

MINOT STATE BASKETBALL ANNOUNCES 1999 RECRUITING CLASS

MSU Head Men's Basketball Coach, Mike Hultz, has announced the signing of six athletes who are going to be part of the MSU Basketball program for the next four years.

Kyle Hunt

Kyle Hunt, from McClusky, ND, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Hunt, a 6-foot-5, 195 pound, wing comes to Minot from Sheridan County High School where he was a four-year varsity starter. Hunt scored 1920 career points and finished his senior season averaging 21.5 points per game. Hunt also averaged 8.0 rebounds and 3.7 assists.

Kyle was selected as an All-District player all four years of his high school playing career and was an All-Region selection last year (this year's team has not been released). Kyle is a strong candidate for the North Dakota Class 'B' All-State Basketball team. Hunt was nominated for the McDonald's All-American High School Basketball team. Kyle is an honor student at McClusky High School. Hultz's comments: "We are very excited to have Kyle Hunt in our program. Kyle is a very good shooter with great range. We expect Kyle to fill a similar role as Adam Forthun did this year. Kyle has good size, a good build and athleticism and has the potential to be a very good college basketball player. Not only is Kyle a good basketball player, but he is a solid citizen and a fine student."

Ryan Johnson

Ryan Johnson, from Devils Lake, ND, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Johnson, a 5-foot-9, point guard comes to Minot from Devils Lake High School where he guided his team to back-to-back appearances in the North Dakota Class A State Title game. Johnson has led the Eastern Dakota Conference (EDC) in steals and assists the past two seasons and averaged 10.9 points per game during his senior campaign. The 1999 North Dakota Class 'A' All-State Second-team selection also earned All-EDC honors in both his junior and senior seasons.

Hultz's comments: "The City of Minot is going to enjoy rooting for Ryan Johnson over the next four seasons. Although small in stature, Ryan is big in heart. Ryan is a great floor leader and will do all the little things that it takes to win basketball games."

Kyle Pankratz

Kyle Pankratz, from Minot, ND, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Pankratz, a 6-foot-6, 230 pound, center, comes to Minot from Bishop Ryan High School. This season, Pankratz averaged 11 points and 8 rebounds per game, helping Bishop Ryan to a 25-3 record and a 3rd place finish in the North Dakota Class 'B' State Tournament. A National Merit finalist, Pankratz has been on the high honor roll at Bishop Ryan every semester of his high school career.

Hultz's comments: "It will be fun to watch Kyle develop over the next four years. He obviously has great size and strength but he also has good feet, especially for a player of his size. Kyle is a very smart player on & off the court. He has a very

good understanding of the game and does the little things that coaches appreciate, such as taking charges and making hits on the boards. We feel Kyle has a bright future ahead of him."

Delwyn Holthusen

Delwyn Holthusen, from Red Lake, MN, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Holthusen, a 6-foot-6, 220 pound, forward, comes to Minot from Red Lake High School. This season, Holthusen averaged 23 points and 12 rebounds per game, leading Red Lake to a 25-2 record and the Minnesota State Playoffs. As well as being named his team's Most Valuable Player the past three seasons, Holthusen is a three-time All-Northland Conference selection and was voted as the MVP of the Northland Conference this past season.

Holthusen scored over 1,800 points while Red Lake High School won over 20 games in each of his five seasons as a member of the varsity. During his playing career at Red Lake, the Warriors appeared in three State Tournaments and Holthusen was named to the 1997 & 1998 Minnesota State All-Tournament team. In 1997, the Minnesota Indian Education Association named Holthusen as the Outstanding Indian Athlete for the State of Minnesota. This summer Delwyn will play for the Minnesota All-Stars at the 3rd Annual Down Under Hoops Classic in Australia.

In 1997, Holthusen was the recipient of the National Student-Athlete Day Award given by the National Consortium for Academics and Sports and the NCAA for outstanding excellence in academics, athletics and community service.

Holthusen has also served as class President during all four years of high school as well as being President of the student council for three years.

Hultz's comments: "Delwyn will have an immediate impact on our program. He is a very good athlete with tremendous strength. An inside-out player, Delwyn can post-up hard and also move out and shoot the ball from the perimeter. He is also a relentless rebounder. Delwyn plays unbelievably hard and is accustomed to winning, as demonstrated by his team's success at Red Lake."

Josh Jensen

Josh Jensen, from Dagmare, MT, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Jensen, a 6-foot-0, guard, comes to Minot from Medicine Lake High School. This season, Jensen averaged 22 points, 6 rebounds and 5 assists per game, leading Medicine Lake to a 23-6 record and a 3rd place finish in the Montana State Playoffs. It was Medicine Lake second consecutive appearance in the state tournament.

Jensen is a three-time All-State and All-District selection while scoring over 1,700 career points, including a career high 45 against Froid High School. The USA Today named Jensen as one of the top ten players in Montana and is a Wendy's Heisman Nominee. A honor student, Jensen is also a McDonald's All-American candidate.

Hultz's comments: "Josh Jensen is going to be a very good player. Naturally a point guard, Josh has the ability to play shooting guard as well. He is a great passer, a good shooter and has a great feel for the game. Josh possesses good

athletic ability and has a basketball body. I really like the way he competes and the manner in which he carries himself on & off the playing floor.

Justin Daeley

Justin Daeley, from Sherwood, ND, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Daeley, a 6-foot-5, wing comes to Minot from Sherwood High School where he was a four-year letter winner. Daeley scored 1428 career points and finished his senior season averaging 23.5 points, 7.0 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game.

A member of the 1999 North Dakota Class B All-State Second-team this season, Daeley was also selected as an All-District player all four years of his high school career and was an All-Region selection the past two seasons. Justin was also named to the Minot Daily News All-Area team. Daeley was also an All-State wide receiver and was selected to play in the North Dakota Shrine game to be held this summer.

Hultz's comments: "We are very excited to have Justin Daeley in our program. Justin is a very good shooter and also has the ability to get to the basket with the drive. The thing I love most about Justin is that he absolutely hates to lose. With Justin and Hunt we have two 6'5" players that shoot the basketball very well and that should give defenses plenty of problems."

Hultz's Comments

We are quite excited about the potential for this group of players. As a group, the important things to note about this class are:

1. Four of the six have competed in a state tournament during their high school career. We feel prior success is essential to establishing the winning attitude we want to be prevalent in Minot State Basketball.
2. The lowest individual Grade Point Average for any member of this group is 2.9. Clearly, we not only want the best athletes, but the best students as well.
3. We fully expect at least four of these players to contribute significant minutes this coming season. This tells you we are very high on the playing ability of this group.

As you can see, this group carries some impressive credentials. Although we do not want to create unrealistic expectations for the Class of '99, we are excited about the future of Minot State basketball. Although there may be some tough times next season, associated with playing so many freshman, the foundation has been laid for future success and we feel the program is headed in the right direction.

MINOT STATE BASKETBALL ANNOUNCES 1999 JUNIOR COLLEGE RECRUITING CLASS

MSU Head Men's Basketball Coach, Mike Hultz, has announced the signing of four junior college athletes who are going to be part of the MSU Basketball program for the upcoming season.

Jacob Brandt

Jacob Brandt, from Maxbass, ND, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Brandt, a 6-foot-3 wing comes to Minot from Bismarck Junior College where he was a two-time All-Region, All-State and All-Conference performer. Brandt averaged 17 points per game, 4 rebounds and 3.5 assists and was third in the nation in free throw percentage. Brandt also shot 40 percent from the three-point arc.

Brandt's was a 1997 North Dakota High School Class B All-State selection while playing for Westhope-Newburg. A three-time All-Conference selection and two-time All-Region performer, Brandt led Westhope-Newburg to two consecutive region appearances. As a senior, Brandt averaged 20 points, 8 assists and 7 rebounds per game.

Minot State Head Coach Mike Hultz has these comments on the addition of Brandt: "It is nice to have Jacob join our program. He has had a good career in Bismarck and is a skilled player. He must improve his body and there is a possibility that he may red-shirt in order to do so. Jacob is a quality person, a very good student and will be a great asset to the program."

Conan Moore

Conan Moore, from Oceanside (San Diego), CA, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Moore, a 6-foot-1, 205 pound guard comes to Minot from Miracosta College where he was a two-time First-Team All-Pacific Coast Conference selection. Moore led Miracosta in scoring during both seasons and averaged 20 points per game and shot 41% from the three-point arc while leading Miracosta to a 21-11 record this past year.

Moore's prep career was played at El Camino High School where he is the school's all-time leading scorer and three-point shooter. He was an All-Conference selection three consecutive seasons and was a honorable mention McDonald's All-American selection. Moore started on El Camino teams that won three league titles, two city championships and advanced to the semi-finals of the state tournament in both Moore's junior and senior seasons.

Minot State Head Coach Mike Hultz has these comments on Moore: "Conan Moore should be one of the best players in the NDCAC. He is very strong and athletic and has the ability to put points on the scoreboard. Conan is difficult to guard because he is a

good three-point shooter but keeps you honest with a explosive first step. Conan made 123 FT's last season so he is obviously good a getting to the basket."

Damien Newsom

Damien Newsom, from Phoenix, AZ, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Newsom, a 6-foot-5 forward, comes to Minot from South Mountain Junior College in Phoenix. This past season, Newsom averaged 14 points and 6 rebounds per game and was an Honorable Mention All-Conference selection. Newsom spent his freshman season at Fisk College, a NAIA college located in Nashville, TN.

Newsom's played high school basketball at Camelback High School where he averaged 14 points and 5 rebounds. Camelback was ranked 3rd in the state of Arizona throughout much of Newsom's career. Newsom gained All-State Honorable Mention his senior season.

Minot State Head Coach Mike Hultz has these comments on the addition of season: "Damien adds a different dimension to our team. He is a very explosive leaper and should do well in a up-tempo game. He can play both forward positions and will add to the versatility of this team."

Cornell Thomas

Cornell Thomas, from Landing, NJ, has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Minot State University. Thomas, a 6-foot-5, 215 pound forward, last played at NCAA II, Davis & Elkins College, located in West Virginia. In a starting role, Thomas averaged 11 points and 4 rebounds. Thomas played junior college basketball at Sussex County College (NJ) where he was third in the state in scoring with an average of 19.5 points per game. Thomas was named All-Garden State Athletic Conference and was his team's most valuable player. During his sophomore season, Sussex made its first ever appearance in the semifinals of the regional tournament.

Minot State Head Coach Mike Hultz has these comments on the addition of season: "Cornell is an interesting player in that he is a big-bodied guy but is more of a perimeter player. He is a good shooter and has good quickness taking the bal to the basket. He will have to guard bigger players but we will play him outside most of the time, creating match-up problems for the defense.

BEAVER BASKETBALL BULLETIN

Issue No: 1 November Round-up

MSU BEAVERS FINISH NOVEMBER WITH WIN

The Minot State University Men's Basketball program finished the month of November on a positive note by defeating the University of Winnipeg 86-78. The win was the Beavers second of the season and brings their season record to 2-6.

The Beavers have faced a very difficult pre-season schedule with games against nationally ranked opponents Huron University (8th), Jamestown College (23rd), and three consecutive road contests against NCAA II opponents.

Although the Beavers have struggled early, Head Coach Mike Hultz said the mood of the team is still positive. "We are playing only two guys who saw substantial minutes from a year ago. In addition, five of our top ten are freshmen and they are learning on the fly. It has been frustrating but our guys realize that we have faced as tough of a schedule as anybody in the country and it is going to take time for us to come together as a unit. Our main objective is to continue to improve as a basketball team and the win over Winnipeg is a good indication that we are."

There are three areas that have been a primary concern for Minot State in the early going: 1) Transition Defense 2) Shot Selection and 3) Rebounding. One is correctable, one takes some time and the other the Beavers need to overcome. "We took the aggressive route to begin the year by sending four to the offensive boards in hopes of making up for some of our rebounding problems and that led to many fastbreak opportunities for our opponents. We have since backed off by sending two back defensively and have improved dramatically in that area. In addition we are pressuring teams full court and have given up many easy baskets because of this as well. I left the press on the entire game against all three Division II teams. They made adjustments and scored easily at times because of this, but we can't get better playing these defenses without playing them in the game situations. Against Winnipeg, we changed defenses effectively and the kids are getting a much clearer idea of what we want to accomplish. We really did a very nice job in that contest."

Shot selection has been the second area of concern for Coach Hultz. "In our first six games we tried to play one-on-five instead of five-on-five but this is natural for a team in our position. We have a lot of new players that are trying to get used to each other and this is compounded by the fact that we are trying to play at a fast pace. We have talked about it and the guys understand what we need to do to get better. We did a better job against North Dakota State and against Winnipeg, other than about a three minute stretch we were very, very good."

The last area of concern is rebounding. "We are a decent offensive rebounding team when we commit to it because we can use our quickness to shoot the gaps in the defense. On the defensive end, however, we have struggled. Defensive rebounding will likely be the one area we have to overcome throughout the entire season. We need to get better at winning the battle on the floor rather than in the air by becoming very good at boxing-out. Even so, we are not a team that can go toe-to-toe with our opponents. But by playing at a fast pace both offensively and defensively, hopefully we can level the playing field and win the battle with quickness verses size."

Injuries have plagued Minot State throughout the pre-season as 6-9 starting center, Justin Clock, is lost for the season with a fractured leg and 6-5 forward, Cornell Thomas broke his foot five days into practice. Charles Colby, a 6-6 senior, who started in the Beavers opener, has missed the three weeks with a leg injury. In addition, 6-5 forward, Delwyn Holthusen, who figured prominently in the Beavers' plans, withdrew from school for personal reasons but hopes to return to MSU after Christmas.

"We are really banged-up right now. Not only do we have some major injuries that are keeping guys out for an extended period time, we only practiced with six of the eleven we are dressing right now due to nagging injuries and illness. If we can gut it out until Christmas, we can get healthy over the break."

The Beavers need to continue improving as they are on the road for their next four contests including NCAA II North Dakota and a rematch with Huron. MSU wraps up the pre-Christmas schedule with Presentation College before returning after the break while traveling to the Dickinson State Holiday Classic.

BEAVER BASKETBALL BULLETIN

Issue No: 2 Christmas Round-up

BEAVERS ENTER CHRISTMAS BREAK ON POSITIVE NOTE

The Minot State University Men's Basketball program entered the Christmas Break on a positive note by defeating Presentation College 109-104. With the win, the Beavers improve their season record to 4-9.

The Beavers posted a December record of 2-3, highlighted by the victory over Presentation and a road win at Black Hills State University. Jacob Brandt sank two free throws with six seconds remaining to lift MSU to a 81-79 win over Black Hills. The Beavers made 17 of 17 free throws in the second half to hold on to a 43-35 halftime lead for the victory. In the Presentation contest, Conan Moore led the way, scoring a season-high 34 points. The Beavers raced out to a 48-31 lead before the Saints came back to close within six at the half at 60-54. MSU held on to a seven to ten point lead much of the second half to seal the win. Head Coach Mike Hultz had these comments on the pair of victories. "It was good end go into the break with a "W". We really played well offensively in the PC game and you have to give them credit because they played well. In both wins I feel good about how our team played with a lead down the stretch and hopefully we can continue to execute in tight contests."

The Beavers have faced a very difficult pre-season schedule by facing nationally ranked Huron University (12th) twice and 15th-ranked Jamestown College. In addition, MSU took to the road to play four NCAA II opponents. "If you take those seven games out, we are 4-2 against the rest of our schedule. Unfortunately it doesn't work that way but it may be an indication that we are better than our overall record shows."

In the last issue of the **Beaver Basketball Bulletin** Coach Hultz addressed three primary concerns for Minot State in the early going: 1) Transition Defense 2) Shot Selection and 3) Rebounding. The Beavers' defense has improved significantly in transition. "The adjustment of sending two back defensively has helped dramatically. In addition, we are developing a better feel for what we are doing in our presses. The players are learning when to take their chances on a steal and when to play it safe. As a coaching staff, we are learning how to make the press more effective by putting it on and taking it off and by mixing in different kinds of presses."

Shot selection was the second area of concern for Coach Hultz. "We knew it would take time for our team to come together as a unit and we are showing signs of doing so. Our shot selection was very good in the Presentation game and even in the game against Huron. We now have to find ways to get some easy baskets via our fastbreak, presses and being very active cutting to the basket without the ball. We ran Conan down into the post against Presentation and he was very effective. Hopefully we can continue to get him the ball in the post and our freshman posts can continue to develop as well."

The last area of concern was rebounding. "We are averaging 11 offensive rebounds per game which is pretty good and could be even better with some consistency going to the glass. On the defensive glass we are improving. We have out rebounded our last two opponents and were tied with Black Hills in the category. Defensive rebounding will likely be the one area we have to overcome throughout the entire season. If we can just play even or to a slight disadvantage on the boards we have a chance to win games.

When asked about the play of certain individuals Coach Hultz gave the following response. "It is difficult to comment on the play of individuals because all-and-all I feel everybody has had some positive and negative moments. Now that we are beginning to play better as a team it will be easier to get a read on just what certain individuals are and are not capable of. Doug Johnson has played very well in our last three contests. We need him to exhibit leadership, if not vocally, certainly physically with his play. Conan showed what he is capable of in the PC game and hopefully he can build off of that performance. I am generally pleased with the way our freshmen have played thus far but they cannot be satisfied with just getting playing time. They are now varsity college basketball players and because of our circumstances they have to begin to assert themselves more aggressively and take some real ownership in our basketball program."

Injuries have plagued Minot State throughout the pre-season. "Hopefully the Christmas Break will give our guys a chance to get over some nagging injuries but we have lost some guys for the season. Others just have to rise to the occasion and grab their opportunity. It will be fun to watch this team continue to grow during the conference race."

1999-2000 Men's All-NDCAC Basketball Team & Post-Season Award Winners

AaronThompson	MayvilleState	Senior	Guard	Gary,MN	18.3pts/4.4reb
KeithKincaid	JamestownCollege	Senior	Center	Mesa,AZ	18.5pts/11.2reb
KurtSchwamp	UniversityofMary	Senior	Center	Sussex,WI	20.1pts/7.5reb
MarlonLewis	DickinsonState	Junior	Forward	Trinidad	17.8pts/8.4reb
GuyFridley	DickinsonState	Senior	Guard	WatfordCity,ND	13.5pts/2.6reb
ConanMoore	MinotState	Junior	Guard	Oceanside,CA	21.4pts/2.6reb
BeauHensel	JamestownCollege	Sophomore	Forward	Belgrade,MT	13.5pts/4.5reb
NathanGoracke	UniversityofMary	Senior	Guard	Spicer,MN	10.9pts/5.6reb
JayKocka	ValleyCityState	Junior	Forward	Willmar,MN	12.5pts/5.5reb
SteveHockert	JamestownCollege	Senior	Guard	Jamestown,ND	12.4pts/3.0reb
DarrenKlabo	MayvilleState	Senior	Guard	Mayville,ND	12.4pts/4.4reb
WesKellogg	UniversityofMary	Senior	Forward	Minneapolis,MN	11.0pts/5.2reb

Most Valuable Player Aaron Thompson, Senior, Guard, Mayville State, Gary, MN

Most Valuable Graduating Senior - Aaron Thompson, Senior, Guard, Mayville State, Gary, MN

Coach of the Year Tim Daniel, Dickinson State