

## Hi-Line Athlete Profile: Nahe Keanaaina

George Ferguson, *Havre Daily News*

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Hawaii is a long way from Havre, and in winter or summer, it's like two different worlds. But Montana State University-Northern senior setter Nahe Keanaaina is making the most out of her time playing volleyball for the Skylights.

Keanaaina is in her third season with the Northern program. She played sparingly two years ago before red shirting last season. Now a senior, she's the setter and one of the Frontier Conference's assist leaders through the first month of the season. Keanaaina is also a big part of why the Skylights are off to a 10-4 start and are sitting in first place in the Frontier standings heading into Friday night's homecoming match against UGF.

The native of Kailua-Kona, HI on the island of Hawaii, Keanaaina transferred to MSU-N from Clarendon College in Texas where she was an honorable mention all-conference setter. And in her role with the Skylights, she's making a big difference in Havre and on the MSU-N campus despite the major differences between Montana and her home on Hawaiian Islands.

Here's five questions with Northern's senior setter as she and her team prepare to play a huge match against the rival Argos on Friday night.

HDN: Your team is off to a great start this season. What's been a big key to the Skylights' success so far?

Keanaaina: "I think we're doing well because of the attitude on the floor. This team's attitude has been awesome. There's no complaining, no getting down. We've just been up and very positive and the whole team is on the same page all the time."

HDN: What's the best thing about being a setter?

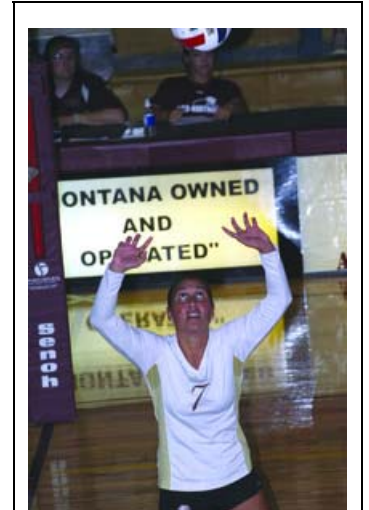
Keanaaina: "The best part of it for me is setting up the ball so the hitters can just go up and kill it. I really like making that good pass and seeing them in the air, seeing them go up and just kill it. That's a great feeling."

HDN: What was the biggest shock for you, coming from Hawaii to Havre?

Keanaaina: "When I first got here, it was the time zone change. I was playing volleyball here when I would have still been asleep at home. That was something I had to get used to, but it wasn't too bad. But when the winter came, when the snow came, that was a whole different story. That was a big time adjustment for me."

HDN: What's your favorite thing about Hawaii and your favorite thing about Montana?

Keanaaina: "Something I really love and miss about Hawaii is being able to go to the beach and the mountains in the same day. You could go to the beach and it's really warm, then go up in the mountains and it would be really cool and beautiful. What I really like about Havre is the people, they are all so nice



*MSU-Northern's Nahe Keanaaina sets a pass during a Frontier Conference volleyball match last weekend in Havre. Keanaaina, a senior setter from Hawaii has helped the Skylights get off to a great start to the 2011 season. And she'll try and help MSU-N keep it going when the Skylights host UGF for a homecoming match Friday night at the MSU-Northern Fieldhouse.*

here and they made me feel really welcome right away. I also like being able to go over to places like Missoula. The mountains there are just beautiful."

HDN: Friday's match is against the rival Argos, and it's also homecoming. How exciting is that?

Keanaaina: "I'm super pumped to play with this team on homecoming. The last two years we've been gone for homecoming so this will be my first. I'm really excited for Friday, excited to have the big crowd, all the football players there, with all the energy and excitement that will be in the gym, I'm just super excited for this match."