

Weddle inks to join Aubrey at Milligan College

BY IVAN SANDERS *STAR*
SPORTS EDITOR *P-7*
isanders@starhq.com *4/17*

The Lady Buffs basketball program at Milligan College has been a huge target that Hampton's Chelsey Weddle has been gunning for and on Monday inside Hampton High School's library, Weddle nailed the bulls eye dead center as she signed on the dotted line to join Coach Rich Aubrey's Lady Buffs among friends and family.

Not only was Weddle very excited about the opportunity presented to her by Coach Aubrey, but Aubrey said the feelings were mutual in getting the Lady Bulldog standout on board at Milligan.

"Chelsey is a very versatile player who has experienced plenty of success during her high school career," Aubrey said. "She is going to be an excellent player for us.

"More importantly, we're excited about how well she will fit in as a student and as a person. We wanted her to come to Milligan and she wanted to come to Milligan so that will help her to be that much more successful."

As a Lady Bulldog, Weddle scored 1448 points, averaging a

double-double with 17 points, 10 rebounds, and six steals per game.

She was named the Watauga Valley Conference Player of the Year and was a member of the All-State team for the 1-A classification. Other honors included being All East-Tennessee, Region 1-A All-Tournament and All-Conference.

Weddle was key in helping to lead the Lady Bulldogs to a 24-9 record this past season and a Watauga Valley Conference Championship.

Coach Leon Tolley believes that the best lies ahead for Weddle.

"We play a similar style to what Coach Aubrey plays at Milligan," said Tolley in assessing how Weddle will be able to make the transition to the collegiate level. "Milligan has started to play up tempo, and they play a lot of man to man.

"That's what she has done for the last four years here, so there will not be that big of a learning curve. Chelsey has never focused on just one sport, so I feel like when she does that her best basketball will be ahead of her."

Weddle feels like Milligan is the glove that fits to perfection



Photo by Danny Davis

Hampton's Chesley Weddle made it official on Monday as she signed a national letter of intent to play basketball for Coach Rich Aubrey at Milligan College. Joining Weddle at the signing were front (L-R) father Alan Weddle, Weddle and mother Shonna Weddle. Back (L-R) Hampton head coach Leon Tolley, sister Savana Weddle and Milligan head coach Rich Aubrey.

for her education and for being a part of the Lady Buffs basketball program.

"The girls are excellent there, and they have a great lifestyle in the way they live for God," said

Weddle. "It's going to be good for me being in that environment.

"I am just going to have to see what my role is as time goes on and make the adjustment

from high school. They just have so many great girls at Milligan. Time will tell how I will fit into the program."

Weddle plans on majoring in the Physical Therapy field at

Milligan. She said that being close to home and family was a huge factor in her desire to attend Milligan as well.

"It means a lot to me and was one of my main reasons for going to Milligan," added Weddle. "To be able to see my family a lot and have them come watch me play makes me feel good in knowing that they will be in the stands supporting me."

Weddle said that she hopes that she has continued to help lay the ground work at Hampton for those young ladies that will be following her as the others did that came before her time in the Lady Bulldog blue and white.

"I feel like that I have set a good example in my time here," continued Weddle. "I hope some of the younger girls will follow in my footsteps and hopefully they will do much better than I have."

Weddle will join a highly successful Milligan program that just finished their third consecutive 20-win season. The Buffaloes finished the season second in the NAIA's Appalachian Athletic Conference with a 10-4 conference record, and ended the season with an overall record of 24-9.