

The Perfect Match: Camy Huddleston learns Medical School Destination

As senior midfielder Camy Huddleston hopped on the Oklahoma State women's soccer team's bus ahead of the team's journey to Saint Louis, she had a more imminent matchday to think about.

The medical school match results arrived at about 8 a.m., during the Cowgirls commute to the Gateway City for a weekend battle with the [Saint Louis Billikens](#). Huddleston's results couldn't have been better.

[Texas Tech School of Medicine](#) matched with her, opening a potential way to return to the Cowgirls for the fall season. Texas Tech provided a likely chance of a deferral option, where Huddleston could return to OSU to complete her chemistry minor and compete on the soccer team, before starting medical school in 2022.

"I already knew I was getting into medical school, so it really wasn't nerve-wracking," Huddleston said. "It's just whether I was going to Tech or whether I was going somewhere else."

That place could have been UT Galveston, who offered Huddleston a pre-match acceptance. She took the offer into matchday, before matching with her preferred option.

When applying for medical schools, Huddleston focused on the ones inside Texas state lines. In Texas, [90% of the medical school matriculants are in-state residents](#). Meeting that criteria, Huddleston's chances of being accepted increased.

She interviewed with myriad Texas schools, ranking them from her highest to lowest preference, while the schools rank the applicants. Matchday pairs the highest preference to the highest applicant.

On top of the potential for a deferral, Texas Tech made a good impression on Huddleston's virtual interview.

"They were the most laid back, and they were the most family oriented," Huddleston said. "And so, family is a big thing for me. I'm one of seven kids. I'm very family oriented, so they were very accommodating toward different challenges that come in life."

"I also fell in love with them because of their staff," Huddleston said. "They were super receptive to everything. They were super nice. They reached out afterward, made sure everything went ok."

That, combined with the potential flexibility, warranted the top ranking on Huddleston's Texas match list.

OSU Success

Huddleston has been a key cog in the Cowgirls lineup since arriving on campus. In her four years, she has produced six goals and seven assists.

The senior helped the Cowgirls win two Big 12 regular season Championships in her career, including scoring a [74th minute goal against Baylor](#) to clinch the 2019 regular season title.

OSU junior Grace Yochum recognized Huddleston's effort during their shared time in the Cowgirls' program.

"Just the way she plays and the way she fights, it's unlike any other player that I have ever played with," Yochum said. "And I love playing with her."

Huddleston's spring season ended after the match against the Billikens. She suffered an injury, potentially ending her Cowgirls career mere days after learning her medical school match.



Huddleston continues supporting the Cowgirls after suffering her season-ending injury.

Interest turned decision

The idea of working in the medical field began manifesting in Huddleston's childhood.

As a young kid, she carried the family's first-aid kit when her father and five older siblings were baling hay on their ranch. The experience initially piqued her interest in medicine, leading her toward a fascination in becoming a physician.

Then, an eighth-grade Spanish project required Huddleston to talk to someone in a profession she found interesting.

Huddleston said being a physician had been on her mind, prompting her to reach out to the family's pediatrician, Dr. Tom Rogers, to talk about his daily life.

"I told him about my project and he asked about my school and how athletics were going," Huddleston said. "And so, he gave my mom his home number so that way I could call him on his personal time and ask him questions. So, that was a big thing for me."

Beforehand, Huddleston had been weighing her options between becoming a physician and a lawyer. Her parents were lawyers, giving Huddleston a reason to teeter between the two ideas.

After her conversation with Rogers, Huddleston narrowed in on the medical field.

By Jacob Sturm

“That’s whenever I solidified the plan,” Huddleston said. “I was like, ‘that’s what I’m going to do.’”

Friends and Foes

Growing up playing sports, Huddleston made friends with current OSU teammate [Hannah Webb](#) when both were about in sixth grade. Webb and Huddleston played on the same club soccer team in the Lake Highland division, despite living an hour apart.

The two also played together in basketball, where Huddleston earned all-district, all-county and all-region honors.

“We didn’t have the opportunity to grow up in the same city or anything, but soccer and sports were what bonded us,” Webb said.



Webb turns a chance at an OSU soccer career into a four-year success

Once high school started, Webb and Huddleston’s time as club-level teammates finished. Their schools faced each other, adding friendly competition to the local matches.

“Those were some of the most challenging,” Webb said. “They were definitely our rival team. Very challenging, very gritty. Man, I don’t know (who won more games), there was some tied games. They won some, we won some. It was back and forth. Those were definitely some of the most fun games.”

In those competitive settings, the enjoyment didn’t falter. The former teammates played on opposite sides of the field, providing limited opportunities to interact.

“We never really interacted much, but it would always be those random moments where we’d, like, look at each other and make eye-contact and kind of laugh,” Webb said.

Eventually, the recruitment started gaining traction.

OSU coach Colin Carmichael reached out, starting the recruitment into the OSU program. Carmichael said he talks to each recruit about what they want to do and major in.

Huddleston isn’t the first player interested in medical school to come through the Cowgirls soccer program. Carmichael is no stranger to athletes in his program going into medicine.

By Jacob Sturm

“We’ve had quite a few different kids do it,” Carmichael said. “Probably different areas of medicine, but we’ve had some kids go into physical therapy. We’ve had physicians’ assistants. We’ve had ones that want to go on to be medical doctors.”

Huddleston chose OSU over Baylor, Arkansas, TCU, UCLA, Kansas, USC, San Diego State and Missouri. Once she made the decision, the task shifted toward bringing Webb to Stillwater.

“My real motivation behind looking into OSU was Camy,” Webb said. “She had committed there and I reached out to her. And she was like, ‘Hey, you should really look into OSU.’ And I was like, ‘OSU? Ok.’”

After being OSU teammates for four years, and learning her fate on the bus ride, Huddleston didn’t gloat about her accomplishment. Most of the team didn’t even hear the news from her.

Instead she told Webb, who had been sitting next to her during the trip. Then, Webb made the announcement.

“I kind of kept it to myself, like my pre-match acceptances,” Huddleston said. “I’m not one of those people that just tells everybody everything. And whenever I found out where I matched, I didn’t even (tell them).”

The Cowgirls’ elation filled the bus. OSU freshman Kionna Simon remembered the team cheering, yelling and clapping once the news got out.

Although the match happened off the field, its success compares well to the Cowgirls soccer matchups. With her next destination determined, Huddleston will use her soccer experiences as she paves her path.

“I’m expecting it to be challenging academically,” Huddleston said. “And thanks to soccer and already learning how to balance different things in my life, I think that’ll definitely help me a lot as I pursue my medical education.”