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# MaKayla Waldner Signs to Play Soccer at Mississippi State

FEBRUARY 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## MaKayla Waldner Signs to Play Soccer at Mississippi State

**Dexter, Missouri** - On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, MaKayla Waldner of Dexter, Missouri signed to play soccer at Mississippi State University. For her it was a dream come true to play the sport she loves so much at the collegiate level.


It's an extraordinary accomplishment to play a sport at the college level, but for MaKayla Waldner it's been an even greater challenge playing a sport not offered at her local high school. For years MaKayla has played soccer. She first began at the age of about 6 years old when she traveled from Dexter to Sikeston to play soccer with her friend, Julia Hahn and Julia's dad Brad Hahn who just happened to enjoy coaching youth soccer.

"When I was little, Julia and I used to be super close and her dad said 'let's just go out and play soccer'. And I ended up falling in love with the game," commented Waldner. "We started playing in Sikeston when I was in the first grade. It just took off from Sikeston to Cape to St. Louis and I finally found my place."

When asked about her memories as a youngster, MaKayla said, "Whenever we were younger we used to play this game called 'Egg'. You would stand on the baseline and kick the ball and there would always be one less ball. One time it was me and Julia left and I ended up tackling her for the ball and she ended up losing and me winning."

This young athlete has it all together! She's intelligent, beautiful, athletic beyond words, and talented in the arts as well. She had three pieces accepted at the Southeast Missouri

State University's 37th Annual High School Art Exhibition and received a scholarship for the Summer Art Academy as an outstanding junior last year. She was named 2015 Football Homecoming Queen her junior year at Dexter High School.

MaKayla has always been a multi-sport athlete. She  excels in every sport she has played at Dexter High School. Her sophomore year she was the first female football player for the Bearcats and did quite well as the kicker. She has also played girls basketball, tennis, and is quite the Track and Field competitor as well.

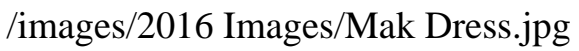
Being a multi-sport athlete can be difficult for students who also excel in the academics. She is a Top 10% student and a DHS Honors Society member at Dexter High School.

"It has been hard on school and missing so much school traveling, but I am really excited to start the next chapter," commented Waldner.

When asked how did she decide on Mississippi State as her 'next chapter', she said, "My sophomore year I started looking at colleges. And with me not having soccer at my high school I had to go on websites and write recruiting profiles. I was in Memphis for a game and they came and watched me play. When I visited the campus I knew it felt good."


Upon graduation in May 2016 at Dexter High School, MaKayla will pursue a degree in Biomechanic Engineering and wants to design prosthetics while she plays soccer at Mississippi State. "I am blessed to be able to do what I do and for people who aren't like that I want to be able to help them," Waldner said of her future career.

What else does this young athlete want to accomplish? "It would be super cool to be on t.v.," she said with a huge smile. "National Scouts have talked to my coaches about me and who knows the Olympics would be a great accomplishment."

 Two of her coaches were able to attend the signing on Wednesday. Brad Hahn who was instrumental in getting MaKayla interested in soccer was able to say a few words about her and Kevin Ellis who has been her Track Coach since she was five year old also had a few comments. "I started coaching her in first grade," Hahn said. "Her and my daughter, Julia, played together in DPR soccer and then I coached her traveling team. MaKayla is a respectful athlete. When I first had her she didn't know a thing about soccer. I continued to talk to her and convince her. She doesn't need to be confined to a gym, soccer is her sport."

"Starting at that age and she really enjoyed it. She had fun at that age," continued Hahn. "Later on you separate those kids from park and rec from the elite athletes. She was an

elite. I think you will see her on t.v. in the future. From 3rd grade to 8th grade i coached her in the Sikeston All-Star Soccer group. We had to travel to Memphis and St. Louis because then there were many local teams. Now she travels all over."

"We have to go back to 2003 when I first got to  know MaKayla and her family," commented

Kevin Ellis. "I was coaching a bunch of kids out of Poplar Bluff in track and field. My daughter was one year older than MaKayla, she had long black curly hair. I didn't know it at the time, but the two kids were talking to their parents about the curly haired kid from Dexter competing against the curly haired girl from Poplar Bluff. I didn't know it at the time they were talking about each other. A couple years later I began coaching her and it's been a remarkable ride since about '04. Watching her mature from a kid to a young lady has just been remarkable."

What stands out about her abilities? "Her work ethic," stated Ellis. "I have never had to make her work hard. She wants to be the best she can be. Her work ethic probably sets her apart from most kids I have coached. Some kids you have to stand over them to watch everything they do. I was able to give her the workouts. I never had to make her work hard. She has always been athletic and very respectful. Most of all she is coachable."



**Below is just a portion of MaKayla Waldner's career at Dexter High School:**

Tennis: 4 years varsity

Qualified for State her Sophomore year

MVP Sophomore and Junior years

Basketball: 1 year varsity (sophomore)

4th place state finish (freshman)

2nd place state finish (sophomore)

Football - 1 year varsity (sophomore)

SEMO All-Conference Honorable Mention Kicker

Track - 4 years varsity

Freshman - 8th place in State 300m hurdles, 3rd place State 100m hurdles

Sophomore - 2nd place in State 300m hurdles, 7th place in State 100m hurdles

Junior - State Champion 300m hurdles, 2nd place in State 100m hurdles, 2nd place in State 200m dash, 5th place in State Long Jump

[/images/2016 Images/Mak Track.jpg](#)

AAU Track - 15 time National Medalist, 2 time National Champion, Record holder in multi-evens 10 year old division.

MaKayla holds the record in the 4x100 and 4x200 meter relays at T.S. Hill Middle School. She holds the record for the Triple Jump at T.S. Hill Middle School. She received the 2015 Top Female Athlete Award for Track at Dexter High School. She holds four Dexter High School records.

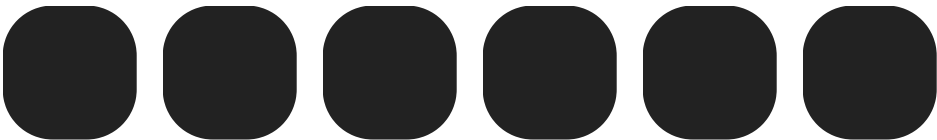
[/images/2016 Images/Mak Soccer.jpg](#) She also competed at the North American Cup National Soccer Championship in Seattle, Washington in 2015 with Coach Jeff Besserman of the St. Louis Scott Gallagher Soccer team.

For this young athlete the world is her oyster! No matter where MaKayla Waldner goes she will succeed. She is probably one of the most talented athletes to graduate from Dexter High School and we look forward to her continued success not only on the soccer field, but in the classroom. Congratulations MaKayla we hope to see you on t.v. as well!

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# Bearcats Come From Behind to Beat NMCC

FEBRUARY 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Bearcats Come From Behind to Beat NMCC

**Dexter, Missouri** - They never gave up! The Dexter varsity boys basketball team fought back in the fourth quarter late to defeat the New Madrid County Central Eagles.

The Bearcats were behind 53-45 at the end of the third quarter and then exploded in the fourth period outscoring the Eagles 26-7. The final result was a 71-60 win for Dexter.

"We executed offensively really well tonight," commented Dexter head boys basketball coach Josh Dowdy. "New Madrid got right off the bus shooting at a high percentage. Javarcus had six 3's in the first half. We weather his storm and did a good job of just hanging around."

"We were able to generate a few turnovers off of some of their miscues late that really tilted the momentum in our favor," continued Dowdy.

Jason Jarrell tallied all nine of his fourth quarter points early sparking his team's comeback. Jarrell's final basket gave Dexter the lead 56-55 with just under six minutes in regulation left.

"We isolated Jason Jarrell a few times and he was able to get to the rim and finish," stated Dowdy. "It was encouraging for the kids to break from a timeout and go execute. This group has been real coachable all year long."

Dexter's Gabe Jackson, Jacob Pedigo and Ethan Flowers led a 15-0 run in the fourth to propel them to the win.

Jackson recorded a team-high 21 points. Jarrell contributed 19 points. Ethan Flowers hit both of Dexter's 3-pointers and finished with 14 points.

Dexter improved their record to 10-9 and now above the .500 mark for the first time in the 2015-2016 season. The Bearcats will be back in action on Friday when they host Advance at their Winter Homecoming. Game time is 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Coronation

will be after the JV game.

"We have not come back from a deficit like that in the two years I have been around," Dowdy said. "It's a good sign our guys are staying strong mentally."

**Final Score Dexter 71, NMCC 60**

Dexter 14 16 15 26 - 71

NMCC 21 15 17 7 - 60

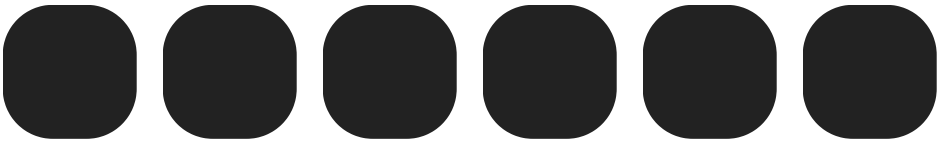
**Dexter (71)** - Jason Jarrell 19, Jacob Pedigo 9, Ethan Flowers 14, Tyler Heil 2, Ryan Mayo 6, Gabe Jackson 21. FG 25, FT 19/27, F 8. (3-pointers: Ethan Flowers 2. Fouled Out: None).

**NMCC (60)** - Palmer Campbell 12, Javarcus Word 25, Chris Farr 11, Garrison Keene 3, Ronnie King 4, Deon Jenkins 5. FG 21, FT 7/11, F 20. (3-pointers: Javarcus Word 6, Chris Farr 1, Palmer Campbell 4. Fouled Out: Deon Jenkins.)

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# Crusader Girls Down Dexter Lady Cats

FEBRUARY 02ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Crusader Girls Down Dexter Lady Cats

**Dexter, Missouri** - The Lady Bearcats took on one of the top teams in the state of Missouri on Tuesday night falling short by only six points. Saxony Lutheran Lady Crusaders made a fantastic run in the second quarter to secure their win 50-44.

"We definitely got off to a good start," commented Lady 'Cats basketball coach Chad Allen. "We made our run and then Saxony Lutheran made a huge run in the second period. That got us down pretty big especially there at the half."

Saxony led Dexter 12 – 7 at the end of the first period and recorded 22 points in the second quarter to give them a 29 – 21 lead at the half.

Regan Weiser #35 tallied a game-high 19 points for the Crusaders. She was 3 of 4 at the charity stripe and hit four 3-pointers.

"We didn't execute to get the lead tonight," continued Allen. "I thought if we got the lead we might pull this out. They are a great team and they just got their best player back. Weiser had 19 point tonight against us."

Grace Mirly also contributed in double digits. She tallied 14 points hitting five buckets and one trey. Brianna Mueller recorded 13 points including one trey and was 100% at the charity stripe adding 4 more points.

Dakota Reynolds #1 and Chaylea Mosby #35 had 16 points each. Reynolds hit four 3-pointers and two buckets. Mosby also added four 3-pointers and two buckets.

"I thought Reynolds and Mosby really shot the ball well tonight," stated Allen. "Early we were getting the ball inside to Kristen Garrison, but in the 2ndquarter they took her away. Reynolds and Mosby did a nice job after that getting us back in the game especially in the 3rd quarter."

"I was proud of the girls fighting their way back and making a game of it towards the end," Allen said. "It was a close loss to a talented opponent!"

**Final Score Dexter 44, Saxony 50**

Dexter 12 9 13 10 - 44

Saxony 7 2 9 12 - 50

**Dexter (44)** - Dakota Reynolds 16, Melanie McKuin 6, Kristen Garrison 6, Chaylea Mosby 16. FG 18, FT 0/3, F 11. (3-pointers: Dakota Reynolds 16, Chaylea Mosby 4. Fouled Out: None).

**Saxony (50)** - Crace Mirly 14, Ali Galemme 2, Brianna Mueller 13, Ashlynn Collier 2, Reagan Wieser 17. FG 17, FT 8/10, F 8. (3-pointers: Grace Mirly 1, Brianna Mueller 1, Raegan Wieser 4. Fouled Out: None).

“Tough loss, but we have to bounce right back because we have another tough team against Naylor on Thursday.” Allen said.

Dexter (14-4) will be back in action on Thursday when they travel to Naylor. Game time 6:00 p.m.

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# JV Crusaders Beat Bearcats

FEBRUARY 02ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

JV Crusaders Beat Bearcats



**Dexter, Missouri** - The Saxony Lutheran junior varsity girls basketball team traveled to the Bearcat Event Center on Tuesday evening. Saxony led the Lady JV Cats in every quarter, but the final period to secure their 40 – 34 victory.

Courtney Kester tallied a team-high 10 points for the Crusaders. She was the only one in double digits for Saxony Lutheran.

Dexter’s Maycie Martin recorded a game-high 12 points. Natalie Sitze, Meghan Trout and Madyson Crockett each contributed one trey.

**Final Score Dexter JV 34, Saxony Lutheran 40**

Dexter 6 15 6 12 - 34

Saxony 9 10 18 3 - 40

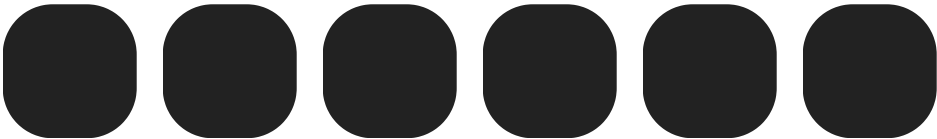
**Dexter (34)** - Rylee Allen 4, Maycie Martin 12, Natalie Sitze 7, Meghan Trout 3, Keirstan Keirse 2, and Madyson Crockett 5. FG 15, FT 1/3, F 18. (3-pointers: Natalie Sitze 1, Meghan Trout 1, Madyson Crockett 1. Fouled Out: None).

**Saxony Lutheran (40)** - Addison Beussink 9, Courtney Kester 10, Callie Brown 6, Laurel Mueller 7, Macy Morehead 1, Zoie Roth 5. FG 12, FT 14/23, F 7. (3-pointers: Courtney Kester 1, Laurel Mueller 1. Fouled Out: None).

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# JV Bearcats Take Down Eagles

FEBRUARY 02ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## JV Bearcats Take Down Eagles

**Dexter, Missouri** - The Dexter junior varsity boys basketball team jumped out to a 15-10 lead by the end of the first period and never looked back on their way to a 49-39 victory over the New Madrid County Central Eagles on Monday evening at the Bearcat Event Center.

Ben Sindle recorded four 3-pointers for the Bearcats and was 100% at the charity stripe adding two more points to the scoreboard. He finished with a team-high 14 points.

Dawson Kastings was the only other Dexter player to finish in double digits tallying 11 points on five buckets and one free throw.

Stand-out Craig Beasley recorded a game-high 23 points for New Madrid.

### **Final Score Dexter JV 49, NMCC 39**

Dexter 15 5 14 15 - 49

NMCC 10 9 6 14 - 39

**Dexter (49)** - Kole Kelley 7, Marcus Woodson 3, Joe Rice 2, Seth Rogers 8, Nate Gargas 4, Ben Sindle 14, Dawson Kastings 11. FG 16, FT 10/20, F 11. (3-pointers: Kole Kelley 2, Marcus Woodson 1, Ben Sindle 4. Fouled Out: None)

**NMCC (39)** - JaMonte Sykes 4, Craig Beasley 23, Javarcus Word 2, Eddie Grandberry 3, Blakey 4. FG 16, FT 4/5, F 19. (3-pointers: Craig Beasley 3. Fouled Out: Eddie Grandberry).

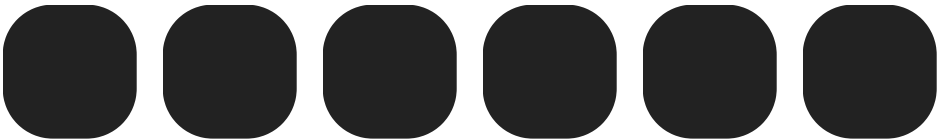
The junior varsity boys basketball team will be back in action on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> against Advance. It's Winter Homecoming for the Dexter students! Please come out and support your favorite BEARCAT!

Photo credit to Dee Loflin, ShowMe Times manager/editor. Seth Rogers #21 shooting the ball at the charity stripe!

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