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Nine Seniors Sign NCAA National Letters of Intent
Saint Joseph Academy Senior Student-Athletes Commit to Colleges and Universities

Nine outstanding Saint Joseph Academy student-athlete Seniors signed NCAA National Letters of Intent on Wednesday, November 9. Four Jaguars signed to different Division I colleges and universities for crew: Catherine Gallagher and Maxine McGuire signed to Canisius College, Emma Gassman committed to Michigan State University and Molly Miller will attend Duquesne University to participate in their crew program.

The softball program was also well represented at signing day. All three of this year’s softball seniors will continue their academic and athletic careers in college: Maddie Kimble will attend the University of Maine, Mackenzie Milligan committed to Baldwin Wallace University and Sydnie Whitaker signed to Gannon University.

For other sports, Isabelle Robertson will head to Belmont Abbey College to participate in their golf program and Morgan Schauer will be playing hockey at Robert Morris University.

Catherine Gallagher of Lakewood will be rowing next season at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. She has raced in the finals at the Midwest Scholastic Championships for the last two seasons, earning a silver medal as a junior. Catherine was also the Jaguar Pride Award winner which is presented to one Saint Joseph Academy athlete per season.

Emma Gassman of Avon will be competing next season for Michigan State University in the Big Ten Conference. She coxed the Junior 8+ boat that finished second at nationals in the spring. Emma was part of the Junior 8+ team that won first place at Midwest in 2015 and 2016 and is a three-time qualifier to the national championships. She was named the Novice of the Year in 2014 and has been a varsity letterwinner since her sophomore season.

Maxine McGuire of Cleveland will join Catherine Gallagher next season on the Canisius College crew team. McGuire has been a two-year letterwinner and received the Top Oar award last season as a junior. As a junior she earned a silver medal at nationals in the J8+ after finishing first at Midwest. As a sophomore at Midwest, she was second in the 2V4+ and third in the 2V8+.

Molly Miller of Cleveland will head to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to row at Duquesne University. She was in the Jaguar boat that placed first at Midwest her freshman, sophomore and junior seasons. At the Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) National Championships Molly placed 10th as a freshman, 6th as a sophomore and 2nd as a junior. She is a two-year letterwinner for the Jaguars.

Maddie Kimble of Avon, a three-year letterwinner, has won several awards. This past season, she earned the Defensive Player of the Year award for her stellar play at third base (fielding percentage of .933 in 104 total chances). Kimble ranked second on the team in RBI’s (20) and home runs (3) last season. She hit .311 last
season at SJA with a slugging percentage of .478. Kimble also pitched in 13 games (27 total innings) and struck out 10 batters while only allowing 29 hits. She was the Jaguars’ Offensive Player of the Year in 2015 after posting a slugging percentage of .862 which helped her earn a nomination for the Plain Dealer/Cleveland.com Player of the Year Award. Maddie will be playing for the University of Maine, a NCAA Division I softball program that competes in the American East Conference.

Mackenzie Milligan of Cleveland will head to Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio, a NCAA Division III school that competes in the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC). Milligan had a slugging percentage of .425 last season while adding 14 RBI’s and a pair of home runs. Defensively, the first baseman, only committed one error in 153 innings. Milligan is a three-year letterwinner at Saint Joseph Academy.

Sydnie Whitaker of Brunswick Hills, the starting catcher for the Jaguars from day one, was named Honorable Mention All-NEO last season along with earning team MVP honors. Last spring, she hit .387 with a .634 slugging percentage. Whitaker hit four home runs and drove in 36 runs. She also threw out 50% of base runners last season (16 of 32). She plays on the Ohio Power Premier Team and hit .411 in the summer and .394 in the fall. Whitaker will be joining Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania for their softball program that plays in the NCAA’s Division II Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Isabelle Robertson of Cleveland will be joining NCAA Division II Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, North Carolina. She was the Academy’s top golfer for the past two seasons. Her last round was her best as she shot a career-low for 18 holes in the sectional tournament on the Legacy Course at Sweetbriar in Avon Lake (finishing 26th out of 72). She consistently medaled in matches throughout the season and was a letterwinner both her junior and senior seasons. She received the Coaches Award for Saint Joseph Academy golf in 2015. She dramatically improved each season, as she reduced her scoring average by 13 strokes from 2015 to 2016. She plays golf on the North Coast Junior Tour and ranked 14th on the tour, finishing in 11th place at the Tour Championship.

Morgan Schauer of Fairview Park will be joining the women’s hockey program at Division I Robert Morris University, outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Schauer is a member of the girls Under 19 Pittsburgh Penguins Elite team. She was selected to attend the USA Hockey National Player Development Camp each year from 2013-16. She led her team in assists last winter. She is also a three-year letterwinner for the track and field team in shot put and discus.

Congratulations to these student-athletes for their dedication in the classroom and in their respective sports!

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Now in its 126th year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only all-girls Catholic high school in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of more than 725 young women, Saint Joseph Academy is rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph and works to foster unifying relationships with God and all creation. Each young woman is empowered to achieve academic excellence, and inspired to a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Saint Joseph Academy is located at 3470 Rocky River Drive in Cleveland. For more information, visit [www.sja1890.org](http://www.sja1890.org) or call 216.251.6788.