

Track/Field: Barrett goes north; signs with Albion College (MI)

By Todd Forrest
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Union County's Riley Barrett will be donating his athletic prowess to the good people of Albion, Michigan for the next four years as a member of the Albion College Track-and-Field team.

From the moment he arrived on his visit to Albion, the warm, cozy family atmosphere on campus made the frigid Midwestern weather much more tolerable.

"When I got up there, all the people were super nice and treated me just like I was at home," he said. "I was walking down the hall and everyone knew who I was, it was kind of crazy."

"I was eating lunch and the teachers were eating with the students and they all knew each other by name and were spending a lot of 1-on-1 time together. It was like one big family and I liked that. Everyone was super close and knew each other, it was awesome."

At the Class AAA State Sectionals in April, Barrett



Union County Track-and-Field star Riley Barrett alongside family as he signs with Albion College in Michigan. Photo/Todd Forrest

placed second in the 400M with a personal record time of 49.85 seconds to go with a fourth place finish in the long jump - drawing the eye of Albion.

"I had no clue where Al-

bion was then the coach contacted me," Barrett said. "We had talked a little bit but then I ran a fast time at Sectionals and that's when the recruiting process really picked up. That's when (the

coach) realized my times were fast enough."

Barrett would go on to compete at the State Championships in May, placing seventh in the 400M and 13th in the Long

Jump.

As for the events he plans on competing in at college, he's looking at the 100M, 200M, 400M, long jump and high jump.

"Those are the events I'm considering but I'll do whatever the coach needs me to do to help the team," he said. "I want to help lead the team to a conference championship and maybe break some records while I'm at it."

Barrett's future goals are to become a veterinarian but when asked where he sees himself in four years, he plans on just taking things one step at a time.

"After I graduate, I'd like to finish my degree at the University of Miami (FL) but I just need to see where everything is going and what's happening," he said.

Barrett chose Albion over Truett-McConnell, Piedmont and Newberry (SC).

His personal records include an 11.29 in the 100M; a 23:20 in the 200M; a 49:85 in the 400M; a 5-8 in the high jump and a 21-6 in the long jump.

"I want to thank my family for all of their support," he added. "I wouldn't be here without my family. I want to thank Beth and Matt Brown for everything they've done over the past few years. I want to thank my mom for making me the person that I am."



Union County Track and Field coaches Paul McBride (left) and Beau Kelley (right). Photo/Todd Forrest



Riley Barrett with all of his family members in attendance at last week's signing. Photo/Todd Forrest

Additional photos from last week's Ulympics Class of the Year announcement at UCHS



L-R: Seniors await the announcement of the Class of the Year; the junior class celebrates with the COY trophy; Principal Hussion making the students wait anxiously for the winner of COY. Photos/Todd Forrest

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Principal Hussion hands out individual awards prior to the COY announcement. Photo/Todd Forrest

Tryouts are FREE

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Players must pre-register online and attend all tryouts sessions for their age group.

Local Racing Circuit results

By Blake Lynch
North Georgia News
Racing Reporter

Tour and Razors Race on May 26th.

Razors - Levi Garrett won the Razor Qualifying and Dustin Rogers won the race.

Monster Trucks - Storm Damage won the race. The crowd favorite Bad Company won the freestyle event.

Next event will be June 2nd with the Mini Stock Mania \$1500 along with a full racing program.