapolis is getting an absolute beast that has the potential to have a stellar four-year career.

#nationalsigningday



Kaley Butler

KALEY BUTLER



Kaley Butler will continue her academic and athletic career at Bethel University.

Butler also played basketball her freshman year but decided she had a bigger love of lacrosse and wanted to focus on that. Bethel is giving her the opportunity to pursue her passion for Lacrosse.

Butler chose Bethel because she wanted to stay close to home and she has great connections with the coaches. She also said that it's a great business school that has a lot to offer and a lot to get involved in.

Butler said that Penn Lacrosse has taught her how to work with people more closely in a team environment, and with accountability and responsibility.

Penn Girls Lacrosse Head Coach Annie Eutsey said that Butler has developed into a player with great potential.

“Over the last 4 years, Kaley has become a great lacrosse player,” Eutsey said. “She was new to lacrosse her freshman year, she put a lot of effort into becoming the player she is. Kaley always goes out and gives 110 percent effort every time. Even hurt, Kaley wants to be in the game and feels a sense of defeat when she cannot help her teammates out. For her, it's about the team and her teammates.”

#nationalsigningday



LACROSSE
WESTMINSTER

Avarie Pratt

AVARIE PRATT



Avarie Pratt will be attending Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., to further her academic and athletic careers.

Pratt has been very involved at Penn, competing in Wrestling, Rugby and Powder Puff in addition to Lacrosse.

“Westminster was everything I was looking for in a school,” said Pratt, who will major in business. “The campus is beautiful and the people there are super kind. Everyone holds the door for everyone, even if they’re a football field away.”

According to Pratt, Penn Lacrosse has taught her how to be a leader and to push herself to be a better player and teammate. Coach Eutsey had told her girls to never say “I can’t,” and Pratt said that has reflected directly on her academics and work ethic.

Coach Eutsey said that Pratt has been a key contributor to Penn Lacrosse.

“Over the last four years, Avarie has worked really hard at becoming the best defender she can be,” Eutsey said. “She has put in work outside of Lacrosse and Lacrosse season working on her defensive skills. I have seen tremendous growth in Avarie the last four years. Avarie is also a great leader for her teammates. Always cheering them on, giving them advice and helping them in drills.”

#nationalsigningday



Mariano Retzloff

MARIANO RETZLOFF



Mariano Retzloff, who led the Kingsmen Boys Cross Country Team to a 17th-place finish at the State Championship this year, has committed to IUPUI.

“I chose IUPUI because it was the college that I felt the most at home with,” Mariano says. “I liked the coach, the team, and the atmosphere the best there.”

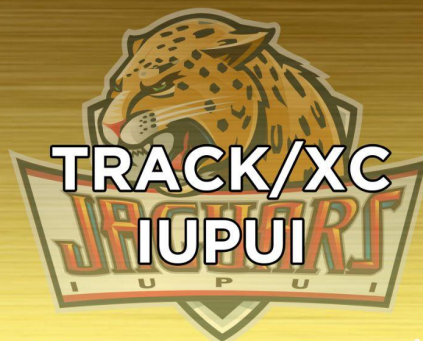
Running at Penn has allowed Retzloff to improve not only as a runner, but as a person as well.

“I’m so fortunate to be able to have run at such a nice school with a great coaching staff, like Coach Miller and Coach Wetzel and all the other assistant coaches,” Retzloff said. “They definitely helped me with my training and pushing me to be the best runner I can be, and also with my character, just being the best person and student I can. They’ve really done a great job preparing me for the college level.”

Penn Boys Cross Country coach Tom Miller says that Mariano’s competitive nature and work ethic will allow him to compete at the college level.

“There are several skills that will help him at the collegiate level,” Miller said of Retzloff. “Mariano has a great competitive nature. Everything he does year round is guided by that competitive nature. Mariano sets high goals for himself. From season to season he sets high goals, which sometimes seem a little lofty to me, and then he always seems to find a way to achieve them. He makes the necessary training adjustments by increasing workload to set himself up for success. He works hard in the weight room to improve his strength, which pays off at the end of races when he needs to change gears to fight off his competitors. He goes to the start line with a race plan that is well designed for each course and his top competitors. Mariano does all of these things because he is a tenacious competitor.”

#nationalsigningday



Julie Smith

JULIE SMITH



Julie Smith, who medaled at the state championships and led the Kingsmen Girls Cross Country Team to a 12th-place finish, has committed to IUPUI.

“A huge reason I chose IUPUI was because of the coach,” Smith said. “He is relatable, but full of discipline at the same time. Just through my visit to the college, I already felt comfortable being myself around him instead of having to act professional or on my toes at all times. The girls themselves were also extremely welcoming and everything just felt like it clicked. As for the campus, it’s beautiful and right in the heart of Indy, which allows for many opportunities for adventure and things to do. I overall just see myself being very happy there.”

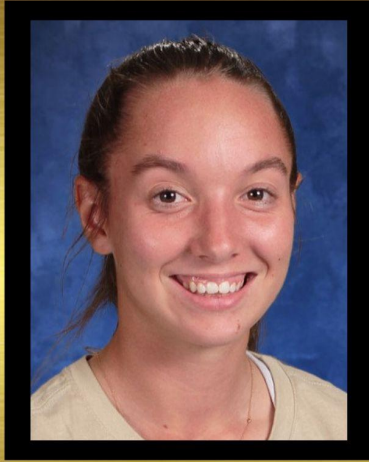
Running at Penn has prepared Smith for the collegiate level.

“Something I learned from my time at Penn XC is team unison and camaraderie,” Smith said. “It’s natural to want to be the best on your team, so when I first joined cross country my junior year I really wanted to be number one. But throughout my junior season I realized that I couldn’t be a good teammate if I was upset when one of the girls beat me. So I took a moment to put everything in perspective and start truly celebrating everyone’s triumphs, and that’s a mindset I will keep with me forever. I will always push myself to be my best and achieve my goals, but I’ll never be jealous or upset at a teammate for having a better day.”

Penn Girls Cross Country coach Michael Clements says that Julie’s ability to handle adversity will help her succeed at the college level.

“ I would say Julie has an incredible ability to handle adversity which I think is one of the most important characteristics, not just for college, but life.” Coach Clements continues, “ She is also one of the more responsible, hard-working, and caring students I’ve coached in 16 years.”

#nationalsigningday



GOLF
BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Gillian Lippert

GILLIAN LIPPERT



Penn Girls Golfer Gillian Lippert will continue her academic and athletic career at Bethel University.

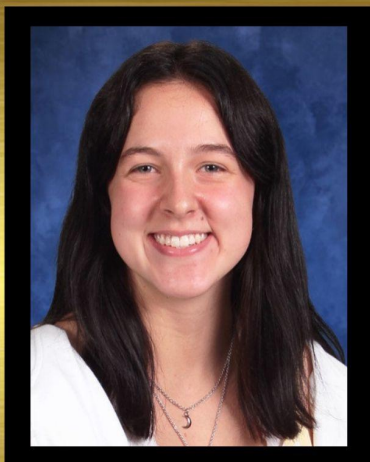
For the past two years, Lippert has been a member of the varsity golf team at Penn. She helped lead the Kingsmen to an 11th-place finish at the state championship in 2021, as well as advancing to regionals in 2020.

"I chose Bethel because it's a smaller college, and I already have great connections with the team and coaches," Lippert said. "I'm most excited to get closer with the team and experience new environments and make new friends."

Fellow senior golfer Meghan Mounts said that Lippert is a great teammate and believes that she will thrive at the collegiate level.

"For the past two years, Gillian has been a great teammate to play with, and I think that she will be the same with her new teammates in college," Mounts said. "She is really good at forming relationships, and I think that will help her succeed in college."

#nationalsigningday



TRITONS
SWIMMING
MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Madi Bottorff

MADI BOTTORFF



Senior Madi Bottorff will be continuing her academic and athletic careers at the University of Missouri-St Louis.

“I chose UMSL because I felt like I belonged there,” Bottorff said. “The swimmers and the coaches made me feel like I was a part of the team from the moment I visited.

“I felt like it was the perfect fit for me both academically and athletically. I felt like I would be happy there.”

Bottorff specializes in the 100-yard freestyle (53.50) and the 50-yard freestyle (24.45).

Bottorff received two scholastic All-American awards for the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay. She was named All-Northern Indiana Conference in all three relays. Bottorff has also qualified for state every year of her high school career.

“The training I received from the Penn swim program helped me grow to become the swimmer I am today and ultimately helped me prepare for collegiate swimming,” Bottorff said. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without being pushed to do my best at every practice and every meet. It was physically and mentally challenging but the work paid off.”

Senior teammate Alyssa Messenger said that Bottorff is an “Amazing teammate whose happiness is contagious.”

#nationalsigningday



SWIMMING
UNIV. OF CINCINNATI

Ingrid Fretz

INGRID FRETZ



Senior Swimmer Ingrid Fretz will continue her academic and athletic career at University of Cincinnati.

“I chose the University of Cincinnati due to the amazing coaching staff and team culture,” Fretz said. “When I came to the campus, it felt like a second home, and the opportunities they offer are incredible!”

Fretz hopes to make an impact for the Kingsmen this season. She would not only like to be the best athlete she can be, but the best teammate she can be as well.

As a Sophomore, Fretz was a State Finalist in three events for Northridge, including helping the Raiders’ 400-meter Freestyle Relay team place fourth in the state.

Fretz plans to continue competing in her best events at University of Cincinnati which are the 500 freestyle (4:59.35), the 200 backstroke (2:04.68), and the 1,000 freestyle (10:34.71).

#nationalsigningday



SWIMMING
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Alyssa Messenger

ALYSSA MESSENGER



Senior Alyssa Messenger will be continuing her academic and athletic careers at Ball State University.

“I chose Ball State because of the coaching staff and environment,” Messenger said. “The campus and team felt like a home right away, and their program is up-and-coming. I knew that I could be very successful there.”

Messenger specializes in the 100-yard backstroke (56.41) and the 200-yard backstroke (2:00.87). She was a Scholastic All-American, All-Northern Indiana Conference in 100 back all three years.

Messenger has represented Penn at state as a Freshman, a Sophomore and a Junior, and is expected to be an impact performer once again for the Kingsmen Swim/Dive Team.

“The Penn swim program has helped prepare me for collegiate swimming by helping me balance swim and school,” Messenger said.

Senior teammate Madi Bottorff said that Messenger has a “...positive mental attitude that helps both herself and her teammates continue to thrive.”

#nationalsigningday



Tomas Salas

TOMAS SALAS



Penn High School State Finalist Diver Tomas Salas will compete at the collegiate level for IUPUI.

Salas placed 11th in the state, and helped the Kingsmen earn a fifth-place finish in the State Championships.

“I chose IUPUI because I knew they had an amazing program and had everything I needed,” Salas said. “They were an absolute perfect match for what I was looking for. They compete in 1-meter and 3-meter springboard and that is perfect for what I do. They have everything I need to become the most amazing diver I can be.”

Salas said that IUPUI has state-of-the-art facilities. IUPUI has hosted the IHSAA State Championships as well as Pan Am and Olympic Trials events and NCAA Championship events.

“I’ve been pretty set on IUPUI,” Salas said. “I haven’t talked to many other colleges because of how great of a fit it was for me.”

Salas didn’t start diving until he was a Freshman. He transitioned from freestyle trampolining in middle school to competitive diving in high school.

“I didn’t know anything about diving coming in freshman year,” Salas said. “My friend Dominick George and I ... we just kept pushing each other, and we had the courage. That was the main thing for us. We wanted to look good during our dives and just do new things and practice super hard. The freedom to create my own workouts has been the greatest thing for me at Penn with diving.”

#nationalsigningday



VALPO
VOLLEYBALL
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Emma Hickey

EMMA HICKEY



Penn Volleyball player Emma Hickey will take her academic and athletic talents to Valparaiso University.

Hickey helped the Kingsmen earn a No. 1 ranking in the state this season. The Kingsmen won Northern Indiana Conference, Sectional and Regional Championships this season, earning an appearance in the Final Four.

According to Hickey, Valpo offered the best academic and athletic opportunity close to home. She loved the environment along with all the coaches and teammates.

Hickey said that Penn volleyball has prepared her for moving into the Division 1 level with intense practices and the understanding of being a part of a culture. Her family has also helped her because they have pushed her to work harder everyday. She has three older sisters who played Volleyball at Penn and went through the recruiting process.

“Emma is a student of the game,” Penn Volleyball Head Coach Lisa Pawlik said. “She is an exceptional teammate and encourages others to raise their level of play and give to each other. She works hard, leads, and finds a way to win. These are huge attributes at all levels.”

Hickey’s high school honors include Northern Indiana Conference First-Team All Conference, Second-Team All-State, Burger King Athlete of the Week, and a four-year starter.