



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

SPORTS INFORMATION * NEWS RELEASE

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UGF Men's Basketball Inks Two Locals

Great Falls, MT – University of Great Falls men's basketball coach **Steve Silsby** has announced the signing of **Jesse Zuidema** and **Keegan McDermott** to NAIA/Frontier Conference Letters of Intent today. Zuidema and McDermott, each of whom have their hometown roots right here in Great Falls, will enroll in classes and join the men's basketball program this coming fall, after completing their senior years at Foothills Christian Community School and Great Falls Central Catholic High School, respectively.

"I am very excited to have gotten commitments from both Jesse and Keegan," Silsby said. "I am glad that our program can benefit from both of their desires to stay local and compete collegiately. They each have their own unique story about how they landed with us, but either way I'm happy that it has worked out this way."

Zuidema, a 5'9" guard, put together a solid prep career at Foothills. Under the direction of coach John Fried, Zuidema led the Falcons to back-to-back State Championships in the Montana Home School Athletic Association. He was a three-time All-Conference selection as well as a two-time All-State pick. As a senior, he was voted as the team's most valuable player while averaging 20.5 points, 3.8 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game.

In addition to his exploits on the hardwood, Zuidema maintained a 3.96 grade point average and was on the honor roll every semester of high school career. Also, he excelled on the pitch as a two-time All-Conference and two-time All-State soccer player.

"Jesse has a number of strengths on the basketball court," Silsby said. "He is quick and handles the ball well. His biggest strength is probably his ability to score. He can do so in a variety of ways which will make him hard to defend."

Zuidema is the son of Dan and Michelle Zuidema. He plans to major in biology with aspirations of continuing on to a sports medicine-related professional career.

McDermott was a three-year letter-winner at Central Catholic, captaining the team as both a junior and senior, and played this past season for coach Kris Kelly, who also happens to be an adjunct professor at UGF. In addition to basketball, McDermott also lettered in football, golf and cross-country and made appearances at the state level for the latter two.

"I've known Keegan for a long time," said Silsby. "As a middle school student, he helped out our program by videotaping a lot of our games. To see him come full circle now as a young adult is refreshing for me. I know he's excited for the years to come and I'm looking forward to getting a chance to work with him."

McDermott is the son of John and Gina McDermott. He plans to major in criminal justice.

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