

Winter sports coming early to Northern

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Neither the Montana State University-Northern football team, nor the MSU-Northern volleyball team will be in action this coming weekend.

And while it's only the beginning of October, it's time for some basketball and wrestling at MSU-N.

The MSU-N men's and women's basketball teams have been prepping for the 2011-12 season for a little over two weeks now, and both the Lights and Skylights will make their 2011 debut on Saturday in Havre. The Northern men take to the floor as the defending Frontier Conference champions and will look to take the first step towards a return trip to the NAIA National Tournament. against the King's University from Edmonton.

The Skylights will also be in action against the King's on Saturday afternoon.

The Northern wrestling team is also back on the mat, getting ready for the 2011-12 campaign. Last Friday night, during the MSU-N volleyball match, Northern's Evan Hinebauch was presented with a championship ring, honoring his 2011 NAIA national title at 189 pounds. Hinebauch is back for his senior year, and the Lights are poised for great things this fall and winter.

MSU-N under head coach Tyson Thivierge, will start the season with three intra-squad duals. Northern is in Ronan on Oct. 13 for the first Maroon-Gold Dual. The Lights then wrestle in Bozeman on Oct. 18 and the third Maroon/Gold Dual will be held in Havre Oct. 20.

The winter sports season gets underway with the MSU-N basketball teams taking on Kings University on Saturday at the MSU-Northern Fieldhouse. The Skylights tip off at 3 p.m. and the Lights play at 5 p.m.

For a special look at the Lights and Skylights basketball teams, see Friday's Havre Daily News.