



Nov. 13, 2024

## Seven Badin High athletes make college commitments

Seven members of the Class of 2025 at Badin High School made their college athletic commitments today during a Fall Athletic Signing reception in the school's Pfirman Family Activity Center. Included in the ceremony were four Division I athletes, including Badin's first-ever college rowing commit.

"These are always great days," Badin Athletic Director Geoff Melzer said. "We've had an outstanding fall in team sports – and these student-athletes are among the individuals who help our teams be so successful. They're going to help their college teams be successful as well."

Division I commits included women's volleyball players **Luci Heid**, who will attend Northern Kentucky University; and **Olivia Schmidt**, headed for Wright State University; women's soccer player **Abby Mathews**, en route to Austin Peay (Tenn.) University; and women's crew oarsman **Becca Kraft**, who will attend the University of Alabama in a rowing program that was recently added to the prestigious Southeastern Conference (SEC) list of varsity sports.

"No matter where you're playing college sports, at what school and in what division," Melzer added, "the fact that you are playing at the next level is a great accomplishment. These students are making a commitment to excellence, just like the excellence they have shown as student-athletes at Badin High School."

Those making their college athletic commitments:

- **Kade Bowling** will play baseball at Southern Wesleyan University, a Division II school in Central, South Carolina. Kade is the son of Ry and Hannah Bowling of Hamilton and a graduate of St. Peter in Chains. He plans to major in Business.
- **Luci Heid** will play volleyball at Northern Kentucky University, a Division I school in Highland Heights, Ky. Luci is the daughter of Brian and Kelly Heid of Hamilton and a graduate of St. John Dry Ridge. She plans to major in Biology.
- **Becca Kraft** will be a member of the women's crew at the University of Alabama, a Division I school in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Becca is the daughter of Adam and Tracy Kraft of Fairfield and a graduate of Sacred Heart School. She plans to major in Chemical Engineering.
- **Chase Luebbe** will play baseball at Lincoln Trail College, a community college in Robinson, Ill. Chase is the son of Steve and Michelle Luebbe of Hamilton and a graduate of St. Peter in Chains. He plans to major in Sports Management.
- **Abby Mathews** will play women's soccer at Austin Peay University, a Division I school in Clarksville, Tenn. Abby is the daughter of Jeff and Andrea Mathews of Fairfield and a graduate of Sacred Heart School. She plans to major in Speech Pathology.



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- **Olivia Schmidt** will play women's volleyball at Wright State University, a Division I school in Dayton, Ohio. Olivia is the daughter of Alan and Angela Schmidt of Hamilton and a graduate of Lakota Plains Junior High. She plans to major in Biology.
- **Jazmine Starks** will play women's volleyball at Lincoln Memorial University, a Division II school in Harrogate, Tennessee. Jazmine is the daughter of Jason and Angela Starks of Fairfield Township and a graduate of Fairfield Crossroads Middle School. She plans to major in Business.

The three volleyball girls – **Luci Heid, Olivia Schmidt** and **Jazmine Starks** -- were mainstays on Badin's front line and helped Badin capture four straight district championships during their careers. As seniors, the trio combined for 662 kills and each was an all-GCL Coed selection. Heid was named the GCL Coed Division Player of the Year as a senior and led the league in kills for two straight seasons. A four-year varsity player, Heid notched 1,378 kills in 366 sets on teams that went 84-26 (.763) and reached the Division II state semifinals her sophomore year. Schmidt was an all-league choice in back-to-back years and finished with 554 kills before suffering a season-ending knee injury during the 9<sup>th</sup> game of her senior year. Starks transferred back to Badin and over her final two years played an important role in helping Badin win 20 matches each year for head coach Courtney Weinheimer.

**Abby Mathews** was a four-year starter on girls' soccer teams that won four straight GCL Coed Division titles. The 5-foot-2 dynamo was a three-time all-GCL Coed selection and as a freshman played in every match for a team that did not lose a game until the Division II regional finals (14-1-6). Abby finished her career with 23 goals and 19 assists and was a prime performer on Badin teams that have won back-to-back district crowns for head coach Chris Slusher.

**Kade Bowling** and **Chase Luebbe** are looking forward to their senior baseball seasons after helping lead Badin to the Division II state championship game as juniors. Bowling, a 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman, hit .293 and tied for the team league in RBIs with 29. Luebbe, an outfielder, hit .398 and added 25 RBIs. Both were second team all-GCL Coed selections as juniors and are two-year varsity contributors for teams that have gone 56-9 in 2023 and 2024 for head coach Brion Treadway.

**Becca Kraft** tried several sports at Badin before falling in love with crew through the Great Miami Rowing Club on the river in Hamilton. She is Badin's first women's rowing signee and will row for a University of Alabama squad that is now a member of the SEC. In previous seasons, women's crew at Alabama had been a Big 12 member, but on Aug. 23, SEC athletic directors voted unanimously to add women's rowing as the conference's 13<sup>th</sup> women's sport.

Senior **Erica Kuhnash** has committed to play softball at Wittenberg University, and will sign early next year. Senior **Caroline Boyle**, who reached the Division II state tennis competition three straight seasons, is expected to commit to play college tennis in the near future. In addition, junior **Braelyn Even**



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has committed to play women's soccer at the University of Cincinnati, and junior **Chandler Taylor** just announced that he will play baseball at the University of Alabama.

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