

# Sports

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## Tanner signs with Agnes Scott



Kendra Tanner (third from left) with her father, assistant coach Kaitlyn Stewart - far left, head coach Jessica Stewart - far right, and assistant coach Mark Vaughn - standing. Photo/Todd Forrest

**By Todd Forrest**  
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Kendra Tanner signed with Agnes Scott College last week, becoming Union County softball's second representative from the Class of 2017 to accept a scholarship to play at the next level.

Tanner joins Laken Chambers, who previously signed with the University of North Georgia, as the two Lady Panthers that will continue their respective careers as college freshmen when softball season opens in the spring of 2018.

However, when the calendar flipped to 2017, Agnes Scott wasn't among Tanner's top three choices, but all that changed when the Decatur women's college caught her attention and never let go.

"I visited them three times and they're a small school with a very pretty campus," she said. "I also looked at Kennesaw (State) and North Georgia but when I found Agnes Scott, it just felt like home."

Tanner served as Union County's leadoff hitter for

three seasons while anchoring coach Jessica Stewart's middle infield at both shortstop and second base.

She completed her high school career with the team record for triples with 17. Eight of those came during her junior campaign in 2015 to claim the single season mark and break her own record of seven from the previous year.

Following a breakout 2014 season when she batted .360 with seven triples, 18 RBIs, and an OPS (on base + slugging percentage) of almost .900, as a sophomore, Tanner took her game to another level as a junior.

During 2015, Tanner posted career highs in RBIs (19), runs (33), doubles (5), walks (15), on base percentage (.426), slugging percentage (.538) and OPS (.964).

More importantly, her offense, combined with her stellar play in the field, helped guide the 25-9 Lady Panthers to their first trip to the Elite 8 since 2010.

Tanner finished her career with a .330 batting average, and an .850 OPS, while driving in more than 50 runs and scoring more than 75 times.

"I definitely want to thank my dad first of all," Tanner said. "I also want to thank all of my teammates and coaches for getting me here. I want to thank Ms. Amy (Lydia's mom), my grandparents and everyone at the school."

The Agnes Scott Scotties reside in Division III as members of the USA South Conference.

They are coached by Kerry Busby, who just wrapped up her first season at the helm. She joined the coaching staff as an assistant in 2014 before accepting a promotion to take over the head coaching position in July 2016.

Tanner joins a young squad that featured just one senior in 2017. Agnes Scott's roster was made up of six freshmen and five sophomores.

Tanner's bat will be a welcomed addition to a Scotties lineup that struggled to score runs this season.

Although, when her softball days are behind her, Tanner hopes to return home and begin a career in nursing.

"After college, I see myself becoming a nurse and hopefully working around here," she said.

## Watson picks Truett-McConnell



Luke Watson (second from left) with his parents and UCHS Golf coach Greg Chambers. Photo/Todd Forrest

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Union County High School senior golfer Luke Watson will continue his athletic career close to home as a member of the Truett McConnell College Golf team.

With family, friends, teammates, and coaches gathered in the Union County gymnasium last Wednesday afternoon, Watson followed his heart and signed with Truett.

"A lot of prayer went into my decision but the coach (at Truett) was very easy to talk to and I just felt that Truett McConnell was the place that I needed to be," Watson said.

"I visited a few schools but none of them seemed like the right fit. Truett was the favorite all the way."

With the boys' Area 3 Tournament on Monday of this week, Watson's 2017 season was still incomplete at the time of his signing.

Results from the Area 3 Tournament at Catechee Golf Club will be in next week's *North Georgia News*.

Regardless of the results at Area, and how long Watson's golf playing career lasts, the game is in his blood. And if a day ever comes when he can no longer make a living 18 holes at-a-time, he will use his college education to follow a different path in the golf

industry.

"I want to go into business management and hopefully run a golf course someday," Watson answered when asked where he sees himself after college.

If life on the PGA Tour doesn't work out, that is.

However, according to his golf coach, Greg Chambers, Watson usually accomplishes anything he sets his mind to.

"(Luke) had a goal to play college golf and it's exciting to see him achieve it," Chambers said. He has worked very hard at the game of golf since coming out for the team his sophomore year. I'm very proud of Luke."



Luke Watson putting at the Area 3 Golf Tournament - hosted by Catechee Golf Club in Hartwell on Monday morning. Unfortunately, the tournament wasn't completed until after the newspaper deadline on Monday so results are unavailable. Photo courtesy of UCHS Head Golf Coach Greg Chambers.



Kendra Tanner with her Lady Panthers softball teammates. Photo/Todd Forrest



Watson is joined by friends during his signing day event last Wednesday. Photo/Todd Forrest

## Top ranked Shockers run the table in Austell



Back row: Coaches: Holly Chambers, George Burnette, Robert Burnette, Tim Tracy. Middle Row: Tori Tracy, Aubrie Banton, Rebekah Chambers, Allie Brey, Jessica Lara-Noyola, Adaley Burnette. Front Row: Jaycee Seabolt, Sierra Burnette, Caley Davis, Kaylee Helton, Lexi Sisum. Photo/Submitted

The Shockers traveled to Austell April 29th and successfully defended their #1 ranking in Bronze division (top division) in GSA. Shockers went undefeated all day 5-0 bringing home the championship. The Shockers scored 47 runs with very few strikeouts while allowing 18 runs for the tournament. With limited practices over the last couple months, they played way above expectations. Pitching, hitting and defense was amazing all day long, battling through the heat. After the tournament, the Shockers team was notified that they would be the first team to have ever been placed in the Silver classification.