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Chloe Jenatscheck switches out the court for the deep end- Page 13

A healthy diet can be accomplished with a few small changes- Page 7

Smith continues volleyball career

Caitlyn Smith opens up about her future at Drake and her past volleyball experiences.

By: Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

Most students are always trying to find out what they're doing after high school. Everybody goes somewhere different to follow their dreams, and for junior Caitlyn Smith, her dreams are taking her to Drake University on a full-ride volleyball scholarship.

Getting involved

Smith has been playing volleyball for quite a while. "I've done club volleyball since fifth grade and I started school volleyball in seventh grade," she said.

Smith initially joined volleyball to get involved with different activities, but didn't realize how much she would fall in love with the sport. "I love both school and club volleyball because they both have great advantages," Smith said. "In school ball I'm playing in front of all my classmates, but in club ball I get to meet all new people and make more friends." Smith plays for the Iowa Rockets in club volleyball based in Iowa City.

As a setter, Smith got recruited before a hitter or defensive specialist would. "I started to look into colleges and contact their coaches my freshman year, and the offers for recruitments came my sophomore year," Smith said.

Smith couldn't be more excited about her new experiences and looks forward to what will come in college. She is mostly looking forward to the volleyball part of college and playing with a whole new team, but is also looking forward to the academics and what is to come between classes and other activities.

Different team members have already been in contact with her and she is getting to know who her teammates will be and the people she will be walking around with on campus.

Proud coach

Mrs. Roxanne Paulsen, Smith's high school volleyball coach, is so proud of Smith and can't believe all that she has accomplished in such a short amount of time.

"I think it is such an exciting opportunity for her," Paulsen said. "She's worked so hard over the years to put herself in a position that she would be able to play volleyball in college, and she will

be a great addition to the team."

Teammates: old and new

Although most of Smith's teammates and coaches will miss her next year, they are proud of her for her accomplishments.

"I'm extremely proud of her! She has worked so hard and spent so much time becoming the...player she is today," said Bella Sade, '17, three-year teammate to Smith. "She deserves everything she has accomplished so far."

Holly Faley, '19, is also proud of her teammate. "She worked very hard and deserves this... She'll do amazing things at Drake."

Smith will, of course, remember all of her high school teammates when it's all said and done. "All of my teams are my family and will stick out to me in different ways and I will remember different memories from each team," she said.

Whether it's messing around on the court with her teammates and making jokes they will always remember, or if it's the team bonding they do outside of practices, or even the games and tournaments they will look back on, Smith has had amazing teams and hopes that will continue in her next experiences at college.

Making the choice of Drake U.

When Smith started looking into colleges, a few that stuck out in her mind were University of Nebraska-Omaha, Southeast Missouri State, and Drake University. "I really liked all of the colleges I looked into, but Drake University stuck out to me the most because of the coaching

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-Caitlyn Smith, '18

styles and the location. Drake was much closer to my home," Smith said.

Smith made her decision on Drake University and verbally committed the summer after her sophomore year. "I am so excited to continue my volleyball career at Drake University," Smith said, "my favorite part of Drake would have to be how close the team and everyone else is. I love it."

Drake University was a place where Smith found herself and felt at home. Between walking around the campus and eating in the cafeteria, or playing on the court, Smith found the place for her and she hasn't regretted that decision.

Drake University offered Smith a full ride, so she will get to go play volleyball at a place she loves without having to worry about the price of an expensive college. "That was a really nice bonus to being able to play the sport I love, is that I don't have to worry or stress about the cost while there," Smith said.

Prepping for her future

Although Smith still has two more years to play school and club ball, she is getting ready for her future and focusing on doing what she loves. Going to Drake will be an amazing experience. Of course Smith will always remember the great memories she made in high school playing volleyball, but she is excited to make new experiences in college.

Although most students are still stressing out about where they're going after high school and what they want to do with the rest of their life, they will eventually figure it out just like Smith did. Playing volleyball for a D1 school will be amazing and she couldn't ask for a better opportunity.

Caitlyn Smith, '18, yells in triumph after winning a game with her club team out of Iowa City, the Iowa Rockets.



Students doing things



Hayden Wahlstrom, Brenna Johnson, Sydney Brase, and Joel Schillinger, all '17, are all going to HC together.



Summer Williams, '19, is asked to HC by someone from a different school.



Rick Atkins, '19, asks Kayba Laube, '20, to HC with a basketball and poster.



Alex Gillaspie, '17, asks Morgan Swanger, also '17, to HC with a box of donuts.

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