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CLC grad alters path after offer

Emily Turik watched while her club gymnastics teammates accepted scholarship offers from NCAA Division I and II schools.

Turik figured she was a victim of bad luck when she broke her right ankle in her junior year, just before the college recruitment process really heats up. Still, the Crystal Lake Central 2010 graduate kept competing and found a school, D-III Wisconsin-Whitewater, with which she fell in love.

"She was going to Whitewater," said Chris Riegel, Turik's coach at Trinity Academy of Gymnastics in Lake in the Hills. "She thought that was her only option."

That was before the 2010 USA Gymnastics National Invitational Tournament in Dallas in early May. Turik, fully recovered and in top form, competed at Level 10, the highest among youth gymnasts. She placed second in the all-around and won the uneven parallel bars. University of Bridgeport coach Byron Knox, who competed with Riegel when they were boys, saw Turik and called his old teammate.

Suddenly, Turik had a decision to make. A D-III school close to home that she loved or a D-II school on the East Coast ready to pay for her entire education.

"All [Bridgeport] had to offer was good for me," said Turik, who committed to the D-II school on a full athletic scholarship. She plans on flying to Connecticut next week to meet Knox, visit the school and register for classes.

"She severely broke her foot training a year and a half ago," Riegel said. "She was kind of under the radar for a while. Others were competing and she was recovering."

Turik competed for Crystal Lake Gymnastic Training Center until her senior year, when she moved with Riegel to Trinity. She did not compete in the IHSA state series.

Turik, whose break required two screws that remain in her ankle, was back at full strength by last July, but she missed nationals, where the college coaches can see gymnasts perform.

"Most of the schools had already given away all their money," Riegel said. "We were talking to Rutgers, which was offering half, and Iowa State wanted her to walk on, then get more as she went along. Then Byron called and said he came up with the money because a girl had transferred."

Turik is registered for classes at Whitewater but plans to change that after visiting Bridgeport and making sure everything's in order. She missed Central's prom May 9 and was in Texas on Mother's Day, but it was all worth it when she performed so well and Knox made the offer.

"Me and my mom [Amy] were talking about my education and thought it was best for me to go [to Bridgeport]," Turik said. "It's exciting to commit to a school [for a full scholarship]."

Sticking together: Marian Central boys soccer players Tyler Lundquist and Alec Grazier will remain teammates this fall when they play at North Central College, a D-III school in Naperville.

Lundquist and Grazier helped Marian win three regional titles and a sectional title in 2008 before bowing out in a Class 2A supersectional. Lundquist, a midfielder, was deciding between Luther College (Iowa) before giving his commitment to North Central.

Grazier had committed to Loras College (Iowa) before reconsidering his decision and committing to North Central.

Lundquist was a Northwest Herald All-Area first-team pick and finished last season with 24 goals and 14 assists. Grazier was a 2009 Northwest Herald All-Area second-team selection and helped Marian to 10 shutouts last season.

"The location and the option to play right away worked for me," Lundquist said. "[Having Grazier there] is a confidence thing. You've got someone there to talk to, someone who knows the way you play."

Grazier said his academic scholarship and grants will cover almost all his costs.

"The financial aid package [Loras] offered me after I had committed wasn't what I thought it was going to be, and it was more than I wanted to spend," Grazier said. "I called [North Central head coach Matt] Klosterman and asked him if he still was interested. It's good for me, too, because it's only an hour-and-a-half from home, so my parents can come and watch me play."

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