

SIGNING DAY: Oak Ridge celebrates 10 student-athletes

By Jon Poorman, Staff writer Updated 4:13 pm CST, Wednesday, February 3, 2021

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Kendall Starika signed to run track for the University of Missouri during a National Signing Day ceremony at Oak Ridge High School, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2020.

OAK RIDGE NORTH — Kendall Starika might not be looking forward to cold winters in Columbia, Mo. But she is definitely looking forward to beginning her college track and field throwing career in the Show Me State.

Starika is headed to the University of Missouri and celebrated her commitment to the Tigers on Wednesday, along with nine other Oak Ridge student-athletes, as part of National Signing Day.

Starika and the rest of the signees were recognized at a ceremony in front of family, friends, coaches and teammates.

"It's really exciting, and it's really rewarding," said Starika, who qualified for state in the discus as a sophomore before her junior season was shuttered due to the coronavirus. "It's something I've been waiting on for a while, so I'm glad it's here. ... I remember thinking about this when I was a little kid, so it's surreal that it's actually happening."

The Oak Ridge football program had the most signees with three. KC Ossai is headed to play at Louisiana-Lafayette, Stacey Williams will continue his career at Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and Nick Osborne will join the program at Aurora (Ill.) University.

Ossai and Williams were first-team All-Montgomery County players at linebacker and offensive line, respectively, helping Oak Ridge capture its first playoff wins since 2002.





"We've all been working toward this, and seeing everyone be successful is just amazing," Ossai said. "We've been working hard in the weight room, working hard in school, and I'm just happy for all of them that they were able to do this with me."

The softball program had two signees. Kaitlynn Martinez will continue her career at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colo., and Erika Flynn will be playing for Fort Hays State in Hays, Kan.

Other Oak Ridge signees included Jett Feltman (baseball, Fort Scott Junior College), Madison Hall (volleyball, Chowan University), Michaela Morgan (bowling, Upper Iowa University) and Lucas Hickey (soccer, Ohio Northern University).



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