



University of Great Falls
ARGONAUTS

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Argo Wrestling Bolsters Lineup With 3 State Champs

Great Falls, MT – University of Great Falls wrestling coach Caleb Schaeffer has announced the signings of three Montana State Champion wrestlers to NAIA National Letters of Intent today. Joining the Argo wrestling squad this coming fall will be Ryan Martin of Lewistown, Brock Picard of Polson and Kent Pattison of Havre.

Martin comes to UGF after a stellar career at Fergus County High School in which he compiled a record of 161-8 while winning the state championship three times at 140 pounds. In addition to his accomplishments on the mat, Martin was also a two-time All-Conference selection for football from his linebacker position.

Martin also brings a strong academic background to UGF, having been an eight-time selection to the All-State Academic Team for football and wrestling. That comes as no surprise as he's carried a 3.80 grade point average during high school. He intends to major in wildlife management.

"Ryan is one of the best kids in Montana and we are very lucky to keep such a great wrestler and student in the state," Schaeffer said. "We will be expecting a lot of great things from him in the coming years."

Martin was brief in his comments, saying, "I am just very excited to be able to stay in Montana to continue my wrestling career while receiving a top quality education."

Picard joins the Argos after three state championship wins of his own at 171 pounds while grappling for the Pirates of Polson High School. Like the afore-mentioned Martin, Picard is a well-rounded student-athlete having garnered All-State recognition in football as a tight end and linebacker as well as placing fourth in the state as a javelin thrower for track and field. Through all his exploits in athletics, Picard has maintained a 3.73 grade point average and was a 10-time Academic All-State pick as well as a member of the National Honor Society. He plans to major in biology.

"Brock is exactly the kind of student-athlete we are trying to attract to the University of Great Falls," Schaeffer said. "He has tremendous talent on the wrestling mat and we will be looking for him to step in right away at one of the upper weight classes. Along with being a great wrestler, he excels in the classroom which fits the mold of the team very well."

Picard was thankful for the opportunity ahead of him, saying, "I would like to thank my parents and my brother, Bryce, as well as my coaches for helping me get this far. I'm certainly excited for the challenge ahead."

Pattison put together a fine career of his own for the Blue Ponies of Havre High having won two state championships while wrestling at 152 pounds. Pattison was also an All-State honoree in football and was a two-time Academic All-State selection. Throughout high school, Pattison has sported a 3.30 grade point average and he will major in business administration at UGF.

"Kent has all the potential to be one of the best recruits out of Montana this year," Schaeffer said. "He has all the tools to be a champion coming from that great program up there at Havre High School and coach Scott

Filius. If I could get a kid from there every year I would be a happy man. We are looking forward to great things from Kent. He should be able to follow in the footsteps of the many great wrestlers who have come out of Havre.”

Pattison, like the other signees is excited to get underway. He said, “The team and the coaching staff just felt like the right fit. Their goals and expectations for success are exactly what I was looking for in a wrestling program.”

These three highly touted individuals join an Argo team which placed third in the nation this past year, the team’s highest ranking ever.