



PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Nijae Jones with her mom Marla Davis, and Camille Watson with her dad Charles Watson, sign their letters in a ceremony at San Leandro High.

By Jim Knowles

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Two San Leandro High students signed letters last week to attend college on athletic scholarships.

Pirates track team member Nijae Jones won a scholarship to UC Berkeley, and soccer player Camille Watson is going to Cal State Northridge. The seniors signed in front of their families, friends and coaches last Thursday in the SLHS athletic office.

When Watson joined the soccer team as a freshman, coach Ron Hattley wasn't sure she was big enough.

"I asked her, 'Are you sure you can deal with the bigger girls?' She said, 'Yes,' and she proved it," Hattley said. "She's so fast, a very quick player."

Watson said she liked basketball but she realized she wasn't tall enough to play at a more advanced level, so she went out for soccer.

In college, Watson said she plans to take classes to prepare her for a career in law.

Jones went to the state track meet three times, running the 800 meters. She also runs the 400.

Some coaches from Cal saw her run at the state meet and asked if she would like to visit the Berkeley campus. Jones said she knew the campus was for her as soon as she arrived.

In the classroom, Jones is interested in a range of subjects from biology and chemistry to political science.

Track and football coach Brad Bowers congratulated Watson and Jones at the signing

ceremony.

“Your hard work and dedication will pay off,” he said. “I expect to see you ladies doing some good things in college.”