



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
Payton Adkins	Hillsdale College	Basketball/Kristi Ulrich
Mariano Retzlöff	IUPUI	XC & Track/Tom Miller/Chad Wetzel
Brendan Arendt	University of Indianapolis	Football/Cory Yeoman
Joe Goralczyk	DePauw University	Football/Cory Yeoman
Jamie Hurst	Ohio Northern	Tennis/Eric Bowers



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**BASKETBALL
HILLSDALE COLLEGE**

Payton Adkins

PAYTON ADKINS



PAYTON ADKINS, Hillsdale College

Payton, a 5-foot-8 guard and senior leader for the Penn Girls Basketball team, will continue her Academic and Athletic careers at Hillsdale College.

Adkins is an amazing team player, having the composure to shoot and drive under pressure, as well as make tough decisions on the court. She is also a relentless defender, and has helped the Kingsmen post a 19-6 record along with a Sectional Championship.

"I chose Hillsdale because its academics are well respected, and the coach's system was a fast-paced game that I like," Adkins said. "The team just made me really feel welcomed and that I belonged there."

Adkins stated that the Penn Girls Basketball Program has helped her prepare for collegiate athletics.

"Penn Girls Basketball has helped me to learn how to overcome challenges and adversity while also teaching me and growing my leadership skills," Adkins said.

The Penn Girls Basketball staff has taught Adkins important life lessons along with basketball.

"Coach K has helped me to grow as a leader and prepare me for the transition to the next level not only on the court, but in life, too," Adkins said.

Adkins averages 4.1 points a game and 1.7 assists a game. She averages 1.3 steals and 2.6 rebounds a game.

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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."

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FOOTBALL
UNIV. OF INDIANAPOLIS

Brendan Arendt

BRENDAN ARENDT



BRENDAN ARENDT, University of Indianapolis

Brendan Arendt will continue his academic/athletic careers at the University of Indianapolis.

Arendt helped Penn claim a Sectional title in 2021. He led the Wild Bunch Defense with six QB sacks, and broke up three passes, forced two fumbles and made 35 tackles.

“I chose UIndy because of the promise that they can help set me up for when I get out of college, with internships that could lead to a job in my field,” Arendt said. “I also chose them because everything is on campus and closely conjoined, like I probably don’t need a bike to get around campus. And they had a history of winning on their football team, with seven out of 10 conference championships and some deep runs in the playoffs.”

“Penn Football has prepared me for this by making me not only the best player I can be, but also making me the best man I can be,” Arendt said. “Under the leadership of Coach (Yeoman) and the other coaches, I have learned what it means to be a gentleman off the field and an animal on it. Also, all of life’s lessons in the real world, I’ve learned from the Football field, and those lessons I have learned will help me later in life when football isn’t there anymore.”

Penn teammate Wallace Kennach said that Arendt is an outstanding leader.

“Playing with Brendan has been incredibly fun,” Kennach said. “We both were able to laugh and make jokes but get serious when needed to. He was always checking up on me and was always open to help with any question I had. Something we share very well is our competitive nature. I can’t remember there being a practice where we were not competing. He always pushed me to do my best and I did the same to him. He is a great friend and an all around great teammate and is definitely someone I look up to.”

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JOE GORALCZYK



JOE GORALCZYK, DePauw University.

Penn Senior Football offensive lineman Joe Goralczyk is signing with DePauw University.

The 5-foot-10, 230-pound center helped clear the way for 2,712 yards of total offense, and helped the Kingsmen win a Sectional Championship.

"DePauw is a great school," Goralczyk said. "I felt at home when I was down there visiting and I felt that I would fit in and be successful there."

Goralczyk said that his Penn Football experience as the anchor of the Gold Rush offensive line has helped prepare him for the collegiate level.

DePauw is a traditional Division III Powerhouse.

"The teams we played against these past couple seasons really helped to prepare me," Goralczyk said. "My coaches have always pushed me to get better and make me the best player I could be."

Penn Offensive Line Coach Brent Laidig said that Goralczyk has the tools to be an impact player at DePauw.

"I think Joe will have a great future at DePauw," Laidig said. "He has a great work ethic that will treat him very well both on and off the field. I am very proud of Joe and his accomplishments at Penn and I'm very excited to follow his college career."

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Jamie Hurst

JAMIE HURST



JAMIE HURST, Ohio Northern

Jamie Hurst will be continuing her Academic and Athletic careers at Ohio Northern in Ada, Ohio. During her career at Penn, she has helped lead the Kingsmen to three Sectional Championships entering her senior season.

“I chose the university because the team was all super welcoming and I felt I was friends with them even though I had just met them,” Hurst said.

According to Hurst, she chose the university because while at a tournament there, she met the coach and he was really interested in her. She then went on an official visit and the coach gave her a full tour. She even met the team and felt a connection.

Hurst made her gratitude toward Penn Tennis very obvious.

“Penn tennis has shown me what it's like to be on a team,” Hurst said. “Before Penn tennis, I had done team events, but I'd never really been on a team. I feel like I've really bonded with people on Penn tennis and it really prepared me to be a better player and teammate.”

Hurst made a huge impact for the team, starting at No. 1 singles as a freshman and holding that position as a sophomore and junior entering her senior season.

Penn Girls Tennis Head Coach Eric Bowers said that Hurst is a skilled student-athlete who has the talent and experience to thrive at the collegiate level.

“She's been playing across the country for a long time,” Bowers said of Hurst. “Also, even with missing a year to COVID, the team has done tremendously well and Jamie stepped in as a freshman and played line one singles, which will definitely help at the next level.”