

Sports

Mavs land 22 recruits

Jamrog signs ex-teammate's linebacker son

By Chad Courrier
 Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Brandon Pete remembers his father's playing days with the Detroit Lions, attending the games with his mom and grandparents. But becoming a professional football player isn't what drives Pete.

"My goal is to get an education," he said. "If (playing pro football) happens, it happens."

Pete, a linebacker from Omaha, Neb., is one of 22 players to sign national letters of intent Wednesday to play football at Minnesota State. The class includes two quarterbacks, one running back, three receivers, five offensive linemen, four defensive linemen, four linebackers, two defensive backs and a kicker. The class includes 18 freshman and a transfer from Rochester Community & Technical College, defensive end Grant

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JEFF JAMROG,
 Minnesota State football coach



Smith who made 20 sacks last season.

"I'm very excited," coach Jeff Jamrog said. "We really filled our needs, and there's some guys we feel can come in and help us right away. The worst thing that can happen on signing day is you don't fill your needs and you have to go out

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MSU: Recruits include 420-pound offensive lineman

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recruiting again."

Pete's father, Lawrence Pete, was a standout nose tackle at Nebraska and played with Jamrog in the late 1980s. Pete was a fifth-round draft choice in 1989 of Detroit, where he played until 1994.

Brandon Pete, who is 6-foot-0 and 220 pounds, didn't get his father's size, but he did get his sense of perspective.

"There aren't a lot of shrines around his house," Brandon Pete said. "He's a pretty laid-back guy."

"I'm the same way. I'm not much of a media guy."

According to Kirk Peterson, coach at Millard West High School, Pete wasn't shy on the field, making 102 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, 10 sacks and four fumble recoveries in a two-year career, despite playing out of position. Pete was named all-state this season.

"Why he didn't go to Nebraska, I don't know?" Peterson said. "But he's a 6-foot defensive end, and most schools are worried about all those things you can measure.

What a steal for Minnesota State."

Pete, who chose Minnesota State over Northwest Missouri State and Northern Colorado, will play outside linebacker at Minnesota State. He plans on coming to Mankato in the summer to learn his position and hopefully play next season.

"He's a great kid," Jamrog said.

The other linebackers to sign Wednesday were Kevin Klug of Caledonia; John Jones of Oregon, Wis.; and Ryan Becker of Waukesha, Wis.

As for the rest of this recruiting class, Jamrog said he signed the two biggest offensive linemen he'd ever recruited: Matt Trinko, who is 6-8 and 300 pounds from Oak Creek, Wis., and Eric Spiekerman, who is 6-8 and 420 pounds from West Bend, Wis.

Another highlight of the recruiting class is kicker Ben Spencer of Cretin-Derham Hall, who had 57 touchbacks in his senior season.

"We won't have to practice kickoff coverage as much," Jamrog said.

2006 Minnesota State University football recruiting class

Name	Height	Weight	Year	Position	Hometown/High School/Previous School
Omar Balton	6-1	180	Fr.	WR	Milwaukee, Wis./University School
Ryan Becker	6-2	225	Fr.	LB	Waukesha, Wis./Waukesha West
Jake Fabian	6-0	240	Fr.	DL	Coon Rapids, Minn./Blaine
John Jones	6-0	210	Fr.	LB	Oregon, Wis./Oregon
Kevin Klug	6-2	195	Fr.	LB	Caledonia, Minn./Caledonia
Wayland Latham	6-0	265	Fr.	OL	Omaha, Neb./Omaha Skutt
Anthony Loew	6-2	265	Fr.	DL	Rice Lake, Wis./Rice Lake
Brandon Mickelson	6-1	185	Fr.	WR	Champlin Park, Minn./Champlin Park
Chris Nowlin	6-0	185	Fr.	WR	Alvin, Texas/Alvin
Brandon Pete	6-0	220	Fr.	LB	Millard, Neb./Millard West
Michael Robinson	6-6	240	Fr.	DE	Wausau, Wis./Wausau East
Tyler Roebke	6-0	200	Fr.	QB	Menasha, Wis./Menasha
Grant Smith	6-2	280	Jr.	DE	Farmington, Minn./Farmington/RCTC
Ben Spencer	6-2	180	Fr.	K	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Eric Spiekerman	6-8	420	Fr.	OL	West Bend, Wis./West Bend East
Adam Surfus	6-0	185	Fr.	QB	Middleton, Wis./Middleton
Matt Trinko	6-8	300	Fr.	OL	Oak Creek, Wis./Oak Creek
Craig Warminski	5-10	190	Fr.	RB	Boyd, Wis./Stanley-Boyd
Matt Weber	6-4	280	Fr.	OL	Oregon, Wis./Oregon
Laron Wilder	5-8	155	Fr.	DB	Milwaukee, Wis./Milwaukee Vincent

* Information on two recruits not available

J. Malmanger