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COLLEGE BASKETBALL, PAGE D2

MSU women ranked  
No. 1, men ranked  
No. 4 in Central  
Region poll

# Sports

## MSU womens hockey finally back in the win column

By Shane Frederick  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — While Saturday's shootout victory over North Dakota officially goes into the record books as a tie, the Minnesota State women's hockey team had a dark cloud lifted away from it.

"It started the momentum shift," said Mandy Krause-Rideout, one of the Mavericks' two interim

### College hockey roundup

coaches. "Sunday really finished it."

On Sunday, a 13-game winless streak was snapped for good when MSU defeated North Dakota 5-3, getting a pair of goals from Kala Buganski and a three-point game from Ashley Young.

"We played very well,"

Paul Willett, the Mavericks' other interim coach, said. "Obviously, we were pleased with the shootout victory Saturday, but Sunday may have been the most complete game we've played defensively all year."

The winless streak, which dated back to Nov. 14, included a stretch of five games in a row without a win after coach Jeff Vizenor stepped down on Jan. 6.

"We're seeing a lot more confidence out of our players now," Willett said. "They're looser, they're happier and they're as focused as they've been this year. We're excited about this weekend."

Minnesota State will take on second-ranked Minnesota Friday and Saturday at All Seasons Arena.

### On the air

This weekend's men's

games between Minnesota State and Minnesota will be televised on Fox Sports North.

Friday's game in Mankato will be broadcast on tape-delay around 11 p.m., following coverage of the Minnesota Wild's game against the Edmonton Oilers.

Saturday's game in

Please see HOCKEY, Page D3

## HOCKEY:

### One-timers

Minnesota State students began lining up for tickets to Friday's game against the Gophers at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning. The 1,100 free student tickets were distributed at noon. ... This week's WCHA players of the week included Minnesota Duluth goaltender Alex Stalock (defensive) and forward Jack Connolly (co-rookie) for their performances against MSU last weekend. ... Other WCHA honors went to St. Cloud State forward Drew LeBlanc (offensive) and Michigan Tech forward Brett Olson (co-rookie).