

The Free Press



Friday,
February 13, 2009
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CHAD COURRIER, PAGE D2
MSU men's basketball
still in search for
go-to guy

Sports

College hockey gameday



Mick Berge



Kurt Davis

Minnesota State at North Dakota

The Mavericks (13-13-3, 9-11-2 in WCHA) will travel to North Dakota for the first time since the 2006-07 season to take on the No. 11 Sioux (16-11-3, 11-6-3). The two teams split a series in October in Mankato, with MSU winning 5-1 the first night and UND coming from behind late to steal the second game 4-3. The Mavericks are 10-28-7 in the all-time series and have won just one of the last 12 meetings.

The 5 hole

Five things to know about the matchup:

1. Up the charts: Mavericks captain Mick Berge (6-19—25) has seven goals and three assists against North Dakota, whom his dad played for in the late 1970s. With two more points, Berge will set a career high for scoring in a season and will also move into 12th place on MSU's Division I scoring list, ahead of Grant Stevenson and Joel Hanson. Currently at 79 points, Berge needs nine more points to move into the top 10.

2. Road warriors: Minnesota State is 6-6-3 as a visiting team this season and has won two of its last four games on the road. The Mavericks haven't won at "The Ralph," however, since the first game of the 2005-06 WCHA playoffs. Both MSU and North Dakota are coming off road wins, at Minnesota and St. Cloud State, respectively. Both teams were idle last week-

end.

3. Injury update: The Mavericks will be without defenseman Channing Boe for the rest of the season but will get forward Jason Wiley (7-2—9) back tonight. Wiley, who missed the last five games with an undisclosed injury, leads the Mavericks with three game-winning goals. Freshman defenseman Cameron Cooper is healthy again and on the trip but will sit in favor of fellow rookie Baylor Dieter tonight.

4. Call them offensemen: The series will feature two of the nation's top-scoring blueliners. Mavericks sophomore Kurt Davis (6-22—28) is third in the country in points per game by a defenseman (.97), while Sioux junior Chay Genoway (2-25—27) ranks sixth (.93). Each leads his team in scoring. The next-highest scoring defenseman for the Mavericks is sophomore Ben Youds with seven assists.

5. Scouting the Sioux: North Dakota started the season with a 3-6-0 record but is now one of the hottest teams in the WCHA, having lost just one of its last 10 games and three of its last 16. Senior forward Ryan Duncan (12-11—23) is one of the Sioux's top two goal scorers. The 2007 Hobey Baker winner has 156 points for his career. Goalie Brad Eidsness (.909, 2.50) is a lock to make the WCHA's all-rookie team.

Around the rinks

Minnesota State women: The Mavericks will host second-ranked Wisconsin at 7 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Saturday at All Seasons Arena. Minnesota State has never beaten the Badgers, going 0-39-1 in the all-time series, including a pair of losses earlier this season in Madison, Wis. Saturday is Senior Day, and MSU will honor its lone senior, Maggie Fisher, its all-time leader in goals, assists and points.

This weekend's series

7:37 p.m. today and 7:07 p.m. Saturday
Ralph Engelstad Arena;
Grand Forks, N.D.
Radio: KTOE 1420 AM
TV: None