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Sports



Sources at MSU say head coach Troy Jutting will get a new contract.

JUTTING: Two-time WCHA coach of year

Jutting deal in works

By Shane Frederick
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — A contract extension for Minnesota State men's hockey coach Troy Jutting is imminent, according to multiple sources with knowledge of the situation.

Jutting is in the final year of a two-year deal that expires on June 30. The Mavericks' season ended last Saturday with a Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoff loss at Wisconsin.

When reached for comment, athletic director Kevin Buisman said Thursday that an end-of-the-season meeting and contract review with Jutting had to be pushed back to later this month due to the MSU women's basketball team's berth into next week's Elite Eight tournament.

Jutting also said that he

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still must meet with Buisman.

However, sources have said that a new agreement is all but done.

Jutting, who turned 45 on Saturday, just completed his ninth season as the Mavericks' coach and his 19th as a member of the team's coaching staff. He also played hockey at MSU from 1982 to 1986.

In his tenure as head coach, Jutting's teams have compiled a 142-162-44 record.

Over the last two years, he has a record of 34-33-10 and won his second WCHA coach-of-the-year award a season ago (he won his first in 2003).

Minnesota State took fourth place in the WCHA last season. This year, the Mavericks went 15-17-6 and finished in eighth place,

three points out of an upper-division finish in a tight conference race. They played third-place Wisconsin in the best-of-three first round of the WCHA tournament last weekend in Madison, Wis., and were swept 7-1 and 4-2.

In a year of high expectations and hopes of returning to the WCHA Final Five and NCAA tournaments for the first time in six years, the Mavericks got off to their best start in their 10 seasons in the WCHA, going 8-3-3. But they suffered a rash of injuries and hit a slide that included a six-game losing streak in December, before closing the regular season unbeaten in seven of their last nine games.

The season also included Minnesota State's first-ever weekend sweep of conference power Minnesota and a winning record (2-1-1) against the Gophers.

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