



# Sports

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Young players to get ice time for the Mavericks against Lethbridge

## Young players to get ice time for MSU tonight

### Top returning Mavericks to sit out against Lethbridge

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**MANKATO** — If you're looking to see the newest players on the Minnesota State men's hockey team, tonight's your night.

Coach Troy Jutting said he's going to keep a group of his most-veteran players off the ice for the exhibition game against the University of Lethbridge and put out a lineup of rookies and less-experienced players.

Watching from the Verizon Wireless Center stands will the Mavericks' top three returning scorers: defenseman Kurt Davis and forwards Kael Mouillierat and Geoff Irwin. Forward Zach Harrison and defenseman Ben Youds will also sit this one out.

"I know what I'm getting from those guys," Jutting said.

That group will be back in the lineup on Friday when the regular season begins. The Mavericks will host the first game of a nonconference series that night against Bowling Green.

As for tonight's game against the Pronghorns, the

Mavericks will have seven freshmen in the lineup. That group includes forwards Tyler Pitlick, Eli Zuck and Eriah Hayes; defensemen Tyler Elbrecht and Evan Mosey and goaltenders Kevin Murdock and Phil Cook.

The goaltending position is one that will be watched closely, as Minnesota State has no returning experience there. Redshirt sophomore Austin Lee will start the game, but Murdock and Cook will each play a period as well.

However, this will also be the first chance to see forward Tyler Pitlick, who was a Mr. Hockey candidate at Centennial High School last year and a potential high-round NHL draft pick next summer.

"I just want to go out there and work as hard as I can and try to get things done so I can get to play in a real game," said the 6-foot-1, 190-pound Pitlick, the nephew of former NHLer Lance Pitlick. "I can't wait. This is what I've been looking forward to since I was a little kid."

Besides ice time for the

freshmen, a couple of inexperienced upperclassmen are expected to see some action.

Forward Brett Peterson has been with the Mavericks for two seasons but has never appeared in a game. Last year, he missed the second half of the season after undergoing back surgery.

Sophomore Joe Schiller joined Minnesota State as a forward last season but was switched to defense late in the year when the Mavericks needed extra depth at the position. This year, he's playing on the blue line full time and will get a chance to try that in a game situation for the first time tonight.

"I like it a lot," said Schiller, who had one assist in 18 games as a forward last season. "I think it's a natural fit for me."

The only player unable to play is forward Michael Dorr. He transferred to MSU from Minnesota during winter break last season and must sit out until that time this year before he is eligible to play for the Mavericks.

Minnesota State has not started the season with an exhibition game since 2006

when it hosted Lethbridge. The Mavericks lost that game 4-3 in overtime.



Freshman Tyler Pitlick (left) and sophomore Joe Schiller are among the players who see action for the Mavericks in tonight's preseason game against Lethbridge.