

History in the Making: Centralia College Signs First 10 Players in Program History

By Brandon Hansen / bhansen@chronline.com | Posted: Monday, January 18, 2016 8:46 pm



CC Womens Soccer Team (Jan 15)

Centralia College Womens Soccer Head Coach Horst Malunat posts with (from L-R) Tumwater's Selesha Harrah, Jamie Crews, Michelle Gleason, Megan Roorda, Kelsey Aselton and Sidney Rees. Along with Joni Lancaster, Sierra Seymour and Hailey Dickinson, these players signed with Centralia College for the 2016 season — the first in program history.

Centralia College wrote the first page in the history of its women's soccer program on Friday in the foyer of the Michael Smith Gymnasium. Newly-hired head coach Horst Malunat — who started soccer programs at Pierce College and Skyview High School — announced the first 10 players to sign for the Trailblazers.

“We have a clean slate and that’s exciting for the players and that’s exciting for me,” Malunat said.

What’s also exciting is the number of local players on the squad. All of Malunat’s announced players are from Southwestern Washington and most have played with or against each other.

Rochester’s Sierra Seymour, who also plays softball for the Trailblazers, and three-sport standout Joni Lancaster were the first two to sign at the ceremony because Lancaster had to head to a basketball game against Forks.

Lancaster was an 2015 Chronicle All-Area Girls Soccer pick after helping lead her Evergreen 2A/1A Division team to a 9-5 record and operated an offense that scored 60 goals total. Seymour, an accomplished All-Area soccer player herself, was one of the first people to contact Malunat about the new team.

“Soccer is my favorite sport but I also wanted to play softball,” Seymour said. “So there was this opportunity here and I took it.”

Both Lancaster and Seymour added that playing as teammates once again is something they’re looking forward to.

Another Evergreen 2A/1A Division athlete that signed with the team is Tenino’s Megan Roorda, who is thinking about becoming a teacher. She liked the idea of being part of history as a member of the first Trailblazer team.

“It’s really cool to be able to be the start or something,” Roorda said. “We really get to make it our own.”

Malunat also signed two Central 2B soccer players: Napavine’s Emily Dickinson and All-Area defender Kelsey Aselton of Adna.

“The nice thing is our fan base will be local and they've been energetic and want to follow the team,” Malunat said.

Winlock's Michelle Gleason is transferring from Lower Columbia College to play for the Trailblazers, after playing for Malunat when he was the coach of the Toledo-Winlock United girls soccer team.

Malunat also signed Selesha Harrah and Jamie Crews from Tumwater High School, along with Timberline High School's Keely Thomas and Black Hills' Sidney Rees.

Also in attendance at the signing of the players were three of the four Centralia College vice presidents and CC athletic director Bob Peters.

Malunat expressed gratitude for the support that the budding program has gotten from the college and the Port of Centralia — which has land that the college will construct their new facility and field at.

Rob Potestio, who was Malunat's assistant coach at both Pierce and Skyview, was in attendance as well and will be a coach for the Trailblazers.

The NWAC soccer season begins in the Fall.

Malunat hopes to expand his roster to 20 for the first season, and will continue to receive letters of intent as they arrive.