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# Sports

## MSU women to split interim duties

By Shane Frederick  
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**MANKATO** — Minnesota State athletic officials have decided to let women's hockey assistant coaches Mandy Krause-Rideout and Paul Willett share head coaching duties for the remainder of the season.

The pair will take over for Jeff Vizenor, who stepped down and was reassigned to an administrative job in the athletic department on Jan. 6.

Krause-Rideout, who is in her third season as an MSU assistant, and Willett, who in his first, will run the team on an interim basis. A search for a new, permanent head coach will begin in the spring, following the season.

Krause-Rideout, a former MSU player, was the girls hockey coach at Fergus Falls High School before returning to her alma mater.

Willett coached the Mound-Westonka boys team from 2004-08 before joining Vizenor's staff.



Minnesota State women's hockey assistants Mandy Krause-Rideout (left) and Paul Willett will share head coaching duties for the remainder of the season.

Willett was the Mavericks' lone coach during last weekend's two losses at Bemidji State, as Krause-Rideout was on an overseas recruiting trip.

Minnesota State is 6-12-2 and will try to snap a 10-game winless streak when it hosts third-ranked Minnesota Duluth Friday and Saturday at All Seasons Arena.

### In or out?

Representatives of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association schools will vote on whether or not to lift the league's moratorium

### College hockey notebook

on expansion at the NCAA Convention today near Washington, D.C.

A majority of the 10 schools is needed to lift the moratorium and possibly pave the way for Bemidji State to join the conference.

If the WCHA opts to expand, Bemidji, which has plans to build a \$65 million city rink and events center, could make its pitch to join the league at the league meetings in April. Eight schools would have to approve the addition of a new team.

There's been no official word as to how Minnesota State representatives — athletic director Kevin Buisman and vice president Rick Straka are attending the meetings — will vote, although some insiders have speculated that being a fellow MnSCU university may lead them to support Bemidji State's efforts.

Bemidji State is already a

member of the WCHA women's league.

### Past and future stars

Former Minnesota State men's captain Travis Morin was selected to his second East Coast Hockey League All-Star Game recently.

The game will be played on Jan. 21, and Morin, a South Carolina Stingrays forward, will be a starter.

Morin, a 2007 MSU graduate, was the Stingrays' leading scorer last year. This season, he has 11 goals and 33 assists in 35 games.

Meanwhile, future MSU goaltender Kevin Murdock of the Lincoln Stars was picked to play in the USHL All-Star Game on Feb. 4.

Murdock, a Bradenton, Fla., native who spent time at Faribault's Shattuck-St. Mary's School, has been among the top goalies in the league this season.

Currently, he's second with a .920 save percentage and a 2.12 goals-against average.

The 5-foot-11, 170-pound goalie will join the Mavericks next season.