

The Chronicle

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10 Seniors Headed to Play College Athletics

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Staff Writer

National Signing Day has come and gone. Colleges are shaping their teams up for the future and many student-athletes have finally finished their college process. Episcopal has been included as part of this process as 10 seniors are moving on next year to take their athletic skills to college. Please congratulate Dominique Badji, Bennett Jones, Shantell Bingham, Nancy Walker, Taylor Wilson, Bailey Patrick, Alex Henry, Nick Weeden, Tom Hurley, and Reid Nickle, who all signed letters of intent to play their respective sports in college.



(Photo by Elizabeth Watts)

Nickle, Bingham, Badji, Jones and their coaches on Signing Day

All of their hard work over the past four years has paid off and helped these gifted athletes to take their skills to the next level. Let us take a look at each one of them.

Reid Nickle rushed immediately into the athletic spotlight

freshman year running cross country. Dominating the cross country course throughout his career, Nickle has been a leader of the EHS cross country team ever since he set foot on campus back in the fall of 2007. Also a lead-

er on the track team, Nickle has been breaking and setting new school records in all his competitions, most recently setting the school record for the 1,000-meter in indoor track, while also demonstrating true acts of sportsmanship, which were even the subject of an article in the *South Bend Tribune*. Next year, Nickle will be taking his talents to Wake Forest and running for the Demon Deacons.

For the past four years, no one has dominated the track in Flippin Field House more than Shantell Bingham. Coming from an athletic family (her brother competed in the Beijing Olympics in 2008), Bingham had a lot of hype to live

up to at EHS. Not only has she lived up to it, however, but she also has exceeded expectations by absolutely shattering and reshattering countless school records. After an injury plagued her sophomore year, Bingham came back more determined than ever and has set records on the track that will likely never be broken. Next year, Bingham will be running for the Cavaliers of UVA.

Dominique Badji and Bennett Jones both played soccer for Episcopal their whole EHS careers. Making his varsity debut in 2008, Jones led the Maroon to two consecutive state championships and an incredible 63-game unbeaten

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unbeaten streak in goal. Badji joined Jones junior year to help the Maroon to their second state championship. Jones's amazing hand skills and quick reflexes have made him one of the toughest keepers to get a ball by, while Badji's crafty footwork and quick strikes have made him a deadly weapon on the field. Jones will be playing for William & Mary next year, while Badji will move up north to play at Boston University.

Nick Weeden and Tom Hurley are two of only three seniors who have been on the varsity lacrosse team all four years at Episcopal. Their unique cradling skills and quick snipes have led them to become leaders of the EHS lacrosse team. Having a lot to live up to after his brother left, Hurley worked hard and showed that he could uphold the Hurley name. After a torn MCL left him on the sideline his junior year, Hurley looks to come back and finish out an unbelievable lacrosse career at EHS this spring. Both Weeden and Hurley will head north next year, with Weeden headed to Brown University and Hurley headed to play at the University

of Delaware.

Two EHS seniors will be heading to Bowdoin College next year as they plan to play sports way up in the chilly weather of Maine. Over the past four years Nancy Walker has put the softball team on her back, pitching multiple no-hitters and setting numerous strike-out records. Leading the team for the past four years, Walker first found success her freshman year, bringing the ISL title to EHS. Taylor Wilson has guided the girls' lacrosse team for the past four years, leading the team in goals almost every year. Both of these girls will be great representatives for EHS athletics while up in Maine.

Bailey Patrick has led the EHS golf team for the past three years and looks to continue his winning ways this spring in his final season. Battling tough opponents all over Virginia and the D.C. area, Patrick has transformed golf at EHS, leading the team to wins over Woodberry and its first state championship in a dramatic victory last spring. Patrick will continue to lead while playing for the Tar Heels at UNC.

And last but not least, the Bear. Alex Henry has dominated

wrestling in the cage for the past four years. Trained by Russians and coached by Castles, Henry usually overtakes his opponent within matters of seconds. With an incredible finish of fourth at the Beast of the East Tournament

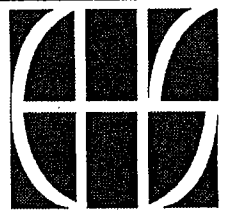
this fall, Henry will be a force to reckon with at Franklin and Marshall.

These 10 seniors have represented EHS over the past four years with dedication and pride, and we should all be excited to

see them represent the Maroon and Black for the next four years as they take to college arena. When you see them in the halls, wish them luck on their future careers.

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