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Thursday May 10, 2007

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**Owego's Morabito picks UMBC for diving****From staff reports**

Owego senior diver Mike Morabito signed a National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Morabito chose the America East Conference program over Niagara and University at Buffalo, citing UMBC's coaching stability and its swimming and diving facilities among the factors in his decision to attend the Division I program.

"It's a really good school, and their program is successful," said Morabito, who received a partial scholarship. "I seem to fit in there really well."

Morabito placed 15th at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association diving championships this year at Erie Community College. He was runner-up to Maine-Endwell's Mike Sheppard at the Section 4 Championships.

Morabito, who will major in financial economics, felt toward the end of his junior year that diving at the Division I level was a possibility.

It appears he might have a chance to make an instant impact at UMBC, as the Retrievers graduate all but one diver from last year's team.

EX-SPARTANS GOLFER TO SACRED HEART

Former Maine-Endwell High golfer Andrew Strom has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Division I Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

Strom is due to graduate from the Heritage Academy and International Junior Golf Academy in South Carolina on May 23, where he has competed the last two years at the national level on the International Junior Golf Tour.

Prior to that, Strom spent four years as a member of the M-E varsity golf team, where he twice was named Southern Tier Athletic Conference All-Division. He qualified for the state tournament his freshman and sophomore seasons.

Strom is receiving a combination athletic and academic scholarship to attend Sacred Heart, a member of the Northeast Conference.



Photo provided

Owego's Mike Morabito signs a National Letter of Intent as his coaches, Jason Westervelt, left, and Amy DeRito, right, and his parents, Vicky and Joe, watch on Wednesday. Morabito will dive for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

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