

# ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

## NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT AND COLLEGE COMMITMENT CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 4, 2015





## Catie Brown, Southern Methodist Hometown: Sacramento, Calif.

Catie Brown, who will play her third season for the St. Francis soccer team, committed to SMU last July. The early decision has allowed her to complete the last two years of her career without the stress of a college decision.

“It was a huge weight off my shoulders both academically and athletically,” said Brown. “I was really focused on showing well and getting ready for tournaments. After committing, I was able to start getting ready for college.”

Brown has continued to work on her craft in preparation for playing at the Division I program this fall. She plays for the locally based elite San Juan Soccer Club and works with independent goalkeeper coaches in addition to her time with the high school team.

“They want the goalkeeper I am in two, three years,” said Brown her arrival on the Dallas campus. “Not where I was when I committed. They saw the potential. I have been doing a lot more fitness and goalkeeping technical work (in preparation).”

Brown credits her club for helping her get seen by college coaches. During her three seasons with the club, she has played in tournaments in Seattle, San Diego, Boise, Dallas and Phoenix as well as Northern California.



“It is amazing,” said Brown. “If you want to play in college, it is where you want to be. They have the ability to get you seen across the country.”

Brown originally had no plans of attending a school in Texas. But fate intervened and opened her eyes to the possibility.

“I was not really interested in going anywhere in Texas but I went there on an ECNL trip,” said Brown of a tournament with her club. “We toured SMU and I knew my sister had gotten in there. The moment I stepped on campus it blew my mind.” She was impressed with the academic reputation discussed on her initial visit. But after making an official visit and attending their ID camp, Brown was sold on the soccer program.

“They have an incredible training staff and support staff,” said Brown of the athletics team. “They have a unique setup with their soccer program with a mental fitness coach. She makes sure everybody is doing what they need to do to stay mentally and physically healthy. It was great to see and I had not seen that at other schools. After going on my visit, I could not see myself at any other school.”

Brown, who also considered USC and Georgetown, will play for Chris Petrucelli,

who recently completed his third season as the Mustang's head women's soccer coach. He is a two-time National Coach of the Year and coached the 1995 NCAA Championship team at Notre Dame that included St. Francis Head Coach Rosella Kelly.

Brown allowed only eight goals on the season in over 800 minutes as a junior, while making 84 saves and combining on nine shutouts. She led the league in goals against average and saves.

"She is phenomenal," said St. Francis classmate and club teammate Madison Kimball. "Whenever someone is attacking the goal, I never get nervous with her back there. I know she is going to do everything she can back there to save it."

She helped lead St. Francis to the Sac-Joaquin Section Championship last season as the Troubadours posted a 23-5-3 record on the season, earning All-Delta River League and River Cats All-City honors.

"The section championship last year was incredible," said Brown. "Losing in the semifinals was a heartbreaker for me in 2013. I thought we were doing so well in our first season with Rosella (Kelly). The ball was rolling. We came back with the vengeance to take it. It meant a lot to me to play in it."

Brown will be part of a talented senior class that brings back a strong contingent from the section championship team. They will play under former UC Davis Head Coach and St. Francis alumna Maryclaire Robinson, who will serve as the interim coach for Kelly, who is taking the season off after having a baby.

"I am really excited about this year," said Brown. "We had a really talented varsity last year made up of a majority of juniors. We have a lot of returning players as well as the incredible players coming up from JV, who had a great season. I want to go back and win the section title again. I love the competitiveness of our team and the teams we play."

While her club team has been important for her career, Brown loves playing for her school.

"It means a lot to me because I have played all three years and made those bonds with my Troubie sisters," said Brown. "It helps you meet a lot of girls in other grades and make friends with people with similar interests. It is an honor to wear the St. Francis jersey and getting my three varsity letters is a big deal for me."





## Allie Carmickle, UC Davis

### Hometown: Shingle Springs, Calif.

St. Francis goalie Allie Carmickle will sign to play for and attend school at UC Davis.

“I can’t even describe it,” said Carmickle of her anticipation for signing day. “I don’t think I have comprehended it enough and the realization that in less than a year I will be off playing Division I soccer at UC Davis. I can’t wait for it and it is going to be a memorable moment. I think I will remember it for the rest of life.”

Carmickle was first recruited to UC Davis at Summer Surf Cup while playing for her club, Placer United. After two visits to campus and a chance to interact with her future teammates, Carmickle was sold on the UC Davis program, school and Head Coach Twila Kaufman.

“Twila is absolutely amazing,” said Carmickle of her future coach. “She is so sweet and has a great plan and future setup for UC Davis. She is trying to build up the program even better than it was before. I really like where she is going with the program. Robin (Grossman) is the assistant and goalkeeper coach. He is a really great coach from what I have heard from the former players. We have talked about how he likes to do his trainings and what he wants for the future.”

Carmickle will be the third former Troubadour on the Aggies roster, joining St. Francis graduates Haley Hughes ‘12 and Andrea Damian ‘13. She said the con-

nection was beneficial during her recruitment process.

“We talked about the transition and what it is like going from St. Francis to Davis,” said Carmickle of talking to Damian. “It was really fun to meet her and see what a Troubadour looks like after St. Francis.”

She also credits her Placer United club for helping her development and recruitment.

“I love the team,” said Carmickle. “They are great and like my sisters. Ron Benjamin is absolutely wonderful and fantastic. He has been very helpful with the whole college process and committing.”

While the close proximity of the UC Davis campus is nice, it was not a requirement in Carmickle’s choice.

“It worked out that way,” said Carmickle. “Location was not my biggest deal and academics came first always. They have a great plan ahead of them and it is a great team and program. It just so happens that it was in the hometown. It makes it that much better.”



Carmickle plans to study biomedical engineering with a goal of working in prosthetics for veterans. It is an academic path inspired by the military background in her family.

“Both my grandparents on my dad’s side are Marines,” explains Carmickle. “Papa Jim has always inspired me and has always been my hero. My mom used to be a PT. It developed from there.”

Carmickle, who is from Shingle Springs, is looking forward to her senior season with the Troubadours. She shared time in goal last season as a junior, allowing just five goals in 12 games of action (355 minutes). She sealed the section championship, playing the second half in goal in the win over Oak Ridge.

“It was incredible,” said Carmickle of the section title. “We had played Oak Ridge a couple times before and we really wanted it. You could feel the determination on the field, the sisterhood and the team work.

Playing the second half, you take on that responsibility and making sure nothing else goes in. I believe we were one up but it was the extra pressure. But for me, it makes it more fun. It is a big challenge and you can step up to the plate.”

She is looking forward to playing under interim head coach Maryclaire Robinson.

“First off, it is fun. Soccer has got to be fun. I hope that all the girls form that friendly bond and form that sisterhood out on the field. We always want to have a good team and to win but to have fun and to be sisters on the field is most important. I think Maryclaire will do great this year. She has a good plan with what we are heading into with the new league.”





## Izzy Chelini, Cal Lutheran

### Hometown: El Dorado Hills, Calif.

St. Francis senior Izzy Chelini will play at Cal Lutheran next fall after committing to the school this fall. She plays for the San Juan soccer club, one of three Troubadours affiliated with the team.

“Izzy has been playing with us since the under nines,” said San Juan director Tony Perez. “She has always stood out as one of our most technical players on that team. She has made the most out of her skills.”

Perez likes her priorities in selecting a school. “She is a student first and she was waiting for that right situation (Cal Lutheran) where she could play and provide her the education and academic challenges that she needed.”

Cal Lutheran is coached by Frank Marino, who has directed the Regals to an 86-22-4 mark. He led Cal Lutheran to its fourth straight SCIAC title and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 2014 after compiling a 17-6 record.

“I am pretty good technically,” said Chelini. “I am better on the ball than off the ball. As a forward and an attacking center mid, I can give a ball ahead to our forwards. I am good at passing it and keeping possession.”

Chelini was attracted to the area and really feel in love with the program after taking a visit.

“I went on an unofficial visit and got to stay with girls and talk to the coaches a lot,” said Chelini. “What really made me want to go to school and play there was the coaches. They were really good to me. They told me I was their top recruit. It was really good to hear and they take care of the girls on the team. I like their coaching.”

Cal Lutheran is a Division II athletic program located in Thousand Oaks.

“It is a pretty school and I really like the location,” said Chelini. “The athletic facilities are really nice and the student-athletes are a big part of the school.”

Chelini, who is from El Dorado Hills, plays forward and has been a three-year starter with San Juan. She also played on the junior varsity team at St. Francis as a freshman.

“At San Juan, I have got a lot of coaches and they are all very different,” said Chelini. “But they have pushed me to be better. I am very grateful for them and the girls on the team to help me get better and get into college.”

Chelini, who likes spending time at the lake and beach, plans to study exercise science or psychology. She plans on playing for her school this year.

“I am excited to play this year,” said Chelini. “I remember freshmen year I made so many new friends and I know most of the girls now. It is a different way to get to know them now. It is my last year and it will be fun to be with all of my friends and hopefully take home a title.”

Chelini values her experience at St. Francis, including her final soccer opportunity this spring. “It is very different than a regular high school experience at a public school,” said Chelini. “I would not trade it. After I went on Kairos (senior retreat) I knew this is where I was supposed to be.”



## **Anna Gregg, Colorado College Hometown: Sacramento, Calif.**

St. Francis senior Anna Gregg is among six St. Francis seniors who will participate in a celebration Wednesday to recognize their commitments to play soccer at colleges and universities across the country. The celebration will take place in the CLC on campus and will be broadcast live on TroubieTV.

“It is the culmination of all of my efforts,” said Gregg, who was the Co-Delta River League Player of the Year in 2014. “I have been working so hard and playing competitive soccer since I was 12 years old. You see older players when you are younger sign their National Letters-of-Intent on TV and I wanted to be one of those girls. Now that is going to be me. It is my dream come true.”

Gregg will sign with Division I Colorado College and play for Head Coach Geoff Bennett. The Tigers went 12-5-4 last fall in their first season in the Mountain West Conference.

“It felt like a home away from home,” said Gregg of Colorado College. “I looked at other colleges (USD, Northwestern). They were great schools. But when I went to Colorado College it was home. I felt safe and it was a good environment with the coaches and players. It was a small, tightknit community. Coming from St. Francis to Colorado College, I felt I would be perfect there and I am going to love it.”

Gregg plays for Placer United Soccer Club.

“I enjoy playing with the club and helping lead the younger group,” said Gregg. “It is humbling because they look up to you.”

Gregg helped lead the Troubadours to a Sac-Joaquin section title last season, scoring the winning goal in the championship match. She was the River Cats All-City Soccer Player of the Year, leading the section and league in scoring with 28 goals and 63 points. She scored in 19 games on the season, including all four playoff games, and recorded three hat tricks.

“We all want another title,” said Gregg of the Troubadours title defense this season. “For me it is not really about individual stats. It is cool scoring the most goals. It is awesome. But it is about sharing. It does not matter how many I get. I want the team to get to the sections. That is my dream. If I help the team, support them and help them get the goals, I am happy.”





## Madison Kimball, Loyola Chicago Hometown: Fair Oaks, Calif.

St. Francis senior Anna Gregg is among six St. Francis graduates who had a good idea what she was looking for in her college experience. So she took an active role in deciding her path and has found her perfect school. The St. Francis senior is committed to attend and play soccer at Loyola University Chicago.

“I wanted a Jesuit school with a good soccer program and academics,” said Kimball. “We were looking at the different options and my mom asked me about Loyola-Chicago. At first, I thought it might be a little far away.”

After further investigation, Kimball realized the school and the Rambler soccer program were an ideal fit. She emailed the coach and he was able to watch her play at an ECNL event in Texas. The Fair Oaks product attended the school’s ID camp and she was offered a spot in July.

“I am so blessed that it fell into place because it is everything I ever wanted,” said Kimball. “The campus is gorgeous. It is right on Lake Michigan and I absolutely love it. The coaches are really nice and I can relate to them so well. I feel like I have known them my entire life.”

Loyola Chicago is coming off a 5-13-1 season under Head Coach Barry Bimbi. They play in the Missouri Valley Conference and advanced to the postseason

tournament with an exciting win over Evansville in the final regular season game before losing to Drake 3-2. The program has earned the National Soccer Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the last two seasons.

Kimball, who plays for the San Juan Soccer Club, was aided in her recruiting process by former St. Francis and San Juan product Alex Brown, who was a 2010 graduate and recently completed her eligibility.

“I really love the city,” said Kimball of the Windy City. “What I love about the campus is it is not in the dead center of the city but 10 minutes out. I can hop on the subway and get into the city. I love all kinds of sports and Chicago has everything.” Kimball, who says she will be a Cubs fan, has played for the San Juan club for 10 years and is the longest tenured player in the program.

“It has been awesome,” said Kimball of her club experience. “I started at the beginning with U9 and have been there 10 years now. It is awesome being able to grow up with the same club and friends from the beginning. They do such a good job of developing you and being a stable support. I always know I have my team and my





coaches to fall back on. They are supportive and they really fight for you.”

Club coach Tony Perez has seen her develop over the years into one of the standouts with the club. She started and played all 13 games last season. She scored 12 goals and nine assists last year. During the 2013-14 season, she found the net 14 times while contributing 11 assists.

“San Juan is really proud of Maddy,” said coach Tony Perez. “We have seen her grow and mature into the soccer player that she is today. For her, the focus has always been the education and the environment while mixing soccer in with it. She had a lot of opportunities to go to other colleges but she was waiting and hoping for a top-tier educational program with a strong soccer program...She found the right fit.”

Kimball plays the center-mid position, a spot on the field that allows her to showcase both her offensive and defensive skills.

“I love it because you are in the middle of all the action,” said Kimball. “You can track back and defend or you can push up for the attack. I love setting up plays. It is really fun setting up your friends and they finish it off. It is fun scoring goals and I do score goals but I am happy when I can help someone else.”

Kimball has two teammates from St. Francis, including Troubadour senior goalie Catie Brown and Isabel Chelini, that play club with her.

“Madison is an incredibly talented and technical player,” said Brown. “She will dribble at defenders and get past three or four people with quick feet and her movement on and off the ball. She has incredible speed and she has an amazing ability to see plays before they happen.”

While she has not played for the SF programs, she is supportive of her classmates in the program and has loved her St. Francis experience.

“I love the community and the food,” said Kimball. “Everyone here is sisters for life. I have met some of my best friends here. The teachers are really helpful. When I tell them I am going to be gone for soccer, they help me when I get back.”





## **Addie Wallace, Villanova**

### **Hometown: Elk Grove, Calif.**

St. Francis senior Addie Wallace will sign a National Letter-of-Intent to attend and play soccer at Villanova University next fall.

“I really liked the school and coaches,” said Wallace about her recruitment to the Philadelphia school. “It has been nice to know where I was going especially since I love the school.”

Wallace initiated her recruitment with the “very prestigious school” during her sophomore season. The Wildcat staff saw her play at both Surf Cup and in a tournament in Las Vegas. After a visit to the campus, she was sold on her future and the Wildcat coaches were just as impressed.

Wallace, an Elk Grove product, will play for Head Coach Fran Kulas, who is entering his second season directing the program and fifth overall at Villanova. The Wildcats play in the competitive BIG EAST and are coming off a 5-10-4 season.

“I really like that they have a roster of 22,” said Wallace of the small roster size. “I feel like I can get playing time and the whole team travels. I really liked the coach. He is really good with the girls and protective.”

Wallace, who was also recruited by Notre Dame among other schools, plays center back.

“I am really well known for my communication,” said Wallace. “I talk the whole game. I can read the

game before it happens.”

Wallace, who will play for St. Francis this season, plays for Bay Oaks as part of the East Bay United soccer club based in Oakland. It is a commitment that requires her to travel to the Bay area Monday and Wednesdays. She plays with another local player, Kyra Taylor of Franklin, who is a commit to UC Riverside.

“At first it was a little difficult because it was during my freshmen year I decided to go there,” said Wallace, who likes to hang out with friends and go to the beach and boogie board in her free time. “It has been fairly easy. I do homework in the car and have learned the great value of dedication and commitment. I really do love my team. It was worth it.”

Wallace, who has played soccer since the age of four, plays for U15-U18 director Jon Nishimoto. She has played for the club for five seasons.

“Addie has the ability to lead the team,” said Nishimoto. “It is her greatest asset. She has done a great job making her teammates better around her, while bringing her own athletic ability to the game. She is extremely fast, a hard worker and is very skilled



and talented. She is a hard-nosed defender who is not afraid to go in for a tackle and sacrifice herself for the team.”

Wallace, who is a team captain this year for Bay Oaks, has helped her team to a No. 9 national ranking and three state championships (2011, 2012, 2013). They finished in first place in the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) National League in 2013 and placed third at the USYSA National Championship in 2013. The club recently was a 2014 Surf Cup semifinalist and 2014 USCS West Regional champion.

“Addie has improved greatly over her time with the club,” said Nishimoto. “She has made great strides from the first moment she stepped on the team.”

Wallace is captain and a leader for a team that includes players on the U.S., Czech, Mexican and Philippine national teams.

“Addie’s commitment has been incredible,” said Nishimoto. “It has been great to watch and see the growth in her leadership ability. It extends from her commitment and dedication. We know the sacrifices Addie and her family are making to be part of our team.”

Wallace will play for the St. Francis soccer program this year and hopes to have an impact on the team.

“I hope to bring a new level and I feel like I can bring something to the team,” said Wallace, who last played for the school as a freshman. “I really hope we can win our league especially against big teams like Davis and Franklin.”



# 2015 St. Francis Soccer Commitments/Signees

## Name, Sport, College/University

Catie Brown, Southern Methodist University (Sacramento)

Allie Carmickle, UC Davis (Shingle Springs)

Izzy Chelini, Cal Lutheran (El Dorado Hills)

Anna Gregg, Colorado College (Sacramento)

Madison Kimball, Loyola Chicago (Fair Oaks)

Addie Wallace, Villanova (Elk Grove)



# ST. FRANCIS TROUBADOURS