

## **Bingham Signs With Lees-McRae**

Written by Whitney Noble  
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Track standout Erin Bingham from Ashe County High signed her National Letter of Intent to run track at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk.

"I was very impressed with the coaches and the facilities at Lees-McRae," said Bingham. "I want to go to a college where they take track seriously and at the same time, a place where I can get an excellent education. I'm excited to be part of the Lees-McRae track team." Bingham has had numerous highlights over her distinguished career. She qualified for regionals her sophomore year in the 300-meter hurdles, her first season running. During her junior year, Bingham made it to the 2A State Championship meet in the 100-meter hurdles and was an all-conference performer in that event at the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Championship meet. As a senior, Bingham won the MVAC Championship in the 100 and 300-meter hurdles and was conference runner-up in the 100 and 200-meter dash. Bingham has been a key part to three straight conference titles for the women's track team, and was voted as team captain this year by her teammates.

"From a coaching perspective, Erin's unparalleled diligence and devotion to running is largely what catapulted her to the top of the conference this year," said head coach Alex Rollins. "She has a relentless work ethic and she has fully committed herself to the sport of track and more specifically the craft of hurdling."

Coach Rollins also noted how much time Bingham spent working out in the weight room and fine-tuning her hurdling skills under assistant coach Phil Morrison.

Bingham won regional championships just two weeks ago at the 2A Midwest Regional in the 100 and 300-meter hurdles before advancing on to the state championship meet.

On May 17, Bingham finished third in the state in the 300-meter hurdles and fourth in the 100-meter hurdles to cap off her tremendous track career.

"Erin's departure is going to be a great loss to our team this year, but we're happy and excited for her and are anxious to follow her running career at the collegiate level," said Coach Rollins. Bingham knows that the Ashe County track team has gotten her prepared for the next level.

"I am grateful to the Ashe track coaches for supporting me and helping me accomplish my goals of becoming a better athlete," said Bingham.

**Photo Courtesy: Erin Bingham, LMC Athletics**