MSU-N inks Laurel basketball standout

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Wednesday, April 17th, 2013

One of the premier basketball players in Montana is heading to Havre and the campus of Montana State University-Northern.

MSU-N head coach Shawn Huse recently announced the signing of Laurel standout guard Brett Thompson to an NAIA national letter of intent. Thompson is the first signee of the 2013 Northern recruiting class.

Thompson is a 6-2 shooting guard who averaged 15 points, six rebounds and two assists per game for a Laurel squad which went 21-4 this season, went 10-0 in the Eastern A, finished second at the Eastern A Divisional and fourth at the Class A state tournament. For his efforts, Thompson was named Class A First-Team All-State this season, as well as to the Class A State All-Tournament Team. And most recently, Thompson was named to the prestigious Montana-Wyoming All-Star Game roster.

"Brett is a leader and a first-class competitor," MSU-Northern coach Shawn Huse said. "He is the definition of a self-made player who has continued to prove he belongs in the state's elite class of high school basketball players."

Thompson, a three-time Eastern A All-Conference selection, has been a driving force behind the powerful Locomotive basketball program. As a sophomore, Thompson’s Locomotives captured the Class A state championship, before finishing fourth in both 2012 and 2013. They also captured the Eastern A regular season title the last three years.

"He has good size for a guard, moves his feet extremely well, and is just a heady, crafty all-around player," Huse said. "He also happens to be an exceptional student with the potential to enhance our program tremendously, both on and off the floor next year."

Thompson will join a Lights’ squad coming of their third straight trip to the NAIA national tournament. Northern returns a senior and junior-laden team in 2013-14, with only Devin Jackson graduating from the program.