

Bowers, Harris to Play at College's Highest Level

Kelli Bowers and Joe Harris will officially make their mark this November, making it a historic month for Chelan High School athletics. Both CHS senior athletes will sign NCAA Division I letters of intent to participate in athletics. Harris will play basketball at the University of Virginia next winter and Bowers will join the University of Washington's golf program in spring 2011, both considered huge accomplishments and payoffs for years of hard work and dedication.



Kelli Bowers and Joe Harris will participate in Division I athletics in 2010-11.

Bowers, a three time State "A" golf champion, spent a busy summer qualifying for the Junior World Tournament in San Diego. Kelli earned her right to play in the JWT by winning the Junior World Qualifying Tournament in Olympia. In San Diego, she was one over par after the first round which caught the attention of numerous college coaches, including UW, WSU, Gonzaga, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, OSU, Wyoming, Wichita State, Long Beach State and Cal Poly. Coaches commented on her length off the tee, potential, composure and athleticism making her a very desirable recruit. Upon returning to Chelan from the tournament, the University of Washington offered a full ride scholarship. Because Kelli has always wanted to attend the U of W, it was an easy decision for her.

This past summer, Bowers also participated in the Junior American's Cup Tournament in Logan, Utah as well as the America Junior Golf Association Tournament in Wenatchee. In Utah, Kelli and three others represented Washington in the tournament which included 18 teams from the Western United States, Canada and Mexico. Kelli finished 7th out of 72 girls. She was first on the Washington team, which finished 4th overall, earning her MVP honors.

To all that know him, seeing Joe Harris with a basketball under his arm is a normal sight. The 2009 Washington State Class 1A Player of the Year's love and passion for the game earned him heavy recruiting interest from such NCAA Division I schools as WSU, UW, BYU, OSU, Gonzaga, Notre Dame and the University of San Diego. Harris, who averaged 26 points per game as a junior, verbally committed to play for Coach Tony Bennett at the University of Virginia on August 3rd. Many factors played a role in Harris' final decision. Playing for a highly respected coach in arguably the nation's top basketball conference certainly factored into the equation. However, it was not the only criteria considered. While playing Division I college basketball has always been his dream, Harris and his parents felt he had to carefully measure the opportunities that a full ride scholarship to the University of Virginia might provide. UVA, located in Charlottesville, is nationally renowned for its academics, programs, and incredible facilities. Harris is considering a major in business from Virginia, which has one of the top business schools in the nation.

Joe is excited about his senior year. He is focusing on his last high school basketball season and, with his team, will pursue a long awaited goal...winning a state title. CHS basketball fans wait anxiously for that dream to come true.