



# Make room for another Marshall at CU

## Skyline's Shaye Marshall will join sister Nikki on Hempen's squad

By Joshua Lindenstien  
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LONGMONT, Colo. — Colorado soccer star Nikki Marshall isn't exactly the class-skipping type. So it's little surprise that she wasn't able to take part in younger sister Shaye's letter of intent signing ceremony at Skyline High School on Wednesday afternoon.

But make no mistake. Big sis certainly played a role in the occasion.

Shaye Marshall made her decision to follow Nikki to the University of Colorado official when she signed to play soccer for the Buffs in front of several friends and family members in the Skyline commons area. And Nikki might have been Shaye's biggest recruiter.

"She loved (CU) so much that I think it was just awesome to hear how great of a program it was in soccer and what a great school it was," Shaye said. "She was always trying to have me lean toward CU. I think it's just really exciting. I've always wanted to play at a D-I school and I think it will be awesome to play with Nikki."

Shaye Marshall, who also had interest from Wyoming, Denver, Northern Colorado and Wisconsin, became part of a growing contingent of Boulder-area girls soccer players who have decided to stay close to home to play for coach Bill Hempen's Buffs.

Her signing and that of Niwot's Lauren Shaner will give the Buffs six local productson its roster next fall. Nikki Marshall (Skyline), Amanda Foulk (Broomfield), Kelly Ross (Monarch) and Kate Russell (Silver Creek) all return to the squad.

"I don't know if it's the water or what," Hempen, who signed six players overall on Wednesday, said of the local connection. "It's not something we set out to do. It just kind of happens. The kids are interested in us and they're pretty darn good players."

Hempen said he believes his program is beginning to reap the recruiting rewards of its sustained success in recent years. Local kids have now grown up watching and idolizing players like the Munnelly sisters, Katie Griffin and of course Nikki Marshall.

"The program isn't a secret to these kids," Hempen said. "They see it and they see the positives of being at a very good school and a very competitive program. And it's right in their own back yard. And they're saying I want that. I want to be part of that."

Shaye Marshall, who has begun making a name for herself at the high school level, said she isn't worried

about playing in the shadow of her sister, who played for the United States in the U-20 World Cup last fall.

"I think she's such a great role model that it's cool to follow in her steps," Shaye Marshall said. "She's my best friend."

Marshall's and Shaner's signings highlighted a banner day across the area for local girls soccer players.

Marshall's teammate, Haley Juarez, signed to play at Northern Colorado, and Shaner teammate Lauren Braman committed to Nevada.

Boulder High, meanwhile, had four players sign letters of intent. Katy Van Lieshout signed with a successful Denver Pioneers program. Goalie Alaina Martin signed with Loyola Marymount. And Danielle Wasserman and Brittany Bittner made their commitments binding to Holy Cross and Colorado School of Mines, respectively.

The Panthers' talented senior class, which also includes Division-III recruit Sarah Hagerty, has them excited for their final season this spring.

"Our class has come really far," Van Lieshout said. "We've been together forever. It's awesome seeing so many girls who have progressed in soccer and are able to play at the collegiate level."

As for football, the top signing in the area Wednesday came from Niwot linebacker Jeff Roueche, who will play at Wyoming. Erie monster defensive tackle Cees Doxsey signed with Mesa State.

Lyons senior standout Andrew Roberts, meanwhile, highlighted the local cross country and track commitments, signing with Colorado State.



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