

# The special journey of Andrew Sellars

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The basketball journey, mixed with the journey of life, has taken Montana State University-Northern senior Andrew Sellars on a quite a ride.

Sellars has already traveled from Missoula to Browning, all the way to the NAIA national men's basketball tournament in Kansas City, and plenty of points in between, including Havre.

Basketball at MSU-Northern is what gave Sellars all the opportunities he's had to do great things on the court and see all the places he has. It's given him a chance to be impacted, shaped and changed by others, and in return, he's done the same for others since he arrived in Havre five years ago. And while Sellars' stellar career at Northern is winding down on the hardwood, he knows there's still more to do, on the court with his 20th-ranked MSU-N team, and in life.

The person Sellars is today is someone he, his parents, his teammates, his coaches present and past, his wife Kelly of three years and his three-year-old son Dresyn can all be proud of, can admire and can aspire to be like on and off the court, in the classroom and in life in general. And it's his time here at Northern that has helped make Sellars who he is today.

"I love playing basketball at Northern," Sellars said. "It's been a blessing to be able to play and go to school here. To be somewhere close to home, somewhere my parents can see me play all the time."

"Northern, coach (Shawn) Huse, the guys I've played with, playing basketball here, it's all been a big part of helping me become the person I am today. I know through playing basketball here, I've grown up so much, I've become a better student, a better parent, a better basketball player, a better person because I've played college basketball here."

### Defense made him grow

For the better part of two years now, Sellars, a rangy 6-4 super-talented athlete has been widely regarded as the best defender in the Frontier Conference.

That's not to say he isn't good on the offensive end, too. He's a standout 3-point shooter and an amazing leaper who will leave MSU-N with a highlight reel full of spectacular dunks.

But to hear Sellars tell it, the defensive end of the floor is what shaped him as a player. It made him the player he is today, and it's also one of the hardest things about playing college basketball. But it's clearly something he takes pride in.

It's also something Sellars, a Class A All-State guard from Browning, had to learn as he went along.

"It's just so different when you get to college. First the practices are just harder. But defense is the biggest adjustment. If you can't prove you can defend at this level, you aren't going to see the floor very often. From day one, coach Huse just kept pushing me to be a better defender, to learn the principles of defense, and I had to buy into that. I had to believe in what he was teaching me. But that's also why the teams I've played on have had so much success. We (Lights) are always one of the best defensive teams in our conference, and that's all coach Huse, and all of the guys I've ever played with buying into that philosophy."

And not only did Sellars grow from learning to play hard-nosed defense, it taught him other key lessons about basketball, and life.

"To play college basketball takes real dedication," he said. "When you're in high school, you think you're dedicated, but then you get to college, and it's a totally different level of commitment. You have to condition yourself to be commit-



Havre Daily News/Nikki Carlson/photos@havredailynews.com

**MSU-N's Andrew Sellars has achieved a tremendous amount of success while playing basketball and going to school at Northern. Sellars will play his final two regular season home games this weekend.**

ted in a way like you've never been before. It's not easy. Basketball is a year-round, almost-like job for college players, but I just changed my mind set. Coach Huse always pushed me to keep getting better, and once I really learned to be committed, everything kind of took off. You learn to keep up with school with your family, everything. And the way we play basketball here at Northern really taught me all of that."

"One thing I'll never forget is when Andrew came to play with our guys on his recruiting visit. Although he was very thin and young, he never backed down from anyone. We were always very impressed with his athleticism but even more impressed with his toughness," Huse said. "His defense really jumped to another level the past three seasons. From the technical aspect, that's what I will remember most. He has become a lock-down defender at the 3-point-line who also is there for his teammates on the weak side, to block shots. He creates turnovers and, almost unbelievably, leads us in defensive rebounding per game."

"To be honest, I was not sure he was going to make it after his first practice. His practice habits did not impress us initially so we were not sure if he would make it," Huse added. "He definitely stepped everything up another notch by his sophomore year, however, and earned his opportunity to play the three spot. His effort and energy in practice reached another level that year. Things were really starting to click for him. It is amazing to me to think about how far he has come from that first session. He really is an example of hard work, perseverance and what having a great attitude can do."

### That rare longevity

While Sellars has already achieved plenty, including helping lead the Lights to their first NAIA tournament appearance in a decade last season, it's not the individual accolades he'll take away from Northern when his playing days are over.

Instead, it's the lasting bonds he's developed, it's his personal growth, and it's sticking with something he started and finishing what he set out to do, and so much more.

Sellars has the Lights back in the NAIA tourney hunt again this year as they enter the final week of the regular season. And what he's most proud of on the court, is just the fact he's been a part of so much success, and a special program in which he's been a mainstay for five years — something not so common in NAIA basketball anymore.

"We have always been successful since I've been here," he said. "A big part of that is because all the years I've been here, we have always been a team and a family on and off the court. Coach Huse preaches that every day, and every year, we have been a really together group, no matter who's here. I don't think we could have possibly won as many games as we have over the years if we weren't really close like that."

And win the Lights have. Sellars red-shirted at MSU-N in 2005 and saw limited action the next year, but since his sophomore season, he's been a staple in the Northern lineup. Through that time, Sellars has gone from being led by veterans like good friend and Browning native Leo Bullchild as well as Reid Stovall, to leading and mentoring young players on Northern's roster today.

Sellars is not only grateful for the teammates who mentored and helped him, but he's taken to being a leader as

a veteran Northern player, and it's something his coach not only applauds, but his proud of him for, too.

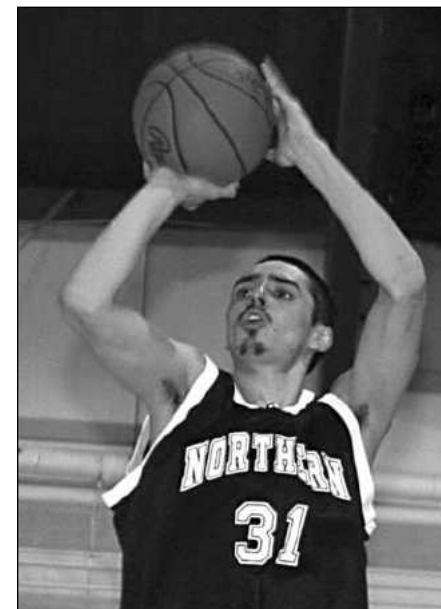
"Andrew is a very loyal, dedicated teammate who always looks after the other guys. His leadership has been outstanding and will be missed very much. Besides basketball skills he has something positively infectious that the other guys have acquired, and I'm not even sure I can put my finger on what it is," Huse said. "Those characteristic qualities alone have made him one of the greatest all-around players to ever compete at Northern, and he will never be forgotten by me. The completion of Andrew's career is like a member of our family moving out of the house. It is a very bittersweet moment for me. He has been on this team through very exciting times for Northern Basketball and very important, exciting personal times in my life."

### Not nearly done yet

His basketball career might be winding down, but Sellars has plenty left in the tank. He will earn a bachelors degree in business this spring and has already begun work on a Civil Engineering degree, something he says he and his family will remain at Northern to complete. He also has a wonderful life to look ahead to, and yes, still some basketball to play.

"I'm definitely not done. I'm proud of what I have accomplished, I'm thankful to coach Huse for helping make me the player and the person I am," Sellars said. "I'm proud of all my teammates past and the guys I play with now, and all that we've done together over the years. But we aren't quite done yet, there's still more to do with basketball. And I have a lot more to do after basketball. I'm going to miss playing it Northern. Like I said, I've been blessed to be here. And I'm going to reflect someday and probably really be amazed at everything that's happened over my five years. But there's a lot to do in the future. My family, my degrees, I still have a lot I want to accomplish."

Like Huse said, Sellars attitude and demeanor is infectious. And long after he's no longer playing at Northern, when he's off accomplishing all that he still wants to do, what he has done on the MSU-N campus, the impact he's had on Northern basketball will still be there. With who Andrew Sellars is and who he has become, it's easy to see why the impact he's had at MSU-N will be everlasting.



Havre Daily News/Nikki Carlson  
**MSU-Northern senior Andrew Sellars is widely regarded as the best defender in the Frontier Conference, but he isn't limited to defense. He's also an outstanding 3-point shooter. He's also had a true college career, arriving at MSU-N from Browning as a freshman and staying with the program for five seasons.**

## Local Sports

### High School

Thursday

**Central A Boys and Girls Basketball at Great Falls CMR**

### GIRLS

1 p.m. — Belgrade vs Browning  
7 p.m. — Havre vs Lewistown

### BOYS

2:30 p.m. — Havre vs Lewistown  
8:30 p.m. — Belgrade vs Livingston

**Northern C Boys at Great Falls**

7 p.m. — Winifred vs Power sf  
8:30 p.m. — Chinook vs Denton sf

**Northern C Girls at Great Falls**

11 a.m. — Roy-Winifred vs Centerville  
12:30 p.m. — Box Elder vs Valier  
4 p.m. — Chester/J-I vs North Star  
5:30 p.m. — Belt vs Winnett-GR

**Northern B Boys Divisional at Glasgow**

6:30 p.m. — Rocky Boy vs Poplar

### Friday

**Central A Boys and Girls at Great Falls CMR**

Boys semifinals at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Girls semifinals at 2:30 and 7 p.m.

**Northern C Boys at Great Falls**

loser-out games at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., consolation game at 7 p.m., championship game at 8:30 p.m.

**Northern C Girls at Great Falls**

loser-out games at 8 and 9:30 a.m., semifinals at 4 and 5:30 p.m.

### Saturday

**Central A Boys and Girls at Great Falls CMR**

girls loser-out at 9:30 a.m., consolation game at 3:30 p.m., championship game at 6:30 p.m.

boys loser-out at 11 a.m., consolation game at 5 p.m., championship game at 8 p.m.

**Northern C Girls at Great Falls**

loser-out games at 9:30 and 11 a.m., consolation game at 7 p.m., championship game at 8:30 p.m.

### College Basketball

#### Friday

6 p.m. — Skylights vs RMC  
8 p.m. — Lights vs RMC

#### Saturday

6 p.m. — Skylights vs Carroll College  
8 p.m. — Lights vs Carroll College

### High School Hockey

#### Friday

8:15 p.m. — Ice Hawks vs Billings

#### Saturday

7 p.m. — Ice Hawks vs Helena

#### Sunday

11 a.m. — Ice Hawks vs Helena

### Northern C Boys Boxes

**Power 43, Big Sandy 41**

**Big Sandy 15 8 15 3 — 41**  
**Power 9 17 9 8 — 43**

**Big Sandy** — C. Pearson 13, T. Ophus 6, B. Brumwell 11, C. Darlington 9, T. Lackner 2.

**Chinook 55, Dutton-Brady 49**

**Chinook 10 10 21 14 — 55**  
**Dutton-Brady 14 13 10 12 — 49**

**Chinook** — T. Molyneux 8, T. Erskine 12, L. Scmitt 3, D. MacLean 25, C. Halder 7.

## Northern C: Power upsets Big Sandy

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"We zoned them (D-Backs) in the first half, and they just started making shots from all over the place on us," Daniels said. "But then we went to a trap defense on them in the second half, and it really gave them fits. They started turning it over, and we gained some confidence as a result."

"Offensively, we were able to get out and run a little more than we normally do, and I felt coming in here we needed to do that," he added. "Then of course, Dylan MacLean stepped up so big for us. He made big shots in the first half to keep us in it, and he really just took the game over in the third quarter."

Indeed, anyone who didn't know about the sharp-shooting MacLean, or the Beeters for that matter, does now. MacLean ripped off 20 of his 25 points in the second and third quarters, and he also pulled down eight rebounds. Erskine added 12 points and Tyler Molyneux kept the Dutton-Brady defense honest by scoring eight points in the paint.

With a confidence that had been building since the start of the 9C tournament last week in Havre, the Beeters have their sights firmly set on making the state tournament. Next up is Denton, a team which knocked off 19-1 Belt in Wednesday's nightcap.

"Hopefully, whoever we face, we will be ready," Daniels said

before knowing his team would face the Trojans in the semifinals. "I feel like this team is really confident right now, and if we continue to defend and shoot the ball well, we have as good a chance as anybody."

### Power 43, Big Sandy 41

Despite Chinook's thrilling win Wednesday night, the first day of the Northern C wasn't all good for the 9C.

In the opening round on Wednesday afternoon, 9C champion Big Sandy fell to Power 43-41, a team the Pioneers handed back in December.

Foul trouble plagued the Pioneers in the second half as senior Blake Brumwell missed most of the third quarter with four fouls, and then fouled out of the game with 2:16 left to play.

Still, the Pioneers, who only scored three points in the final eight minutes of the game, had a chance to tie at the end of regulation, but missed on that opportunity.

"Just not happy about the way we played today. I know we can play better," Big Sandy head coach Roy Lackner said. "We had no urgency, we didn't rebound well at all, and that hurt us against a physical team like Power. We just didn't play well at all."

The game was back and forth until the final buzzer. Big Sandy led 15-9 at the end of the first quarter, but Power took a three-point lead into the lockerroom.



Havre Daily News/George Ferguson

**Big Sandy's Blake Brumwell (ball) looks for a shot as he's defended by a trio of Power Pirates with teammate Taylor Ophus (left) looking on during Wednesday's first round game at the Northern C tournament in Great Falls. The Pirates beat the Pioneers 43-41, knocking Big Sandy into this morning's loser-out game against Centerville.**

The Pioneers stormed back behind six quick points from sophomore Colter Darlington and led 38-35 at the end of three.

"We had the lead, we did a good job while Blake was on the bench in foul trouble. It hurts not having him in there, but the kids did a nice job while he wasn't on the floor," Lackner said. "We had the lead, but we just didn't execute well at all in the fourth quarter."

"It's disappointing because I know we can play better," he added. "But the good thing is, we have more games to play. There is still more basketball out there for us, and I know we'll come back and play better."

Corbin Pearson laced the Pi-

oneers with 13 points and eight rebounds. Brumwell fouled out with 11 points and Darlington added nine.

Big Sandy (17-4) drops into loser-out play this morning against Centerville (16-5). The Miners were trounced 61-43 by top seeded Winifred in Wednesday's first game. Belt (19-2) faces Dutton-Brady (17-5) in the other loser-out game this morning.

The 2010 Northern C boys tournament continues today and runs through Friday night at the Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. Tonight's boys semifinals start with Winifred battling Power at 7, and then Chinook takes on Denton at 8:30.

**MSU-Northern Athletics are... HOT!**

**SKYLIGHTS BASKETBALL**

**Skylights vs. Rocky Mountain February 26 - Havre 6 p.m.**

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**LIGHTS BASKETBALL**

**Lights vs. Rocky Mountain February 26 - Havre 8 p.m.**

Game sponsored by: **VALLEY FURNITURE**

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