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Ex-Lady Patriot to pursue zoology career

Miyamura High School's Yael Morgan will be taking her athletic skills onto the volleyball court next season at Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D.

The former Lady Patriots superstar signed a letter-of-intent May 19 to attend the Division II institution come August. Morgan is one of a few area student athletes to sign at a four-year school in any sport this summer.

"I'm very happy with my decision," Morgan said in a telephone interview with the Sun last week. "It's far. But it is somewhere where I felt comfortable, and is somewhere that I felt was the best option for me."

David Scott, the head volleyball coach at Miyamura High for the past seven years, said Morgan played setter and outside hitter for the Lady Patriots, who finished last year with an overall 13-6 record. He said Morgan averaged around 10 kills per game, with an eye-popping 22 assists per game from the setter position.

Morgan, who played varsity volleyball for three years and JV one year, played other positions for the Lady Patriots while at MHS, too. Scott said the fact that Morgan played club volleyball in the offseason helped her with timing and aggression.

"She is a very versatile and intelligent player," Scott said. "She was our team leader and

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captain. She helped our team tremendously each year."

Morgan, 18, said she weighed a couple of other scholarship offers from two small schools in Kansas. She said a couple of months ago, she took a visit to Mount Marty College with her parents and felt it was the right choice.

"I really liked the campus and I liked the town," Morgan, a Vanderwagen resident, said. "I'm happy for the opportunity."

Morgan said she'd like to study biology and pursue a career as a zoologist upon graduation. She leaves for South Dakota the first week in August.

Cotillion Sneddy, Morgan's mother, said she's excited that her daughter is going off to college and equally elated that she'll be playing college volleyball against a whole new competition level.

"Yes, I am very excited," Sneddy said, adding that she's happy her daughter will be fulfilling her dreams. "We will miss her and I know that she will do great in college."

A private Catholic liberal arts institution, Mount Marty College is part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The Lancers play in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.

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