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(Neb.)-CSC wrestling team inks six



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 04/18/2013 02:08 PM

CHADRON – Six wrestlers have signed National Letters of Intent to compete at Chadron State College next season, newly appointed head coach Brett Hunter announced.

They are Caleb Copeland and Joshua Miller of Bennett, Colo., Garret Bowder of Pender, Trent Kasbohm of Central City, Rulon Taylor of Curtis and Alan Heidinger of Box Elder, S.D.

The six recruits join Central City's Jake Anderson and Jacob Brown and Amherst's Stuart Hircock, who all signed with the Eagles in November.

Copeland, who is expected to wrestle at 165 or 174 pounds at Chadron State and is currently ranked 12th in the country by USA Wrestling Magazine at 170, is a two-time state champion in Colorado and finished his prep career with a record of 159 wins to just 15 losses. His older brother, Elliott, is a two-time All-American wrestler at Western State.

"Caleb has all the tools and mentality to be one of the greats here at Chadron State," Hunter said. "He is an excellent student-athlete and will bring a lot to our program."

Miller, Copeland's teammate, also had a distinguished high school career. He placed in the top five all four years and won a state title as a senior. He went 170-28 during his career and owns the Colorado state record for most wins in a season (51) and career (170).

Hunter said he expects Miller to compete at 133 or 141 pounds.

"Josh brings a lot to our program," Hunter said. "He's a proven winner."

Bowder, a 125-pounder from Pender, won back-to-back state titles for the Dragons. He went 44-0 as a senior and wrapped up his prep career with 146 wins and just 12 losses. He never finished lower than third at the state tournament and he also earned a bronze medal at the Northern Plains Freestyle tourney.

Bowder is listed by Huskermat as the 15th best high school wrestler in Nebraska.

"Garrett is a diamond in the rough," Hunter said. "He is one of the toughest kids I know and I am excited about his future at Chadron State."

Kasbohm, a heavyweight from Nebraska City, finished as the state runner-up in 2013 and won over 65 matches in his high school career after not competing as a freshman or sophomore.

"We are excited to get Trent here," Hunter said. "He has all the tools to be successful."

Taylor, a 197-pounder from Curtis, is another talented recruit. He was named the North Platte Telegraph Wrestler of the Year after going 40-0 and winning a state title in 2013. He also finished as the state runner-up in 2012 and compiled a high school record of 149-32. In addition to wrestling, he was an all-state football player.

"I see a lot of potential in Rulon and he has a bright future," Hunter said.

Heidinger, a 125-pound prospect from Box Elder, S.D., also had a distinguished high school career. He went 142-49 at Rapid City Central and won a state title in 2013.

"Alan is a gifted wrestler and he adds great depth to our lighter weights," Hunter said.