

## Bakken headed to Mars Hill

Written by Mike Kelly  
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Watauga High senior Madison Bakken has announced that she will attend Mars Hill College, in Mars Hill, NC, a Division II school and a member of the South Atlantic Conference, to continue her education and play volleyball next fall.

Bakken, a three-year varsity player and starter, will follow former Pioneers Becca (King) Woolard (2002-05) and Sara Cole (2004-05 before she transferred to Appalachian State) at Mars Hill. Bakken, a middle blocker who had 18 kills in a five-game victory against East Burke on Monday, is very happy with her decision.

"It's a beautiful campus, and I just fell in love with it," Bakken said. "I am real excited about my decision."

She was an all-Northwestern 4A Conference performer last fall, and according to WHS coach Kim Pryor, Bakken has become a solid player in this program.

"Maddi has come a long way," Pryor said. "She's a leader, and she's worked very hard for this. She's the type of person, who goes out and gets what she wants. I am very proud of her."

Bakken had numerous offers, among those were Brevard College, Montreat College and Pfeiffer University. Bakken was also contacted by a Division I school in New Jersey and a school in Nova Scotia, Canada. But she was sold on Mars Hill and its head coach Tony Fontanelle.

"I just like his style," said Bakken, who plans on majoring in elementary education. "He just makes the game enjoyable. I feel real comfortable playing for him. I've had the chance to be at some volleyball camps he has worked, and it finalized my decision."

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Bakken will sign her national letter of intent during the early signing period in November.

The WHS volleyball (3-0 record) will host Starmount Saturday at 10 am in a double-header at Lentz-Eggers Gym. It will be a varsity-only match. Providence, which was suppose to play in the tri-meet has pulled out.