



NOTHING BUT NET

May 6, 2005

WOMEN EXCITED ABOUT RECRUITING CLASS FROM COACH LORI FISH

After taking a few weeks off after the season, this spring has been full of lifting weights, conditioning, and individual workouts which have focused on shooting and becoming better ball-handlers and passers. We have a few players still recuperating from injuries, but expect everyone to be healthy and ready to go come fall.

We have a great recruiting class coming in the Fall of 2005. These players will mix well with our returning players, giving us the depth that we need to compete in the NCC. We signed 5 players early and 1 more during this late signing period.

This past week we signed Heather Johnson, a 5-foot-7 shooting guard. Johnson hails from Janesville, Minnesota, just a hop-skip-and-a-jump from Mankato. This past season Heather averaged 22 points per game, shooting 41 percent from the field. Being a three-sport athlete, volleyball, basketball, and softball, Heather brings with her a work ethic that will help her strive towards her goals at MSU.

During the fall period we signed: forward Alex Andrews of West Concord, guard Flecia Foster of Pequot Lakes, guard Jenn Lammers of Hartford, SD, guard JoAnne Noreen of Avon, and forward Jenni Strand of Alexandria. We are very pleased with the group of athletes that we have coming in.

Our coaching staff is just getting started with our recruiting of spring/summer AAU tournaments, elite camps, and national tournaments. It is always exciting to get out and start scouting the talent for the next recruiting class. We will spend much of our time this summer scouring the Upper Midwest, pursuing quality candidates to bring into our program. It is always exciting to start making contact with the upcoming seniors in June.

MEN RETOOL TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM FROM COACH MATT MARGENTHALER

The spring season has gone very well for our Mavericks' basketball program. We were able to take a couple of weeks off to reflect on a tremendous season and our many accomplishments. We definitely raised the bar with our 24-8 record and NCAA Regional berth. I had great expectations for this group coming into the year and they performed consistently at the level I felt they could reach. Jamel Staten was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II All-American team and became only the third All-American in MSU basketball history. Staten was also named to the All-Region First Team while teammate Andy Moeller was a Second Team pick. Staten, Moeller and junior Luke Anderson were all selected to the All-Conference Team.

I have been pleased with our post-season workouts as the guys have worked extremely hard in the weight room and during individual workouts. They came back from the short break with an eagerness to get better and it showed me they want to keep the program at a high level.

The spring signing period saw us wrap up three outstanding players that will help us in the next few years. NCAA regulations prohibit any comment on Division I transfers so I have only included information on two of our three signees. We will also be looking to add one more player to this year's recruiting class.

Paris Kyles, a 6-2, 185-pound guard, will transfer into Minnesota State after spending the past two seasons at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Last year, Kyles earned National Junior College Athletic Association First Team All-American and All-National Tournament honors in addition to being named the Minnesota Community College Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player. He led the Marauders to a fifth-place finish in the national tourney. He was also recently named the Division III Junior College Player of the Year for 2004-05. In 2004-05, Kyles averaged 16.3 points, 5.3 rebounds, 3.8 assists 3.0 steals per outing. Paris is the type of player who can get into the lane and finish plays. He has a great mid-range game, which is something we have not had from the point guard position here at MSU in the last four years.

Jesse Clark, a 6-0, 160-pound guard from O'Gorman High School, was a second team all-state performer last season, leading the Knights to the South Dakota Class AA state championship game last season. He also received All-Greater Dakota Conference honors and was named to the Class AA All-Tournament team. Clark averaged 15.8 points, 2.7 rebounds, and 5.4 assists per game while recording 1.6 steals per game. Jesse is a great competitor, and a point guard who makes other players around him better. Our plan is to have him red shirt next year to allow him to get stronger.

HOOPS CLUB NOTES:

The next regular Hoops Club Board meeting will occur Tuesday, May 17, at 4:00 p.m. in the Myers Field House Conference Room.