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December 30, 2001

XENIA CHRISTIAN'S JENNIFER MCKELLAR SIGNS WITH CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

CEDARVILLE - Jennifer McKellar, a senior distance running standout at Xenia Christian High School, has signed a letter of intent to attend Cedarville University and compete in the Lady Jacket cross country and track programs. Jennifer is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Dan McKellar of Beavercreek.

McKellar is a three-time All-Ohio Division III runner in cross country for the Ambassadors. She placed fourth in the 2001 state meet with a time of 18:52 for the 5,000 meters. Her career best is 18:40.

McKellar is also a three-time all-state performer in the 3,200 meters on the track with the 2002 spring season remaining. She has twice earned all-state honors in the 1,600.

Cedarville has established one of the top female distance running programs of any school its size in the country. The Lady Jackets won the 2001 NAIA cross country championship to go along with the National Christian College Athletic Association title and the American Midwest Conference crown. Even though McKellar will join a CU program that has its top seven runners returning, she has the ability to make a contribution her freshman season.

"We are excited to have Jennifer coming to Cedarville," stated Elvin King, who completed his 33rd season as CU cross country coach and was the NAIA National Coach of the Year. "It's always good to have a local runner and she comes from a good high school program. She will strengthen our team, but there are no pressures or limitations on her especially with all of our top runners returning."

The Lady Jacket track & field program has been just as successful thanks in large part to the distance runners. Cedarville won an unprecedented five straight NCCAA championships from 1994 through 1998 under current head coach Paul Orchard.

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