



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diné College signs rodeo 'stars'

Gishie, Begay join Betony on Warriors' rodeo roster

TSAILE, Ariz. — By the time northeast Arizona residents Skyler Gishie and Alonzo Begay finished a campus tour and testing session June 23, there was only one thing left to do: Formally commit themselves as members of Diné College's rodeo team.

Gishie, 18, and Begay, 18, each signed letters-of-intent to play for the Warriors come the fall of 2017. The signings took place at the college's Student Union Building and before a small Diné College fan base — which included college president Monty Roessel. Both Gishie and Begay are team roping specialists and are familiar faces around the Four Corners.

"This is where I want to be," Gishie said. "It's close to home and the rodeo program is good," he said of the Warriors.

A Holbrook native, Gishie said he participates in an average of 15 rodeos a year. He said other schools on his consideration list were Central Arizona College and Cochise College.

Gishie signed June 22 and in the presence of his father, Roger, Jr., and grandfather Roger, Sr., Roessel and Warriors' Interim Rodeo Coach Fred Tahe. Begay signed June 23 and amid Diné College Interim Provost Geraldine Garrity, Tahe and a small contingent of friends.

Tahe beamed at both signings. Tahe recently returned from Casper, Wyoming, and the College Nationals Finals Rodeo, where Warriors'

super-sophomore Wyatt Betony was a contestant for the second year in a row.

"No doubt about it, we just signed two stars," Tahe said. "This is good for the program. The future with respect to (Diné College) rodeo looks bright."

Grade A Stock

Begay hails from Indian Wells, which is about 30 miles from Holbrook, Ariz. Begay thought about attending Northland Pioneer College in Holbrook, but decided otherwise when Gishie committed to Diné College. Both are graduates of Holbrook High School.

Begay took first place over the weekend at Gallup's annual *Best of the Best Timed Rodeo*. Earlier this year, Gishie won a 2017 Dodge Ram truck at the National Team Roping Tour La Fiesta Truck Roping in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Both Gishie and Begay took college placement tests in reading, English and math prior to the signings. The tests assess student proficiency and are used in academic advising.

"We're best friends," Begay said. "In going here, (DC) I'll know somebody that I've known almost all my life."