

Athletes make college picks official

Staff reports

Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

It has been a busy few weeks for signings in the Coastal Bend, and here is a roundup of college signings from this past week.

■ Gregory-Portland baseball player Alex Aguirre signed with Coastal Bend College on Wednesday. Aguirre is a three-year letterman and earned all-district honors in 2017 and 2018.

■ Gregory-Portland baseball player RJ Gonzales signed to play with Wharton County College on Wednesday. Gonzales is a three-year letterman, and also received honorable mention all-district honors in 2017 and 2018.

■ Gregory-Portland soccer player Bri-

anna Yanez signed to play with Our Lady of the Lake University on Wednesday. Yanez is a four-year varsity letterwinner, and was a first-team all-district selection in 2017 and 2018.

■ Veterans Memorial softball player Alex Garza signed with Lamar State College-Port Arthur on Feb. 13.

■ Robstown softball player Aileen Campos signed with Coastal Bend Community College on Friday. Campos was a second-team all-district selection in 2018 and plans to be a coach.

■ Veterans Memorial kicker Romario Perez signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville on Thursday. Perez was a first team selection on the All-South Texas team and the 2018 Class 5A Associated Press All-State team.

■ Veterans Memorial football player

David Soto signed to play at Division I Lamar. Soto was a multi-talented star for the Eagles as a quarterback, returner and receiver. Soto was also named to the All-South Texas first team.

■ Veterans Memorial defensive back Davis Horne finalized his commitment to NCAA Division III Mary Hardin-Baylor. Horne was a first team all-district selection and was one of the area's best at blocking kicks.

■ Veterans Memorial linebacker Cedric Evans signed with Texas A&M-Kingsville. Evans was a third-team All-South Texas football selection.

■ Calallen offensive lineman Zeryk Rojas signed with Cisco College on Thursday. Rojas was an anchor to the Wildcats' potent rushing attack and was a first team All-South Texas selection.



Veterans Memorial football player David Soto signed to play at Division I Lamar. COURTESY PHOTO

Naismith

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her playing since first grade. Plus there was plenty of support from her mother, Sherry, who played basketball throughout college.

"She played Upward basketball in first grade, first through fourth, and then she played fourth through eighth grade at St. James school," Sherry said. "She always played two seasons every single year because she played in her class and then the class above."

Naismith in 1891 was a physical education teacher at the YMCA International Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, and tasked by the head of physical education to create a game to provide an "athletic distraction" for the classes confined indoors throughout the harsh New England winter.

Securing two peach baskets 10 feet from the floor on opposite sides of the gym, Naismith divided the class into groups of nine and told them to throw a soccer ball into the opposing team's basket.

In a 1939 radio interview in the family's possession, Naismith detailed the outcome of his original game, in which the lack of rules resulted in the boys "tackling, kicking and punching in the clinches. They ended up in a free-for-all in the middle of the gym floor."

This 2-minute radio clipping found at the Library of Congress is one of the Naismith's beloved heirlooms, along with a copy of the original 13 rules of basketball, a copy of Naismith's autobiography and a replica of the first basketball.

"The ball was a gift from my parents," Robert Naismith said. "There's a lot of letters and things that are out there that were kind of passed down from the family and so forth, but he (Claire's great, great grandfather) had five kids so they're kind of spread out among the five different kids."

The junior has played a key part in Flour Bluff's district title quest, helping the team go undefeated in District 29-5A play as they work toward returning to the regional finals.

Hornets head coach James McMinn said the team has all the parts it needs, including Claire, to make a deep play-off run and "needs some luck along the way."

"She's upheld the name in a very good way," McMinn said. "She's an energizer. When she goes in the game the pace of the game changes for sure. But



Claire Naismith talks with her dad, Robert, about her great-great-grandfather, James Naismith. PHOTOS BY COURTNEY SACCO/CALLER-TIMES



Claire Naismith defends a Veterans Memorial player on Nov. 13.

sometimes you just need a ball to bounce your way for it to happen."

Although she faces high expectations partially because of her last name, Claire said her love for the sport comes above all.

"A lot of people ask if I feel pressured to play and I guess I do a little bit, but just a little bit," Claire said. "I just really enjoy the sport, it's really like a big part of my life."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Veterans Memorial advances

Ashlee Burns
Corpus Christi Caller Times
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CLASS 5A AREA

VETERANS MEMORIAL 46, BROWNSVILLE PACE 30

What this game means: Veterans Memorial advances to the regional quarterfinals to play inter-city rival Carroll.

Friday's highlights: Brownsville Pace trailed Veterans Memorial throughout the first quarter, until Pace rebounded off a 3-pointer late in the period to erase the Eagles' lead. But Veterans Memorial's Michaela James tied the score at 15 at the end of the opening period. The Eagles built a five-point lead at halftime with a late surge. Veterans Memorial's defense kicked into high gear in the second half, holding Pace to 12 points over the final two quarters.

Friday's stars: Veterans Memorial's Samantha Perez finished with 12 points, including two 3-pointers, to lead both teams, and Michaela James added 10.

Veterans Memorial coach Roy De La Pena on the win and the next round: "Pace gave us a good game. They played really good defense. We didn't shoot very well, but a win's a win. Carroll should be a really good game. I think they're looking forward to it, and we are too."



Veterans Memorial defeated Brownsville Pace 46-30 on Friday. COURTESY SACCO/CALLER-TIMES

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULES AND RESULTS

MONDAY
DISTRICT 30-5A
Moody vs. Ray, 5:30 p.m., Whataburger Field
NON-DISTRICT
Ingleside at Victoria St. Joseph, 5 p.m.
Ben Bolt at Falfurrias, 6 p.m.
Sharyland Pioneer at Calallen, 6 p.m.
Laredo Alexander at King, 6:30 p.m., Cabaniss
Santa Gertrudis Academy at Taft, 7 p.m.
Kingsville at Tuloso-Midway, 7 p.m.
Orange Grove at IWA, 7 p.m.
John Paul II at Mathis, 7 p.m.
Laredo United South at Flour Bluff, 7 p.m.
Robstown vs. Gregory-Portland, 7:30 p.m., Whataburger Field
TUESDAY, FEB. 19
DISTRICT 30-5A
Veterans Memorial vs. Miller, 6 p.m.
Carroll at Victoria West, 7 p.m.
NON-DISTRICT
Riviera at Port Aransas, 7 p.m.
Aransas Pass at London, 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL
BOYS
FRIDAY
DISTRICT 30-5A
KING 54, PORT LAVACA CALHOUN 40
King - Jia'Lund Robinson 14, Dorian Thoms 2, Jamison McGill 11, Isaiah Martinez 4, D'Montray Johnson 6, Wendell Smith 6, John Moody 11.
PLC - Bryson Butler 2, Jaylen Stewart 16, Chris Benavides 6, Casey Woodriddle 1, Ethan Mikolas 3, Caleb Kwi 4, Jarvis Stewart 2, Casey Nunley 5, Ethan Teehan 1.
3-Pointers - King, W. Smith 2; PLC, J. Stewart 1, C. Benavides 1, C. Nunley 1.
NON-DISTRICT
PORT ARANSAS 70, INDUSTRIAL 66
PA - Mendoza 3, Kreutziger 18, Spaeth 2, Rodriguez 15, Garner 1, Brown 21, Ramsden 10.
Industrial - Barnhart 10, Hammack 11, Guzman 2, Roe 11, Wimberly 19, Perry 8, Estes 3, Garcia 2.
3-Pointers - PA, Mendoza 1, Rodriguez 1, Brown 3; Industrial, Barnhart 2, Hammack

1, Roe 1, Wimberly 5, Perry 2, Estes 1.
PLAYOFFS
BI-DISTRICT
CLASS 5A
Ray vs. Gregory-Portland, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Veterans Memorial
King vs. Flour Bluff, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Veterans Memorial
Calallen at Miller, 7 p.m. Tuesday
CLASS 4A
Rockport-Fulton vs. Zapata, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Alice
Kingsville vs. Hidalgo, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Harlingen South HS
West Oso at La Feria, 7 p.m.
Sinton vs. Port Isabel, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Alice
CLASS 3A
London vs. Vanguard Pharr, 7 p.m. Feb. 18, Veterans Memorial
Odem vs. Dilley, 7 p.m. Feb. 19, Three Rivers
CLASS 2A
Port Aransas vs. Wallis Brazos, 7 p.m. Feb. 18
Refugio vs. Weimar, 6 p.m. Monday, Victoria St. Joseph's
GIRLS
SATURDAY
IWA 60, HOUSTON LUTHERAN SOUTH 47
IWA - Alex Beltran 8, Riley Arreola 2, Claire Thomas 21, Talayah Chanyaman 4, Raye Bailey 1, Catherine Thomas 6, Bella Ysassi 18
Lutheran South - Adams 1, Whitney 5, Koster 4, Psenick 8, Henderson 18, Quinton 2, Landry 4, Smith 2, Clark 3
3-pointers, IWA, Ysassi 5, Chanyaman 1; LSA, Psenick 2, Henderson 1.
Records - IWA 24 - 7
FRIDAY
CLASS 5A AREA
VETERANS MEMORIAL 46, BROWNSVILLE PACE 30
Brownsville Pace - Lexy Arce 10, Ashlye Gonzalez 8, Sofia Espinoza 6, Jennifer Oliveira 1, Rosa Salinas 5
Veterans Memorial - Alison Fritcher 3, Leyla Mosely 4, Michaela James 10, Samantha Perez 12, Anajia Banks 3, Gabrielle Arismendi 5, Katelyn Brooks 6,

Madalyn Perez 3
3-pointers - Veterans Memorial, Samantha Perez 2, Gabrielle Arismendi 1, Katelyn Brooks 1, Madalyn Perez 1; Brownsville Pace, Lexy Arce 2, Ashlye Gonzalez 2
FLOUR BLUFF 70, BROWNSVILLE VETERANS MEMORIAL 42
Flour Bluff - Kennedy Curtis 4, Hayle Campbell 20, Claire Naismith 2, Maggie Harrel 6, Gloria Geurin 6, Meagan Bazan 5, Jayde Tschritter 15, Mary Crossland 2, Meredith Zey 4, Bella Bertero 4.
3-pointers - FB, Campbell 3, Harrel 2, Bazan 1, Tschritter 2.
Records - Flour Bluff 28-5.
CLASS 3A AREA
ODEM 39, SANTA GERTRUDIS ACADEMY 34
Odem - Callee Brewer 5, Hailey Salinas 7, Kara Amador 8, Julisa Alcalá 16, Arabella Garza 3.
SGA - A. Sanchez 9, A. Ozuna 3, S. Sandoval 9, K. Williams 4, E. Morado 7, A. Ruiz 2.
3-Pointers - Odem, C. Brewer 1, A. Garza 1; SGA, A. Sanchez 2, A. Ozuna 1, K. Williams 1.
SKIDMORE-TYNAN 81, BANQUETE 26
S-T - Kayla Rutkowski 11, Jasmine Terry 3, Cassidy Florence 13, Mayra Salas 3, Katryna Hernandez 12, Carly Haggard 8, Brittany Hinojosa 15, Lexi Wieding 15.
Banquete - A. Gomez 9, P. De Leon 5, M. Pena 4.
3-Pointers - S-T, K. Rutkowski 1, J. Terry 1, K. Florence 2, M. Salas 1, L. Wieding 1; Banquete, A. Gomez 1.
Records - Skidmore-Tynan 27-9; Banquete 17-16.
REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS
CLASS 5A
Carroll vs. Veterans Memorial, 6 p.m. Tuesday, King
Flour Bluff vs. Victoria West, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sinton
CLASS 4A
Orange Grove vs. Beeville, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Ray
CLASS 3A
Odem vs. George West, 7 p.m. Monday, Tuloso-Midway HS
Skidmore-Tynan vs. Aransas Pass, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Tuloso-Midway HS

CLASS 2A
Refugio vs. Shiner, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Victoria West HS
CLASS A
McMullen County vs. Moulton, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Converse Judson HS
GOLF
MONDAY
Boys & Girls, Ingleside at Miller Tournament, Gabe Lozano GC
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEB. 22-23
Calallen, Flour Bluff, King (boys), Miller, Moody at Border Olympics, The Max Mandrel, Laredo
SOCCER
BOYS
FRIDAY
DISTRICT 30-5A
VETERANS MEMORIAL 5, RAY 0
Goals - VM, Samuel Mathews 2, Karlo Lopez 2, Alex Royo 1; Saves - VM, LMar Palaez 3; Ray, John Vela 8.
TUESDAY
DISTRICT 29-5A
Alice at Laredo Martin, 7:30 p.m.
Tuloso-Midway at Gregory-Portland, 7 p.m.
DISTRICT 30-5A
Miller vs. Veterans Memorial, 6 p.m., Cabaniss Soccer
Victoria West vs. Carroll, 6 p.m., Cabaniss Multipurpose
Ray vs. Moody, 6 p.m., Buc Stadium
DISTRICT 30-4A
Beeville at Santa Gertrudis Academy, 7 p.m.
SOFTBALL
FRIDAY
NON-DISTRICT
MISSION TOURNAMENT
LAREDO ALEXANDER 7, KING 6
WP - Kristen Gamez, LP - Samantha Sanchez 2B - King, Mikayla Garza 1, Brooke Montez 1; Highlights - King, M. Garza RBI. Records - King 2-2.
KING 12, MCALLEN 0
WP - Crystal Davila. 2B - Crystal Davila 1, Hannah Warnsley 1, Brooke Montez 2. Highlights - King, C. Davila 2 hits and RBI; Victoria Gomez 2 hits; H. Warnsley RBI; B. Montez 2 RBI. Records - King 2-1.
CANYON 7, SANTA GERTRUDIS 2
WP - P. Aliyah. LP - J. Salinas. 2B - Canyon, B. Sydne 1, P. Aliyah 1; SGA, B. Carr 1.HR - Canyon, V. Hunter 1. Highlights - Canyon, M. Mia 2-4, RS; B. Sydne 3-4, 2 RBI, 3 RS, SB; SGA, B. Carr 2-3, RBI; A. Benitez 1-2, RS; E. Tamez 1-2, RS, BB.
SANTA GERTRUDIS 5, SEGUIN 2
WP - C. De Los Santos. LP - M. Bradley. 2B - SGA, A. Robles 1, B. Carr 1, C. De Los

Santos 1; Seguin, T. Smith 1, G. Scheel 1, C. Nieto 2. HR - SGA, Y. Lopez 1. Highlights - SGA, B. Carr 3-3, RBI, RS, SB; Y. Lopez 1-3, 2 RBI, RS; A. Robles 1-1, RBI, RS, BB; J. Garza 1-2, SB; A. De La Paz 1-2, RBI, RS; E. Tamez RS.
PALACIOS 9, MILLER 7
LP - Lauren Llamas. 2B - Miller, Karlie Gutierrez 1. Highlights - Miller, Cassandra Guzman 1-2, RS, SB; K. Gutierrez 3-3, RBI, 2 RS; Kaitlin Martinez 0-1, RS, 2 BB; Shelly Trevino 0-1, RS, 2 BB; Julysa Garcia 1-2, RBI; Destiny Zamora 1-1, RBI; Carolyn Perez 1-3, RBI. Records - Miller 1-4.
WHARTON 10, MILLER 0
LP - Lauren Llamas. Highlights - Miller, L. Llamas 2-2; C. Garcia 1-2; Zayda Rojas 1-2. Records - Miller 1-3.
TUESDAY
DISTRICT 30-5A
Veterans Memorial vs. Miller, 5:30 p.m., Cabaniss
Carroll at Victoria West, 6:30 p.m.
Moody vs. Ray, 7:30 p.m., Cabaniss
NON-DISTRICT
Woodsboro at Skidmore-Tynan, 5:30 p.m. King at Aransas Pass, 6 p.m.
Flour Bluff at Ingleside, 6:30 p.m.
London at Taft, 7 p.m.
Santa Gertrudis Academy at Orange Grove, 7 p.m.
Sinton at George West, 7 p.m.
TENNIS
TUESDAY
Orange Grove, Taft at Goliad Tournament
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEB. 22-23
Carroll, Gregory-Portland at Border Olympics, Laredo
Flour Bluff, King, Miller, Sinton at Calallen Tournament

TRACK & FIELD
MUSTANG RELAYS, Ingleside
Banquete at Skidmore-Tynan Meet
Orange Grove at Mathis Meet
WRESTLING
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEB. 22-23
UIL State Meet, Berry Center, Cypress