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Dynan brothers line
a factor for Gusties

Sports

Badgers coach: Alltel is 'a cave'

By Shane Frederick
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Wisconsin men's hockey coach Mike Eaves just might have come up with a new nickname for the Alltel Center.

The Cave.

"It's a dark building, so it's like playing in a cave a little bit," Eaves told reporters in his weekly news conference Monday.

Historically Minnesota State has had good success against the Badgers at home with an 8-4-2 record, including a 3-0-1 record in the teams' last four meetings in Mankato.

"I think if you went and looked at a lot of teams, they don't play well there," Eaves said. "It's a tough place to play. That crowd, it reminds me of the junior hockey league. They get rowdy. They sing that European song (Olé), and they get into it. ... But that's the kind of atmosphere they want, and it's a

College hockey notebook

2-1 in seven rounds.

The experience didn't change MSU coach Troy Jutting's feelings about shootouts.

"I don't care for them," he said. "You play hard for 65 minutes in a team game and then it comes down to an individual game. ... It's not hockey."

Andersson honored

Minnesota State women's defenseman Emilia Andersson was named WCHA rookie of the week for her performance in the Mavericks' regular-season-ending sweep at Ohio State.

Andersson, a freshman from Stockholm, Sweden, had a goal and two assists in Friday's 6-5 win and was plus-3 for the weekend which also included a 2-1 victory on Saturday.

great test for your team."

As for the cave-like atmosphere, Eaves said:

"I know, as a coach, I can't see the game very well from the bench. I feel like I'm tucked in this bunker behind the bench and can't see what's going on. And (the Mavericks) play hard. It's a hard place to play in. They have a good team. They play hard and physical."

Minnesota State is 7-6-0 in its cave this season, including a 3-1-0 record there in 2009. Including this weekend's games against Wisconsin, the Mavericks have three home games remaining in the regular season. The Badgers are 7-6-1 on the road.

"We know what we're getting ourselves in for," Eaves said, "and we need to get up and get ready to play."

Shootout stats

The WCHA women's league experimented with shootouts to break ties this season and had to try it out 14 times.

Minnesota State was involved in five shootouts, winning two and losing three.

The Central Collegiate Hockey Association also used shootouts this season, and the MSU men got to try it out in their nonconference overtime game against CCHA member Nebraska-Omaha Tuesday.

Omaha won the shootout

It's academic

Sixteen Minnesota State men's and women's hockey players were named WCHA scholar-athletes last week, the most of any school in the conference.

Men's players included: Nick Canzanello, Dan Tormey, Trevor Bruess, Rylan Galiardi, Andrew Sackrisson and Austin Lee.

Women's players included Jenna Hewitt, Ashley Young, Kathleen Rosso, Kala Buganski, Ida Clark, Holly Snyder, Ashley Bliskowski, Kristi Ellis, Nina Tikkinen and Amy Udvig.

To be eligible for the award, players must have a 3.5 GPA or higher for their last two semesters or an overall GPA of 3.5.

One-timers

WCHA men's players of the week included North Dakota forward Chris VandeVelde (offensive), Denver goalie Marc Cheverie (defensive) and Denver defenseman Patrick Wiercioch (rookie). ... The WCHA women will unveil an all-decade team, honoring the first 10 years of the league, during its Final Face-Off championship weekend March 7-8 at Ridder Arena in Minneapolis. ... Gustavus women's hockey senior Jessie Doig had both game-winning goals in last week's sweep of Hamline and leads the MIAC with five game-winners.