



WCHA PLAYOFFS, PAGE D3

Staloch, Minn. Duluth
hold of Minnesota

Sports

DAVIS: Tied for team lead in points

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Minnesota State's Kurt Davis was named to the all-WCHA third team.

MSU's Davis named All-WCHA

By Shane Frederick
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — It's a true success story, Minnesota State men's hockey coach Troy Jutting said.

Kurt Davis didn't have an easy road to college hockey. The sophomore defenseman graduated from high school in 2005, spent two seasons playing junior hockey, getting traded along the way, and ended up in Mankato, where his dad also played hockey.

But in just two years as a Maverick, Davis is considered one of the top defensemen in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

On Thursday, he was named third team All-WCHA at the league's annual awards banquet prior to the start of the Final Five tournament.

"I'm extremely happy for him," Jutting said. "He's a kid who put in his time. ... He didn't have anything at the end of his junior career. Two years later, he's an all-conference hockey player in the WCHA. That speaks volumes

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for Kurt."

Davis was among the top-scoring defensemen in the WCHA and finished the season in a tie atop the Mavericks' scoring list with 31 points, including 24 in conference play.

It was indeed the year of the defenseman in the WCHA, as seven of them scored more than 30 points. Wisconsin's high-scoring blueliner, Jamie McBain, was named the WCHA's player of the year Thursday afternoon, leading all league defensemen with 36 points.

Denver defenseman J.P. Testwuide was named outstanding student-athlete of the year, and North Dakota defenseman Chay Genoway was named defensive player of the year.

Dave Hakstol, who led North Dakota to the conference's regular-season championship, was named coach of the year.

Minnesota forward Jordan Schroeder, a second-team pick and the nation's top-scoring freshman, was named the league's rookie of the year.

The all-conference teams included players from eight of the WCHA's 10 teams. Only Alaska-Anchorage and Michigan Tech were not represented.

First-team picks included McBain and Genoway on defense; Minnesota's Ryan Stoa, St. Cloud State's Ryan Lasch and Colorado College's Chad Rau at for-

All-WCHA

First team

Forwards: Ryan Stoa, Minnesota; Chad Rau, Colorado College; Ryan Lasch, St. Cloud State. Defensemen: Jamie McBain, Wisconsin; Chay Genoway, North Dakota. Goaltender: Alex Staloch, Minnesota Duluth.

Second team

Forwards: Ryan Duncan, North Dakota; Jordan Schroeder, Minnesota; Justin Fontaine, Minnesota Duluth. Defensemen: Patrick Wiercioch, Denver; Garrett Raboin, St. Cloud State. Goaltender: Marc Cheverie, Denver.

Third team

Forwards: Garrett Roe, St. Cloud State; Anthony Malani, Denver; Rhett Rakhshani, Denver. Defensemen: Josh Meyers, Minnesota Duluth; Kurt Davis, Minnesota State. Goaltender: Brad Eidsness, North Dakota.

Rookie team

Forwards: Jordan Schroeder, Minnesota; Joe Colborne, Denver; Mike Connolly, Minnesota Duluth. Defensemen: Patrick Wiercioch, Denver; Jake Gardiner, Wisconsin. Goaltender: Brad Eidsness, North Dakota.

ward and Minnesota Duluth's Alex Staloch in goal.

Davis is the third Mavericks defenseman to earn all-conference honors, joining Steve Wagner (2007) and Ben Christopherson (2001). He tied Mick Berge for the team scoring lead and his point total was the most by an MSU defenseman in the program's Division I era. Davis played every game this season and started the year with a 14-game point-scoring streak.

The WCHA also recognized 71 scholar-athletes and a record 107 all-academic team members. Minnesota State's selections included Trevor Bruess, Nick Canzanello, Rylan Galiardi, Austin Lee, Andy Sackrison and Dan Tormey as scholar-athletes. In addition to that group, Davis, Channing Boe, Blake Friesen, Jason Wiley and Ben Youds were on the all-academic team.