

Volleyball standout excited to be headed to NCAA's Big 10

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The future looks awfully bright for Haley Armstrong, especially now that a key piece of it has been decided upon.

A multi-time provincial and national champion, the 17-year-old Miltonian will write the next chapter of her volleyball success story at Indiana University (Indiana U.).

"I'm so happy. I'm super excited. The Big 10 is where I've always wanted to go," said Armstrong, who recently made a verbal commitment to the Hoosiers (starting in the fall of 2019) after looking at schools across the U.S. — as far away as California. "The Big 10, it's like playing pro-

fessionally."

The Halton Hurricanes standout was initially bound for the University of Maryland, but had her plans rerouted when accomplished coach Steve Aird — who re-energized the Terrapins program — signed on to lead the Hoosiers in December.

That plus Indiana U.'s highly-reputable business school made for a compelling case to change her decision about where to take her game beyond high school.

"He (Aird) believes in me. I put a lot of value in that," said five-foot-seven Armstrong, who'll be playing in a brand new facility when she gets to Indiana U. "It was a hard choice (to leave University of Maryland), but it was the best choice for me. It'll be a great place to help with my volleyball goals."

Her NCAA commitment comes amid a major transition on the court.

After excelling as a left-side hitter for most of her career, Armstrong has spent the better part of the last year embracing the role of libero.

And demonstrating quite a knack for it — so much so that the Hoosiers see her filling that position once she gets to Indiana U.

Showing a lot of promise in the backcourt, Armstrong was a reliable presence in her first major

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— Haley Armstrong

test as a defensive specialist this past summer with the Canadian youth women's team at the US High Performance Championships in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Her international debut performance helped Canada hold its own against an elite field of U16 and U18 teams — beating a few

Armstrong commits to Indiana U.



Armstrong family photo

Haley Armstrong has committed to Indiana University for the 2019-20 season.

along the way — en route to a 10th-place finish.

"I like being the backcourt leader," said Armstrong, who has tasted plenty of beach volleyball

success along with her numerous accomplishments on the court. "I like taking up a lot of room back there and being a stabilizing presence for the team."

Up next for Armstrong is a March break trip to France, where she'll take on the country's youth national squad as part of Team Ontario Elite.

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