

Ollinger leaving Jeff for Linn-Mar

Written by Jim Ecker

Wednesday, 17 December 2014 22:15 - Last Updated Friday, 19 December 2014 05:49



Amanda Ollinger confirmed Wednesday night that she has played her last basketball game at Cedar Rapids Jefferson and will start attending Linn-Mar High School when school resumes in January after the holiday break.

Ollinger, a 6-foot-2 junior, is one of the most decorated two-sport athletes in the state. She has been named all-state in basketball and volleyball and has committed to the University of Iowa for basketball.

Ollinger said the transfer is for "personal reasons" and not related to basketball. Both of her parents, Scott and Bonnie Ollinger, work in Marion and the family will be moving from the Jefferson district to the Linn-Mar district in the coming weeks, making it more convenient for the family.

According to IGHS AU rules, Ollinger will be immediately eligible at Linn-Mar since her family will be living in the Linn-Mar district. She will become the second high-profile athlete to switch from Jefferson to Linn-Mar this year. Kelsey Drake, a state champion in swimming, moved from Jefferson to Linn-Mar for the beginning of the 2014-15 school year.

Ollinger said it will be hard to leave her friends and teammates behind at Jefferson. This Friday will be her last day at Jefferson.

"It's really difficult," she said, emotion in her voice. "You grow up with people in your life and you experience things with them. I'll start the new year with completely new people and it will be a huge adjustment for me."

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Ollinger played her final game for the J-Hawks Tuesday night against Waterloo West. She will not play Friday night when the J-Hawks (5-3) host Xavier.

Ollinger said she has a good relationship with Jefferson Coach Jason Edwards and stressed her transfer has nothing to do with Edwards, Jefferson or the basketball program there. "I truly believe he understands (the move) because of my family situation," she said.

Ollinger is averaging 17.8 points and approximately 12 rebounds this season.



Ollinger will be joining new head basketball coach Jaime Printy Brandt at Linn-Mar High School. The Lions have a 5-1 record and are ranked No. 6 in Class 5A. They suffered their first loss of the season Tuesday night against Iowa City High.

Printy Brandt was a star basketball player for Coach Lisa Bluder at the University of Iowa and finished her all-Big Ten college career two years ago. Ollinger said she's sad to be leaving Jefferson, but looking forward to playing for the first-year Lion coach.

"I'm really excited about that," she said. "Her having gone to Iowa, it will really help me for when I get to college. I'm almost sure she coaches similar to how Lisa Bluder coaches, because that's how she played. I'm really excited for that part."

Brandt declined comment Wednesday night when asked about Ollinger. Edwards could not be reached for comment.

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The Linn-Mar girls basketball team is scheduled to play at Jefferson on Friday, Jan. 30.