

Drummonds Signs with ECU

Written by Staff Reports

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Watauga High senior Taylor Drummonds has made her decision, and instead of playing softball, a sport she's mastered over the years, Drummonds has accepted a track scholarship and will attend East

Carolina University in the fall. Drummonds made it official on Monday when she signed her national letter of intent. Drummonds said she'll primarily do the pole vault, but also could run the hurdles and possibly some sprints at East Carolina. She may even throw the javelin.

Drummonds, who moved to Boone from Palm Coast, Fla., midway through her freshman year, was a state qualifier in the pole vault at the Class 4A State Indoor Championships in February and finished fifth. She was WHS' only place finisher at states.

She also qualified for the Class 4A outdoor championships last spring and finished ninth.

Drummonds, who also ran the 100-hurdles at the state outdoor meet last spring, is also a member of WHS' softball team. She was 4-5 with a double, a triple and three runs-batted-in last Friday in a 17-2 win against East Carolina.

Drummonds was also recruited by Lenoir-Rhyne to run track and play softball. Drummonds says she will primarily run track at East Carolina, but playing softball there is still a possibility.

"It's exciting knowing that I'm just doing track, because this year with softball is kind of like closure," Drummonds said. "I'm excited to start this season with (WHS coach) Stephanie (Kostis) and finish strong."

Drummonds' interest in the pole vault stems from her father, Jeff Drummonds, who also did the event and was the track coach in Palm Coast. When Drummonds transferred to Watauga, she started doing the event under former pole vault coach Daniel Isaacs in her sophomore year.

"Something clicked and I loved it," Drummonds said. "It's so frustrating and it's such a mental thing. Athletically it's hard, but it's also such a mental game. Every jump is different, but it's also very worthwhile.

"I try to do a workout on the weekends. I did some pole vaulting on Saturday and some hurdling on Sunday. Games and meets will definitely override practice. I'll practice softball most days and pole vaulting if I can when the weather's nice."

The WHS softball team (2-1) travels to West Forsyth today; WHS' first outdoor meet of the season is scheduled for Wednesday at Alexander Central in Taylorsville, N.C. Drummonds will not compete because the Cougars have a new track facility, and the pole vault pit is not ready to be used.