



Ronan's Cheff signs with MSU-Northern

Saturday, April 23, 2011

RONAN - MSU-Northern will now have two Cheffs in the kitchen.

Ronan senior Toby Cheff signed his letter of intent to wrestle for the Northern Lights and join his brother, Mickey, in Havre.

"We've always pushed each other in practice and it will be good to have each other's backs, again," Cheff said.

Cheff won two state championships for Ronan including this year at the 189-pound weight class.

"I wouldn't want to have wrestled for any other team because I wouldn't have been as good," he said. "We work a lot harder than any other team."

It's that hard work and Cheff's unique wrestling style that landed him a spot on a collegiate roster.

"You don't find a big guy with that kind of scrambling ability," MSU-Northern head wrestling coach Tyson Thivierge said.

Ronan head wrestling coach Dustyn Azure, who went to MSU-Northern with Thivierge and wrestled on the same collegiate team, echoed how Cheff's unorthodox style should translate in the collegiate ranks.

"He's a lot more mobile," Azure said. "You've got to wrestle him in practice just to know his different style."

Cheff added to the legacy of Ronan wrestling, which has a multitude of state titles individually and as a team. Azure had high praise for his two-time state champ.

"He's definitely right up there with the best of them," he said.

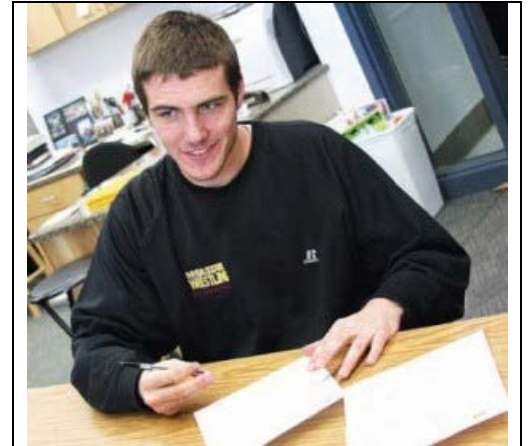
Cheff will join his brother and former Ronan wrestler Cameron Neiss on the team. Neiss earned all-American honors this year.

"They come from a great program," Thivierge said. "They're born and bred to wrestle and they know what to expect."

Jamie Peterson and Travis DuMont, both from Charlo, were also freshman wrestlers for the Northern Lights last year. Cheff will now have to adjust to the differences between high school wrestling and collegiate wrestling where everyone out on the mat is very talented and very motivated.

"It's now a lifestyle, you've got to live, eat, and drinking wrestling," Thivierge said.

MSU-Northern has won the NAIA wrestling national championship six times and has finished in the top 20 nationally every year since 1984. Thivierge is currently in his third year as head coach.



Joy Lewis

By Brandon Hansen, Sports editor

Ronan senior Toby Cheff won his second state championship in wrestling this year and will now take his talents to MSU-Northern after signing his letter of intent on Friday at Ronan High School.

"We're on the rise again," Thivierge said, adding that their school's new wrestling room should do well to host the large amount of talent inside it.

Lets hope there's lots of room though when the Cheffs decide to partner up during practice.

"What I hear from the stories is that they're going to battle and one is not going to let the other one up him ," Thivierge said.