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4 more CHS softball players sign with Florida colleges



CHS Head Softball Coach Wayne Weatherford starts the program.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © May 2, 2017 at 10:57 p.m.

CHIEFLAND – Four more Chiefland High School softball players have accepted scholarships offered by colleges in Florida, and the girls were honored Monday afternoon (May 1) with a ceremonial signing event.

Samantha Rolfe, Sydney Parks, Lauren Parker and Takiya London are graduating seniors at CHS and they are bound for three different colleges as a result of the athletic skills in softball and their academic skills as well.

London has agreed to attend the College of Central Florida, which has campuses in Levy, Citrus and Marion counties.

Parks and Parker are scheduled to attend the State College of Florida in Bradenton.



Rolfe is going to attend Webber International University in Babson Park.

Assistant coaches Harland Stalvey (left) and Jimmy Anderson stand ready to speak.

Two other CHS players Lauren Stalvey and Emily Hallman earned

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scholarships with their talent too. Lauren Stalvey is at State College of Florida after she graduated CHS in 2016.

Hallman, also a senior at CHS this year, signed earlier this school year (Nov. 9) to go to Jacksonville University.

Chiefland Head Varsity Softball Coach Wayne Weatherford (a CHS graduate of 1984) and assistant coaches Jimmy Anderson and Harland Stalvey spoke about these four most recent players as they have spoken about the other two during those signing events.

Weatherford is in his 25th year as a coach.



(front row) Takiya London, Lauren Parker, Sydney Parks and Samantha Rolfe, and (back row) coaches Harland Stalvey, Wayne Weatherford and Jimmy Anderson pose for photos.

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Samantha Rolfe signs



Sydney Parks signs.

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Lauren Parker signs.



Takiya London signs.

These four girls came up through the Chiefland Area Athletic Association and through their middle school years to reach the ninth grade, and now are among the

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members of the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Class 1A State Champions in Softball.

In that first year of winning the state championship, Weatherford said, there were six ninth graders.

Weatherford said he has felt honored and privileged to have coached these girls over the years.

College of Central Florida Head Softball Coach Kevin Fagan sent a note that was read during the event to say how pleased he is to have London joining the CF Patriots.

She is noted to be the Number 1 recruit in the coming year for CF Softball, Weatherford said as he read the letter about London.

London's talent as an extraordinary shortstop was noted. She has "an unbelievable arm" and as far as batting, the CF coach sees her as "a power hitter."

Her new coach noted that he knows CHS will miss London when she goes on to college, but he assures her former coaches "... that we will take good care of her."

Coach Stalvey said he is glad to have watched the girls progress in CAAA softball and then to continue on in high school where they earned three consecutive state championships.

Coach Anderson said these players have been a great group as they stayed together through their years in CAAA, middle school and high school.

Parents of all of these girls, Coach Anderson said, deserve a lot of credit for helping their children achieve the goals they reached. He shared a story about playing in a CAAA State Level of Babe Ruth Tournament and facing Oviedo.

Back then, Coach Anderson said, that was the team to beat in 12 and younger softball.

Teams were falling to Oviedo by big scores in that tournament. The CAAA girls back them only lost the game 0-1, he said.

Coach Anderson said he thinks of himself as the biggest critic of the girls, and he thinks of himself as their biggest support.

"It's been fun," he said. "It's sad that it is ending. But it's been fun. Thank you, parents, for allowing me to coach your children for these years."

He wished all of the girls good luck in their future.

All of the girls thanked their parents, their family and the community for the support they have enjoyed in the past several years.