Cochrane volleyball products contribute to Montana squad

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Although she played in high school, Cochrane’s Karyssa Bowron said she didn’t fall in love with volleyball until she joined the Canuck Stuff league while attending the University of Calgary.

“(Volleyball is) like any other sport, you get addicted to it and then you just can’t stop playing it,” she said. “When you have a really good team, you have the bond between all your players and it’s like a family, like a second family . . . whenever I step on the court I’m home.”

While with the Canuck’s, Bowron attended a recruitment camp and was set up with a coach from Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

The former Cochrane Cobra was signed by the Montana State University Northern (MSUN) Skylights volleyball team starting the fall 2010 semester.

Skylights head coach Bill Huebsch heard Bowron might be interested in joining the Montana squad from fellow Cochranite and teammate Brittany Baker.

Baker was friends with Karyssa’s older sister Channing, who also played volleyball.

“(Channing) had mentioned that (Karyssa) wanted to come up from Oklahoma so I had added her on Facebook and talked to coach,” Baker said.

Karyssa then got into contact with Huebsch.

“We looked into it and we got the release from (Karyssa’s) coach at Oklahoma Panhandle State and she’s here now,” Huebsch said.

“With the addition of Karyssa to this years team . . . we solidified our serve receive game,” he added.

“(She) has really helped take our defence to a different level in the back row. We’re extending a lot more rallies because of her ability to read the ball.”

The Skylights finished their season with a record of 11-14.

Volleyball runs in the Bowron family, as aside from Channing and Karyssa, younger sister Devenee was part of the Cochrane Cobras squad that brought home the Tier 2 championship banner from the Rocky View Schools volleyball finals Nov. 5-6 at the Volleydome in Calgary.

Karyssa has another two years to go before completing a degree in biology at MSUN.
While she loves getting out on the court Karyssa puts her education first.

“...I did come here to play volleyball, but I always put my education before sports,” she said.

Baker is finishing a business degree and has been in Montana for the last five years. While both her and Karyssa sometimes miss Cochrane, they are comfortable in Montana.

“I like Cochrane. I like the mountains,” said Karyssa. “But I feel like I’ve set up a home (in Montana).”