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(Neb.)-CSC women's basketball adds five



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 07/08/2013 09:22 AM

CHADRON – Two high school seniors, two junior college players and one transfer have each signed National Letters of Intent to play women's basketball at Chadron State College, head coach Tim Connealy announced Monday.

Both Havannah Newens of Mitchell and Maddie Metzger of Georgetown, Texas, will have four years of eligibility, while Kelsey Lesmasney, Leana Tajkov and Stephanie Knowles join the Eagles after playing at other schools.

Connealy, who is entering his sixth season at Chadron State, is excited about the class.

"We are very pleased to have these student-athletes join our program," he said. "We were able to add quality depth at nearly every position.

These young women are all great students, workers and players. Combined with the players returning from last season, I'm excited to work with the talent and depth we are now able to put on floor."

Newens, a 5-foot-7 guard from Mitchell, was a three-year letter winner for the Tigers. She averaged 13.4 points, 5.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 2.3 steals per game as a senior and was named to the Western Trails Conference First Team. She also was Western Conference honorable mention and excelled in track and field, qualifying for the state meet three times.

She also played volleyball, was the senior class president and an academic all-state selection.

Metzger, a 6-foot forward, helped Liberty Hill High School in Texas win three district championships and played in the state championship game. She averaged 11.4 points, seven rebounds and two blocks a game during her senior season and was named first team all-district.

In addition to leading the Panthers in scoring, blocks and rebounds, she made over 82 percent of her free throws to lead Division 3A in Texas and was a three-time all-district academic selection.

Tajkov, a 6-1 post player and a native of Serbia, played at the University of Mobile three seasons and has one year of eligibility remaining. She was an NAIA All-Academic selection for the Rams while starting 21 of 31 games as a junior. She averaged 2.7 points and 1.9 rebounds a game and shot over 43 percent from the field. While in high school at Gimnazija Becej in Serbia, she averaged over 15 points per game and scored 48 points twice.

Knowles, a 5-10 forward from Colorado Springs, Colo., had two excellent seasons at Trinidad State. During her sophomore campaign, she averaged 13 points, 6.7 rebounds and 5.2 assists a game. She also added one block and 2.5 steals each game. She scored a career-high 29 points and led Region IX with 146 assists.

She was a team captain, started in every game and made the all-region team. She was also voted her team's MVP. As a freshman, she averaged 6.5 rebounds.

Lemasney, a Modesto, Calif., native and 5-8 shooting guard from Merced Community College, was a two-time All-Central Valley Conference selection. She averaged 7.8 points, 3.4 rebounds, 1.3 assists and 1.6 steals a game while leading the Blue Devils to a 19-11 record in 2012-13.

She averaged 5.5 points and 1.23 assists a game her freshman season and scored 354 points in her two-year career. She also owns the school record for most 3-pointers in a game with eight.

In high school, she was named First Team All-League and was honorable mention all-district.

The Eagles will also have senior Kayli Rageth, a 6-0 forward from Kimball, on the 2013-14 roster. Rageth joined the Eagles at the start of the second semester but had to sit out a year because of transfer rules.

Rageth was a valuable shooter at Hastings. She hit 37 percent from 3-point-range for her career, including 45 percent as a sophomore. She set a number of records at Kimball High, including scoring the most points in school history with 1,386.

Connealy said he expects to sign more student-athletes this summer.