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OTTOVILLE — Ottoville senior Abby Siefker had wanted to go to Bowling Green State University to play collegiate basketball for decade-long head Lady Falcon coach Curt Miller all along.

A detour along the way was when Miller decided to take the head coaching job at Indiana University after last season was completed.

When the administration decided to move the 11-year assistant coach Jennifer Roos, the last eight as associate head coach, over a seat on the bench in April, Siefker solidified her desire to play for the Lady Falcons.

She made it official Tuesday afternoon by signing her national letter-of-intent.

"I felt so comfortable when I was making my visits. I really wanted to play for Coach Miller and when he decided to move, that worried me," Siefker explained. "When they made Coach Roos the head coach, I was very relieved. She was my favorite coach when I visited. They all — coaches, team, the other students — made me feel so comfortable, like it was one big family. They have a lot of tradition about playing good basketball and having some good players. They play a lot like what we do here at Ottoville and I feel comfortable with that style. Right now, they like me playing inside and still doing things farther from the basket.

"Plus, I wanted to attend a Division I school close enough to home for my family to come and

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watch me play. That is so important for me."

The 1-year-old Stroh Center also had something to do with her decision to pick BGSU over other Mid-American Conference such as Kent State, Ohio University and Miami (University), as well as the Division II University of Findlay.

"When they bring in the prospective athletes, that is the first thing you see — this awesome facility," she continued. "It has such a great atmosphere; it's not that big and it feels like there's a lot of people there cheering you on. That is very much like what I experience here at Ottoville and it reminded me of home."

Siefker, a 3-year letterwinner entering her senior year, comes off a 23-1 junior year where she scored 341 points — shooting 55.4 percent from the floor and 71 percent from the line — grabbed 276 rebounds and 27 steals, blocked 71 shots and handed out 46 assists. That earned her District 8 and PCL Player of the Year honors, as well as first-team Northwest District mention.

Her overall career mark stands at 54 percent shooting from the field and 69 percent from the line, totalling 913 points, grabbing 774 rebounds and 99 thefts, blocking 228 shots and handing out 86 assists.

In three seasons, she has been part of a 65-5 mark, accounting for two regional appearances and three PCL titles.

The academics were also a major part of this equation.

"I wanted to get into the health-care field but after working in my Dad's (Dr. Tom Siefker) dental office, I changed my mind. I plan on going into pre-dentistry and some kind of biology program and eventually hope to become an oral surgeon," the Lady Green senior said.

As for this season, Siefker feels her Big Green teammates have some "unfinished business."

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"We lost in the regional semifinals last season and feel we have a chance to go even further this season. Our goal is always to win the Putnam County League and make a long run in the tournament," she added.

That echoes the attitude of her head coach at Ottoville, Dave Kleman.

"Those are always our goals: win the league and get to state. With Abby leading the way, we feel we can meet those goals," Kleman said. "The girls have been working really hard in the off-season on their individual and team skills."

Kleman is extremely proud of the first girls basketball player in his 22-year career at the school to sign to play at the Division I collegiate level.

"We've had a lot of success over the years and this is still the first. She is such a dominant presence on the court," he added. "She is tall and strong but she can get up and down the floor. She is a tough matchup for opposing center to stay with for four quarters with her skills. Very few of our opponents can play her 1-on-1; she requires constant double- and triple-teaming.

"I have no doubt she can make the transition to play more on the perimeter next year if they bring in a 6-5 girl. We have allowed her a lot more freedom to stray from the basket; she won't be camped under the basket offensively."