

## Bartlett to play for Tusculum College on field lacrosse scholarship



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Holy Cross student Hayley Bartlett, 17, practices at her home on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 near Peterborough. Hayley has signed a letter of intent to attend Tusculum College in Tennessee on a field lacrosse scholarship next fall. Clifford Skarstedt/Peterborough Examiner/QMI Agency

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Hayley Bartlett's grandparents never missed watching her play field lacrosse but next fall it might be a challenge. That's because the Kawartha Lacrosse Club Hobie's Sports Under-19 player will be playing for Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn. on a scholarship.

The 17-year-old Grade 12 student at Holy Cross Secondary School joins three teammates – Isabel Caddick, Lexie Kinmond and Jocelyne Lemay – to commit to NCAA schools in recent months.

Raised by her single mom Nikki, Hayley says her grandparents Bernadette and Brian Bartlett were major influences. Brian played senior lacrosse while Bernadette drove her to most games and practices.

“My grandma has done so much for my lacrosse it’s unbelievable,” Bartlett said.

“If it wasn’t for her I wouldn’t have done what I’ve done in lacrosse. She took me to the States and has been involved in all my schooling. Without my grandma I probably wouldn’t have this scholarship.

“She’s the person who has always dealt with my lacrosse from the start and always pushed me. Without her pushing me I wouldn’t have done it.”

On the field, Bartlett can always hear her grandfather by his distinctive whistle. The tone of his whistle lets her know if she’s doing the right thing or wrong thing.

“Grandpa is always there after the game to tell me what I should be doing,” she said.

She also credits her coaches Ashley Curtis and Tori Wasson and Kawartha Lacrosse Club founder Fred Blowes as big influences.

Playing with three girls of exceptional ability who happen to be good friends helped push Bartlett.

“I love the group of girls I play with,” she said.

Bartlett has represented Ontario three times at national box lacrosse championships winning a gold medal in New Westminster, B.C. in 2011, a silver in Victoria, B.C. in 2012 and a silver in Nova Scotia in 2013.

She’s also travelled with the Ontario Edge program to recruitment tournaments in the U.S. which led her to visit a school in Virginia as well as Tusculum where she felt an immediate connection.

“I really liked the coach (Jenna Handshoe). We made a good connection right off the start,” Bartlett said.

“I went back in September and met the team. I absolutely loved it. It’s a very small school only 1,200 students. I like the size of it. After visiting I decided that’s where I wanted to go. My teammates are awesome and I went to one of the classes and loved it.”

Bartlett is going to take pre-school education.

One other reason she chose the school was the weather. While her teammates selected northern schools where they might have to shovel snow off the field before practice, Bartlett said.

“I’ll just enjoy the sun. I’m not a big fan of the cold.”