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Lakeland students make final choices; accept athletic scholarships

Sports >>

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By Patrick Pinter
SPORTS WRITER

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Lakeland High School added another chapter to its successful athletic history with the announcement on May 21 that eight of its student athletes will be continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

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Lauren Memmer, Kera Dukic, Kevin Lanier, Danny Taylor, Megan Bouwens, Mike Tolman, Emily Miller and Jennifer Muller were honored for their achievement.

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Memmer, a phenomenal pitcher for the Eagles softball team, received a scholarship to the University of Detroit Mercy. She broke the Michigan state record for wins in a career last week in the

second game of a doubleheader against Pinckney. In that game she collected her 140th victory on the mound.

The Lakeland senior also helped the Eagles to a 37-0 record this year and helped Lakeland secure its fourth straight Kensington Valley Conference title.

"They really made me an offer I couldn't refuse," said Memmer. "I really wanted to play at a Division 1 school, plus I really liked their medical program."

Taylor will be taking his football skills to Adrian next year. Taylor, a standout linebacker for the Eagles, will stay at the linebacker position with Adrian. He also

was team captain, and his leadership skills helped Lakeland to a 6-4 record last season and state playoff berth.

"I really wanted to find a place that was a good fit athletically and academically," said Taylor. "That led me to Adrian. The school really said they wanted me, and they said they saw a lot of potential for me."

Bouwens will also be going to Adrian to continue her athletic career. She will be joining the basketball team there.

During her Lakeland career she collected numerous awards. She was an All-State Honorable Mention and set a new single season scoring record at Lakeland.

"Megan has been the face of the Lakeland basketball program for the past two years, my first two years as the varsity coach," said Lakeland head coach Mike Head. "I am very proud of her, because this marks the realization of one of her goals. I look forward to watching her play at the next level."

Dukic, a four year standout for the Lakeland volleyball team, will be heading off to Arkansas Tech University this fall. She was a Second-Team Class A All-State selection this past season and was a two-time All-Metro, two-time All-County, two-time First-Team All-League and All-Region selection and was a three-time member of the All-Area team, including being the All-Area MVP this past season.

She also was Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association scholarship recipient. Dukic was one of eight players across Michigan. The scholarship is awarded to players who demonstrate leadership, character and outstanding academic performance throughout their high school career.

"Before deciding to go there a lot of things were running through my mind," said Dukic. "As I was leaving from my visit, they put an offer on the table with a deadline. I didn't have much time to think about other schools, but after making one other visit I knew this was the right choice."

The Lakeland track program will see one of its own heading to the Division 1 college ranks next year. Kevin Lanier will be heading to Ypsilanti next year to become part of the Eastern Michigan track team.



Lanier was recruited by other schools, but he chose to go with EMU. He is capping off his high school time with a fantastic senior year. Breaking the school long jump record was just one of his many accomplishments this season. He competes regularly in the hurdles, high jump and long jump events for the Eagles.

"I really feel like I fit in there, plus I have family in the area so it was an easy choice," said Lanier. "They have a great business school and that what I plan on studying in college."

Other athletes moving on to the college ranks for Lakeland include Mike Tolman, soccer at Alma, Emily Miller, cheer at Central Michigan University, and Jennifer Muller, pom and dance at Oakland.

"These guys are going to be missed," said Lakeland athletic director Greg Michaels. "It is hard to find tremendous leaders on the field and court like these."

Patrick Pinter is a sports reporter for the Milford Times. He can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 25 or by e-mail at ppinter@gannett.com.

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