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(Neb.)-McLain one of six to sign with CSC volleyball



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CHADRON – Six volleyball players have signed National Letters of Intent, Chadron State College head coach Janel Baily announced Wednesday.

Jazzy McLain of Chadron, Mariah Conyers of Bellwood, Neb., and Alexandria Lukac of Phoenix, will be incoming freshmen, while Brittany Oddo, Nikki Schmidt and Ana Kasljevic join the Eagles after playing volleyball at the junior college level.

"We are extremely excited for these student-athletes to join our volleyball family," Baily said. "They are all great athletes, fantastic students and awesome people."

The six signees join Alia Brennan of Chadron, Shelby Gardner of Colby, Kan., and Hanna Flaming of Benton, Kan. All three signed with CSC during the early signing period in December.

McLain, a defensive specialist and Chadron native, was named the Cardinals' Defensive Player of the Year and earned all-conference and all-region honors. During her senior season she had 186 digs, 134 set assists, 22 aces and nine blocks. She also played on the Cardinals' basketball team and competed in track and field.

She's also been honored by the Chadron Kiwanis Club and the National Honor Society.

Conyers was an all-conference and all-state setter for Aquinas Catholic. During her final two years of high school, she served 81 aces, had 841 set assists, 132 kills, 54 blocks, 202 digs.

She was named to the academic all-state team twice, the academic all-conference team four times and will participate in the Rural Health Opportunities Program at Chadron State.

Oddo, a defensive specialist from Peoria, Ariz., had 355 digs and served 19 aces at Scottsdale Community College last season. In high school, she was named second team all-region and helped lead Sunrise Mountain High School to the West Valley Championship in 2009. She was also named the team's MVP.

Schmidt, a right side hitter from Merino, Colo., joins the Eagles after having a successful stint at Northeastern Junior College. She was named to the Region IX All-Region Team and the All-Tournament Team following a season in which she had 224 kills, 127 digs and 66 total blocks.

In high school, she was her team's MVP three times and an all-state first team choice in 2010. She set two school records her senior season – most kills (306) and blocks (109) – and was her high school's athlete of the year after. She also excelled in track and field, winning three gold medals her senior season, and was active in several extracurricular activities.

Lukac, a defensive specialist from Phoenix, averaged nine set assists and 2.4 digs per set at Basha High School. Her high school team played in several national tournaments and were the eighth seed in the state tourney.

Kasljevic, a middle blocker from Banja Luka, Bosnia, who graduated from Heritage High School in Littleton, Colo., is the final student-athlete to ink with the Eagles. She played two seasons at Otero Junior College and had

124 kills and 73 blocks her sophomore season.

“All of these girls are going to improve the competitiveness of our team,” Baily said. “I’m already excited for fall camp to begin.”