

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Bozeman's Morton commits to Bobcats

By By PETE FAGGEN, Chronicle Sports Editor

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Scotta Morton's dream has come true.

The Bozeman High girls' basketball standout verbally committed to play for Montana State next season, Morton confirmed Sunday.

"I had always dreamt of playing for the Lady 'Cats since I was little," said Morton, a first-team Class AA All-State player last year and 4.0 student. "I went to their camps. It's nice to play in front of my hometown."

Morton, who grew up in Gallatin Gateway, said MSU coach Robin Potera-Haskins offered her a scholarship last Friday. The 5-foot-10 shooting guard will make the commitment binding on Wednesday, the first day athletes can sign national letters-of-intent in the spring.

"They liked that I could shoot and that I'm a hard worker," said Morton, noting the Bobcats intensified their recruitment in the last month. "They wanted someone who could get in the program and work their butt off. They said I had potential."

Potera-Haskins can't comment until signing day.

Former Bozeman coach Rick Jordan, who recently left the high school and is moving to Meridian, Idaho, said Morton deserves this opportunity.

"I'm real excited for Scotta," Jordan said. "She's worked so hard throughout her career. She came into her own this year. We needed her to step up and be a leader - and she did."

She averaged 12.8 points per game overall last season and 17 ppg in the State AA tournament where the Hawks placed fourth.

She also made 48.6 percent of her 3-point shots on the season, had a 45.8 percent field goal percentage and hit 71 percent of her free throws.

Morton, a likely redshirt candidate this winter with the Big Sky Conference co-regular-season champion Bobcats, is the seventh Hawk from one of Jordan's teams to play Division I basketball. She joins Andrea Lalum (Washington), Kati Burrows (MSU), Jessica Smith (Wichita State), Mandy Close (Oregon State), Annie Fischer (Weber State) and Ali Smith (Princeton).

"I just wanted to keep the tradition going," Morton said. "I wanted to take it to the next level."

Jordan credited his players' work ethic when asked how so many Hawks have advanced to the highest level.

"There's no magic potion," said Jordan, who was 90-27 with two state titles in five seasons at Bozeman. "Our kids work hard and they set goals. People don't see the hours and hours of work that they put in to achieve those goals."

"That work ethic that we have, it obviously helps us win basketball games, but it also helps them realize their dreams."