

# Shoemaker signs with RLC

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SENTINEL SPORTS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Golf has been a part of her life for as long as she can remember, and on Wednesday, Mt. Vernon Township High School senior Lexie Shoemaker put herself in position for her career to continue at the collegiate level after signing her letter of intent to play at Rend Lake College beginning in the fall.

"Golf is my favorite sport," Shoemaker said after signing in the lobby of Changnon Gymnasium. "I grew up playing it since I could pick up a golf club. My uncle owns a golf course. I love it. My family loves it, so it's the sport for me."

RLC golf coach Cindy Corn — who attended the signing, along with Lexie's parents Ron and Kathleen, as well as her high school coach Amber Tieffel — says that Shoemaker will bring many upsides to the Lady Warriors' program.

"We're getting an experienced player," Corn noted. "She's played since she was a young girl. She's played a lot of different sports, so she's a very good athlete."

As Corn mentioned, Shoemaker spent the majority of her high school days as a three sport. Along with golf,

Shoemaker participated in soccer and basketball, but because of a broken ankle last season in soccer, Shoemaker decided to concentrate her senior season on playing golf, while helping out as a manager for basketball and soccer.

"I went to watch her play a couple times this fall, and I've loved her attitude on the golf course," said Corn. "She has great composure, whether she has a good or bad shot. She keeps her temperament and I love to see that from a player."

Shoemaker will study special education while at Rend Lake College, and is hoping to sign on to play at a four year university after her time as a Lady Warrior runs its course.

"I'm really excited," said Shoemaker. "I always wanted to play college golf. It's been a dream of mine. I would like to play at a four year university after this."

Corn notes that there are challenges that Shoemaker will have to overcome, which include improving her play off the tee.

"With her size, we have to get her stronger with the weights so she can hit it further off the tee," said Corn. "She'll play about 6,000 yards in college, as opposed to 4,200

yards they played in high school. That will be her biggest challenge."

Knowing what she has to do to improve her game, Shoemaker says she will be able to attack her deficiencies and work to improve her game.

"It's going to be a challenge, but they said I'd be working out and lifting weights," said Shoemaker. "I think, getting stronger, it'll be hard, but a challenge, which is what I like."

Corn says that Shoemaker's short game is her best quality, which is a plus for any player she recruits.

"I like her short game," said Corn. "Her short game, chipping and putting, is very good. She's got the short game, now if we can just get her to step back to 6,000 yards this summer to get her ready for the fall."

Shoemaker finished second in the South Seven Conference this past fall, while leading her Lady Rams' team to a second place showing in the conference.

"I played all four years and loved every minute of it," she said. "I had my ups and downs, but most everybody does. I enjoyed it and had a good time."

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Sentinel Photo

RLC BOUND — Mt. Vernon senior Lexie Shoemaker, SEATED, CENTER, signed her national letter of intent to play college golf at Rend Lake College Wednesday night. With her are her parents FROM LEFT, Kathleen and father Ron. STANDING is RLC golf coach Cindy Corn, LEFT, and Mt. Vernon golf coach Amber Tieffel.