

Pittsford swimmer Katie Smith picks Notre Dame



James Johnson, Staff writer 8:05 p.m. EDT July 14, 2015



(Photo: KATE MELTON)

Swimmers set goals.

Katie Smith, the girl's 50-yard state freestyle champion and a rising senior at Pittsford Sutherland, has her list ready for the upcoming season.

"I have to improve my times and my state record in the 50," Smith said. "And as a team, for Pittsford to win states for the second year in a row."

Smith's business is finished when it comes to finding the right college and women's swimming program for her. The three-time *Democrat and Chronicle* All-Greater Rochester Girls Swimming Team member said she has a verbal agreement to swim at Notre Dame after her high school graduation.

The Pittsford team record-holder in the 50 and 100 free said she was unsure if she was allowed to disclose the amount of her pending athletic scholarship. North Carolina and Vanderbilt (Tenn.) were also in Smith's picture, but there was a clear frontrunner.

"The academics are world-renowned," said the 96 average student and future business major. "I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the Fighting Irish. I have cousins who went there. We'd root for Notre Dame watching the different games.

"I always thought about going there, then I visited the campus."



Katie Smith, center with white cap, owns two individual and shares two relay Pittsford girls swimming records. (Photo: ADRIAN KRAUS/@AKOPHOTO1/PHOTOGRAPHER)

That was in February. Contact with the coaches seemed to go well and first impressions of team members were good. Smith said she can sign a binding letter of intent during an NCAA signing period that opens Nov. 11.

"It was really a quick process, in two days (during June)," Smith said. "Not necessarily known (I was headed for Notre Dame), but I've thought about it before."

Smith, a three-time All-American in the 50 free, also shares the state 200 free relay record. She has swum with the Pittsford varsity, winners of the last 13 Section V Class A championships, since the eighth-grade.