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(Neb.)-Hunter named interim CSC wrestling coach



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 07/17/2012 10:22 AM

CHADRON – Brett Hunter, a former wrestler and graduate assistant coach at Chadron State College, will now have his chance to lead the Eagles' wrestling program after being named the interim head coach Tuesday.

"We feel very fortunate to have hired a young man who has ties to the Chadron State wrestling program," athletic director Brad Smith said. "Brett has succeeded at the national level and his experience working with Coach Scott Ritzen as a graduate assistant is a major asset."

Hunter, a two-time national champion and the Eagles' all-time winningest wrestler, replaces Dr. Scott Ritzen, who retired from coaching in June.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," Hunter said. "I'm ready to continue what Coach Ritzen built and the tradition is not going away. I think Chadron State is a great place to be and it supports

its wrestling program. I've always appreciated the support I've gotten from the community, especially from the college and Coach Ritzen and Coach Smith. It's an honor to be able to work for my alma mater and I can't wait for the season to begin."

Hunter, a Rushville native, is one of the all-time great wrestlers to compete at Chadron State. He is the school's only repeat national champion – winning at 165 and 174 pounds in 2006 and 2008 – and he has the most wins in school history with a record of 133-32.

He also had a stellar high school wrestling career at Rushville High School. He was a two-time state champion, four-time placer and had a prep record of 141-10.

Prior to being named as the interim head coach, Hunter served as a graduate assistant under Ritzen for two years and was a student assistant coach the year before that.

Hunter inherits a young and talented squad. Last year the Eagles finished with a 6-9 record in duals

but nine of their 10 regular grapplers were underclassmen. Some of the returners include two-time national qualifier, Jordan Debus, and four wrestlers – Leandro Arias, Bret Klopp, Chris Leak and R.J. Boylan – who all finished in the top six at the NCAA West Regional.

“I have high expectations for this team because I know how well they can do because I’ve been here the past three years,” Hunter said. “There are a number of guys who can put together good seasons and if they do that, they’ll be successful. It’s my job to help them get there.”

Hunter and his wife, Ashley, a native of Sargent, Neb., were married in the summer of 2011.

- Story courtesy of CSC sports information