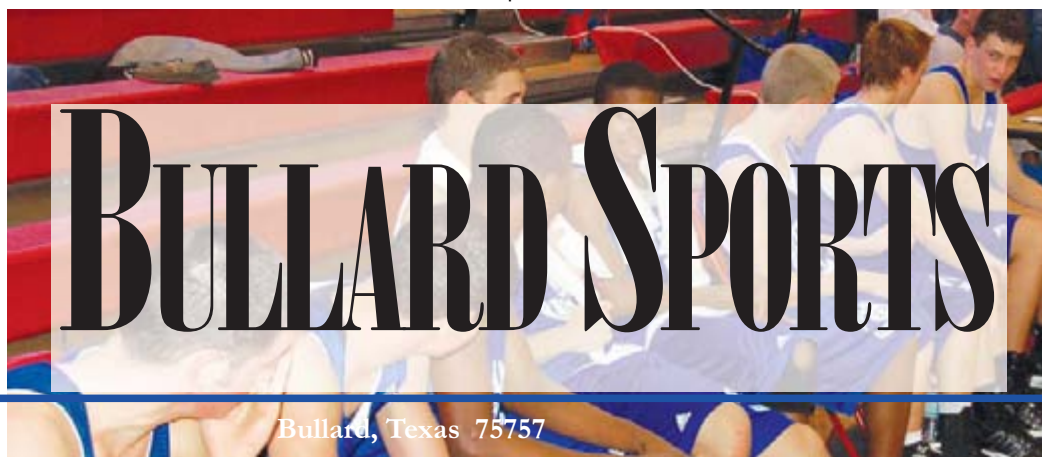




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From cross country to hoops in one day

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The Guard marches to next round of playoffs

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Bullard girls athletic history made with signings

Heithoff picks Lady Cards; Now down to business



Photo by Doc Smith

Danielle Heithoff signed with Lamar University last week, making school history.

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BULLARD — Little did Bullard realize what they were getting a little more than one year ago when the Heithoff family moved from Rochester, Minnesota to our sports-crazed little town, just exactly what we basketball fans were getting.

Now as a key returnee for the eighth-ranked Class 3-A team in the state, the pressures and focus of a state title needs little interruptions.

So, senior post, Danielle Heithoff took some excessive pressure off this past Wednesday as she signed a national letter-of-intent to play hoops at Beaumont's, Lamar University.

The signing marks the first-ever, Division I girl's basketball signing directly out of high school in Lady Panther program history.

Before moving to Texas Heithoff had always been playing basketball every since she can remember.

"I can't remember not playing club ball," Heithoff began. "My Dad was one of the coaches and we traveled all over Minnesota, starting in the sixth grade until high school."

"In the eighth grade we won the Minnesota State AAU summer league championship, and I later traveled to Chicago and Portland playing for the Minnesota Thunder in the 10th-grade, but last year I played wit Team Texas."

Team Texas is coached by East Texas and Longview coaching legend, Tommy Aldridge.

Next year, to be playing in a tough conference was one decision maker, but staying close enough to home for family and friends to watch also made a sway in her decision.

"I really connected with the head coach and players, plus it's closer to home than the other schools I went and visited," the 6'2, highly-touted Heithoff began. "I really liked their facilities, and the dorms were very impressive."

Other schools with offers were Drake, Colgate, TCU, Rice, Stephen F. Austin, Texas Women's University, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas State, University of Northern



Photo by Cassie Crawford

Picture includes mom Dina, Danielle, and father Dan Heithoff. Back row includes brother Dalton, head coach Greg Gay and brother David.

Illinois, and Oral Roberts University really put on the pressure.

"Several schools were wanting to get her for a visit and we went back-and-forth for about a year with Oral Roberts for about a year," said her head coach, Greg Gay. "And she had several Division I's that were interested and wanted her."

Gay added that he can see big things coming for Heithoff at the next level.

"For a 6'2 girl, Danielle runs the floor really well and it's hard to find that," Gay added. "And she handles the ball well, shots the ball well, as great hands, and see's he floor really well."

"The thing about her is

Century High School. Heithoff was a member of the Lacrosse team, and a varsity starter in basketball beginning her sophomore year when her team won the conference championship.

Upon her move to Bullard, Heithoff had immediate success raking in the post-season awards

Eithoff was named District MVP, All-Region, Tyler Morning Telegraph's, Newcomer of the Year as the Lady Panthers took the district title.

Sparked by her Dad early on when she started playing at the YMCA in the first grade, Heithoff has been your basic 'gym-rat' every since.

And now a life-long



Photo by Doc Smith

Heithoff goes up to score in a win over Henderson last week.

that she is nowhere near her potential, and there is just so much upside to her," Gay said. "A lot of kid's are as good as they are going to get in high school by in her case, I really think the best is yet to come."

Back in Rochester, Danielle ran cross-country from the eighth through the 10th grades, lettering all three years before being named All Big Nine conference at

dream has come to fruition. Heithoff plans to major in ? at Lamar, and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

"I can't wait but balancing basketball and school, and having enough time to study and play basketball I think may be the hardest transition," Heithoff said. "I'm glad this is behind me and we can focus on trying to win a state championship."

Cowgirl sticks to her guns; Miller commits to Wyoming



Photo by Doc Smith

Calli Miller stuck to an earlier verbal commitment, signing with Wyoming University.

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BULLARD - Calli Miller has known for some time that she will play volleyball in Wyoming, and she has known that she is gonna be a Cowgirl.

Laramie, Wyoming will be home away-from home for the next four years as Miller abided by her earlier verbal commitment and signed the national letter-of-intent with the University of Wyoming.

"Callie has the versatility to play any position on the court, and will eventually challenge as a sixth rotation player," University of Wyoming head volleyball coach Carrie Yerty said. "She is very spirited and will bring focus and intensity to the court."

Amid a huge hustle-and-bustle of television and press, family, friends, classmates, coaches, and 'C-Mill' fans all witnessed a historic and memorable gathering last Wednesday morning at Bullard High School's Audry B. Owens Auditorium.

Miller made her pick over other solid offers from Stepen F. Austin, Lehigh, Boston College, Drake, Boise State, Florida State, Lamar, UTEP and many others.

"I went and visited Wyoming and fell in love with it," Miller said about her decision. "The coaches are so amazing and I love their passion for the game. I cannot wait to be a part in the rebuilding of the program at Wyoming."

Coach Yerty announced that her first recruiting class to attend the University of Wyoming begins in the fall of 2009.

"I feel fortunate to be able to bring in the caliber of athletes to this class," Yerty said.

Adding to Miller's four-year varsity spiking career, the senior has been a three-year varsity hoopster and Miller has garnered honors in both.

As a sophomore Miller was the district MVP in volleyball, Academic All-District, and named to the Tyler Morning Telegraph All East Texas, first team.

As a junior, Calli was named the district Outstanding Hitter in the district, academic all-district again, and once again first team All East Texas. Most recently was named



Photo by Cassie Crawford

Pictured at the signing are mom Linda, Calli and dad Kevin Miller. Behind them are Scott Dillingham, Kala Laningham, Sheridan Perez, Amanda Miller, and Sara Dillingham.

the league Co-MVP, finished off another academic honor, and the rest is yet to come.

Switching to basketball, Miller was second team, all-district her freshman year, and first team last season.

Moving to Bullard in the fifth grade, Miller's bigger sister, Amanda was a big influence in Calli's early sports inspirations. Calli says she still looks up to 'Big Sis' for some of the tougher stuff.

"My sister (Amanda) was a volleyball player and I wanted to be like her," Calli said with a chuckle. "She used to make me pay her a quarter to teach me how to play when I was littler."

Miller began playing summer club ball in the seventh-grade and has been a part of

me and she really helped me to get where I needed to be mentally for games. She (Coach Laningham) just loves the game so much and it made me love it a lot more."

When asked about what her biggest fear about the next step, and Miller was quick to bring up leaving Bullard. "I think the biggest adjustment of moving to Wyoming will be leaving my comfort zone. Don't get me wrong, I can't wait go there and start a new adventure but I will really miss my parents and my sisters."

Miller plans to major in pre-med at Wyoming, and with her grades and work ethic, you may want to go ahead and book your appointments.

We have been fortunate



Photo by Doc Smith

Miller celebrates bi-district win with a few in her fan club.

three different teams, Sport Volleyball, Victory, and mot recently with ACE. Most recently however, Bullard head coach, Kala Laningham has been Miller's main go-to for help with her game, and even personal and recruiting choices.

"I have been influenced by so many people but I'm really going to miss Coach Laningham a lot," Miller continued.

"She always had faith in

enough to 'C-Mill' cheer on he field, admire 'C-Mill' on the volleyball court, and 'C-Mill' play her role in local basketball arenas.

We hate to 'C-Mill' go but we know she will be Bullard-proud, and if the good Lord willin', (and some help with ESPN and FOXSports) we may 'C-Mill' on our televisions from the Big West for a few years.