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Rochester Mayo

Sports

Defense not the only strong point for Davis

Sophomore defenseman leads MSU in scoring

By Shane Frederick
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Carl Davis practically made a career out of passing the puck for the Mavericks.

In four seasons at then-Mankato State in the late 1970s, the forward recorded 92 assists, which is tied for

eight on the school's all-time list.

With the way Davis' son Kurt has started his career at Minnesota State, it might not be long before he's hot on his dad's heels.

Kurt Davis, a sophomore defenseman, leads the 11th-ranked Mavericks in scoring with four goals and 16 assists

this season. Going into tonight's game against Cloud State, his 20 points rank him first in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association and second in the nation among defensemen, bested only by Air Force's Greg Flynn who has 21 points.

Davis has scored at least one point in each of the Mavericks' 14 games this season.



Kurt Davis

“Scoring in every game is tough — in any league,” Mavericks captain Mick Berge said. “But I’m not surprised. He runs our power play; he’s pretty much the quarterback of the power play.”

Twelve of Davis' points have come with the man advantage, which is where he's been able to show off some of his puck-moving skills.

“The one thing he does really well is break it out of our own end,” coach Troy Jutting said. “He combines great patience and intelligence with skill and skating.”

Davis, whose dad is the boys hockey coach at Wayzata High School, said he's always been an offensive defenseman and not of a physical player. At 5-foot-9, 175 pounds, he's had to play that way.

“I’m not one of the bigger guys,” said Davis, who played two seasons of junior hockey in Green Bay, Wis., before joining the Mavericks. “I use my skills to move the puck up the ice to the other guys out there to finish.”

Berge has been impressed and, as one of the Mavericks' top forwards, quite appreciative.

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MSU vs. St. Cloud series preview.

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“He’s one of the best I’ve seen,” Berge said. “He makes it look very easy. Even last year, I’d look at him and say, ‘Wow. That’s something we’ve needed for a few years.’ And this year, he’s been five times better.”

Carl Davis also scored a few goals back in the day, finishing his career, which lasted from 1975 to 1979, with 46, and averaging more than a point per game. Kurt Davis, who is the first son of a former Maverick to play at MSU, can score goals, too. He has four on the season, including a “backhanded slap shot” in last Saturday’s win at Bowling Green State that teammates, coaches and others were still raving about this week.

Jutting called it a play that required “enough skill, enough oomph and a little luck.”

“But when you’re playing well, you create your own

luck,” the coach added.

Davis scored just one goal last season but led the Mavericks’ defensemen 15 points.

“I’m not surprised with the way (Davis is) playing,” Jutting said. “I am surprised he’s got 20 points already. He leads our team in scoring by five points. To have a defenseman score 20 points in a year is a good year.”

Steve Wagner scored 29 points in 2006-07 before going to the National Hockey League. Kyle Peto had 29 points in 2005-06 for his third consecutive season with 20 points or more.

Davis is currently on pace for a 50-point regular season.

Jutting compared Davis’ hockey intelligence to former players Steven Johns, Ben Christopherson and Joe Bourne, but added that Davis adds more skill and better skating.

“He’s a coach’s kid,” Jutting said.

College Hockey Gameday



Andrew Sackrisson



Mike Louwerse

Minnesota State vs. St. Cloud State

The 11th-ranked Mavericks (8-3-3, 5-3-2 in WCHA) will take on the Huskies (8-6-0, 3-5-0) in a home-and-home series. Tonight’s game in Mankato will be MSU’s first at home since Nov. 15. The Mavericks have five-game unbeaten streak against the Huskies and have lost just one of the last eight meetings. They have a six-game winning streak at St. Cloud, with their last loss there coming in the 2003-04 season. Going back to 1969-70 and the Division II days, MSU leads the all-time series 56-40-8.

The 5-hole

Five things to know about the matchup:

1. Feeling better: Minnesota State is still without a completely healthy lineup, but it is improving. Junior forward Kael Moullierat (2-4-6) will be back after missing five games with an injury, and sophomore center Andrew Sackrisson (1-3-5) may be able to return after sitting out the last three games. However, junior forward Jared Stewart will miss the series and possibly more games with a leg injury suffered Saturday at Bowling Green State.

2. Midterm exams: The Mavericks will play four games before taking a mid-season break for the holidays. Three of the four games — tonight’s game and next week’s series against Denver — are at home. “We need to finish off these last two weeks,” coach Troy Jutting said. “We’ve been playing pretty good hockey, but we need to play our best hockey so far over the next four games. We’ll get a chance to rest up and recuperate after that.”

3. Fabulous freshmen: Two of the highest-scoring rookies in the WCHA will meet in this weekend’s series. Minnesota State redshirt freshman Mike Louwerse (7-5-12) and St. Cloud State first-year forward Jared Festler (4-8-12) are tied for fourth in the conference in rookie scoring. Louwerse leads the Mavericks with four power-play goals. Festler, a Little Falls native, has scored twice with the man advantage.

4. Leading the league: St. Cloud State sophomore forward Garrett Roe (7-14-21) leads the WCHA in scoring and is tied for third in the nation with a 1.50 points-per-game average. The 5-foot-9, 175-pound Vienna, Va., native and Los Angeles Kings draft pick was an second-team all-WCHA selection and an all-rookie pick last season after scoring 18 goals and 45 points. He had two assists in two games against Minnesota State last year.

5. Scouting the Huskies: After going on a five-game winning streak earlier this month, St. Cloud State has dropped its last two games, including a 5-1 loss at Minnesota Duluth on Saturday night. They are tied with MSU with a 3.50 goals-per-game average. Junior goaltender Jace Weslosky (.926, 2.38), a New York Islanders draft pick has played in 11 game this season and ranks second in the WCHA in save percentage.

This weekend’s series

7:37 p.m. today, Alltel Center, Mankato.
7:07 p.m. Saturday, National Hockey Center, St. Cloud
Radio: KTOE 1420 AM
TV: Charter cable channel 14

MSU women fall to Team USA

MANKATO — Erica McKenzie had a goal and two assists and Jenny Potter had three assists as the U.S. National Select Team defeated Minnesota State 4-1 in a women’s hockey exhibition game Thursday at All Seasons Arena.

Ashley Young scored the Mavericks’ lone goal, getting assists from Maggie Fisher and Kala Buganski.

Team USA outshot MSU 35-19, including a 16-5 advantage in the first period when it opened up a 3-0 lead.

Caitlin Cahow, McKenzie and Brianna Decker scored the National Team’s goals in the period.

Julie Chu made it 4-0 at 17:02 of the second period. With 1:16 remaining in the middle frame, Young scored

her goal. U.S. goalie Chanda Gunn made 18 saves for the win. Paige Thunder and Alli Altmann split time in net for the Mavericks.

During the second period, MSU’s Lisa Edman was hit in the neck with the puck while blocking a shot. After a lengthy delay, she was taken to the hospital by ambulance.