



## Minnesota Crookston Women's Golf Signs Three Student-Athletes

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By: **Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Communication**



**CROOKSTON, Minn.** – The University of Minnesota Crookston women's golf program announced the signing of three student-athletes for the 2020-21 season. The Golden Eagles have inked Ciera Kotaska (Thief River Falls, Minn./Thief River Falls Lincoln H.S.), Lachlan Larson (Pequot Lakes, Minn./Pequot Lakes H.S.), and Ellen Solem (Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo Senior H.S.) to National Letters of Intent.

"I'm excited to have three signed for the 2020-21 golf season," said Head Coach [Bryant Friskop](#). "I think Ellen has the work ethic and golf I.Q. to be someone that steps in and is able to be one of our top golfers right from the start. Lachlan is a player that has shown vast improvements over the past few seasons and just the way that she wants to improve and get better has shown and I believe that it will continue to show when she arrives on campus. Ciera is a local player that will add depth and distance to our team as she is someone who can get off the tee well and get in position to set up shot after shot. All three players are tremendous people and I'm so excited to get them here and a part of our golf program."

The Golden Eagles are looking to continue to improve as a program under Head Coach [Bryant Friskop](#). Minnesota Crookston has improved their scoring average to 406.6 on the season, from 407.8 during the 2018-19 slate. The Golden Eagles are slated to return [Madi Andring](#) (Fr., Hawley, Minn.), [Peyton Hennen](#) (Fr., Morris, Minn.), [Camryn Larson](#) (So., Fertile, Minn.), [Anna Olson](#) (Jr., Fertile, Minn.) and [Marlee Steffes](#) (So., Fertile, Minn.) from their current roster.

The Golden Eagles have been led on the 2019-20 season by [Allison Bot](#) (Sr., Minneota, Minn.) with an average of 97.2 and a season-low of 86, while Olson is averaging 99.2.

Minnesota Crookston has continued to improve their facilities, as they added the state-of-the-art Indoor Golf Facility in 2019 which is one of the premier golf facilities in the region and the NSIC with a Foresight Sports golf simulator, a GCQuad launch monitor, putting greens, and brand new wood lockers.

The student-athletes listed as having signed a National Letter of Intent or Offer of Admission to play golf at the University of Minnesota Crookston have been verified by the Minnesota Crookston compliance office once they sign the National Letter of Intent or once the student-athlete has accepted an Offer of Admission for Minnesota Crookston.

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**Ciera Kotaska (Thief River Falls, Minn.)**  
Kotaska has earned the Academic Excellence Award for her work in math league. She is the daughter of Dan and Mindy Olson and is currently a student at Minnesota Crookston.

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**Lachlan Larson (Pequot Lakes, Minn./Pequot Lakes H.S.)**



Larson served as team captain for the Pequot Lakes H.S. squad. She has been a member of the A honor roll, and has been on the President's List. She also took classes at Central Lakes College.

Larson is the daughter of Laura and Eric Larson. She plans to major in marketing. Larson was born Jan. 8, 2002.

#### **Ellen Solem (Maple Grove, Minn./Osseo Senior H.S.)**

Solem is a three-time All-Northwest Suburban Conference player at Osseo Senior H.S. She is a Minnesota state tournament qualifier. She shot an 86 in the Minnesota Junior Golf 'Sota Series at Greenhaven Golf Course on June 14, 2019. Solem turned in an 83 on the junior tour at Hiawatha Golf Course on June 20, 2019. She shot an 88 on the junior tour at Pheasant Acres Golf Course on July 22, 2019.

She is the daughter of Jim and Jodi Solem. Solem is undecided on her major. She was born June 14, 2002. Her father Jim was a scholarship swimmer at the University of Missouri. She comes from a long line of golfers including her great-grandparents, grandparents, father, and uncle. Solem picked up golf when she was seven and dropped it for softball, before picking it back up in eighth grade and rediscovering her love for the sport. She has earned an academic letter three times. Solem is a nine-time A honor roll recipient. She also participated in the musical at her school, marching band, jazz band, pep band, and wind ensemble.

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