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Harvey headed to desert with Coast Guard on his mind

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

FREMONT -- Fremont Ross middle distance runner Wyatt Harvey wants to be a military man.

On Wednesday, Harvey signed a letter of intent to attend New Mexico Military Institute this fall before entering the United States Coast Guard Academy in 2010.

"About two years ago, I was talking to my dad (Lee) and a lot of things we talked about in the military sounded right," Harvey said. "I like the organization and discipline of the military. I want to retire from it."

Harvey competes in the 400 dash and the 800 run for the Little Giants. He set personal records of 50.7 seconds in the 400 and 2:00.91 in the 800 during the Division I district meet at Tiffin in 2008.

"We have come to expect that we can always count on Wyatt," Ross track and field coach Cathy Esposito said. "The boys team has been amazing this season, and Wyatt has been leading the way."

Harvey's parents, Lee and Teresa Harvey, attended the ceremony Wednesday at the Fremont Ross High School Hall of Fame Room.

New Mexico Military Institute, located in Roswell, N.M., serves as a preparatory school for the United States Coast Guard Academy. The Broncos are members of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

"I'm going to have to try harder and practice more often at the collegiate level," Harvey said. "It's going to take a lot more time and energy because it's a whole another level."

Harvey understands time management. He has maintained a 3.25 GPA while playing football and competing in track and field for four seasons. Harvey added wrestling to his repertoire as a junior.

"It takes a lot of time because you have to show up at practice every day, if you want reach the level that I have reached," Harvey said. "It makes it tough finding time to play sports and concentrate on school, but you have to find a balance."

On the football field, Harvey earned two varsity letters, was a second-team All-Greater Buckeye Conference as an outside linebacker and his graded landed him a spot on the All-GBC Academic Team.

In track and field, Harvey is attempting to earn his fourth varsity letter this spring. In 2008, he was the GBC runner-up in the 800 run and in the 3,200 relay, along with Justin Howell, Jeff Beier and Xavier Forney. Harvey was the district runner-up in the 800 before finishing 11th at the regional meet last season.



Fremont Ross track and field athlete Wyatt Harvey signs his letter of intent to attend New Mexico Military Institute in the Hall of Fame Room on Wednesday. He is flanked by his parents Teresa and Lee Harvey. At left, stands Ross track and field coach Cathy Esposito. (Jeff Arenz | News-Messenger)