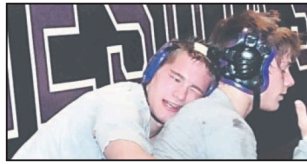


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MSU WRESTLING, PAGE B3

Madelia native finally  
in Mavericks' lineup

# Sports



Pat Christman

Madelia native Andy Forstner (left) has worked his way into the starting lineup this season and is second on the team with 13 wins.

## MSU wrestlers ranked

Tommy Abbott and Brady Wilson own the highest individual rankings for the Minnesota State University wrestling team which is on break until the NWCA National Duals Jan. 10.

Abbott is ranked third in Division II at 149 pounds and Wilson is rated third at heavyweight. Teammates John Putnam (133) and Travis Elg (141) are each ranked fourth and Tim Matheson (174) is rated seventh.

MSU is ranked second as a team with 147 points. Nebraska-Omaha is the No. 1-ranked team with 158 points.

## Forstner's time has come for MSU

By Jim Rueda  
Free Press Sports Editor

**MANKATO** — In terms of sweat equity, Andy Forstner's position in the starting lineup for the Minnesota State University wrestling team has been well paid for.

Forstner is in his third year with the Mavericks and has finally earned a spot in the regular lineup at 125 pounds. The Madelia native has toiled relentlessly in the wrestling room for the past two seasons — first as a red-shirt freshman and then last year behind starter Nick Smith.

"It's never really been frustrating for me because I know how good the guys in front of me were," Forstner said. "Two years ago it was Jeff Pfaffinger and last year it was Smith and I learned so much from those guys in

### Madelia native currently leads Mavericks with 13 wins

practice. There aren't many people who had better technique than Pfaffinger."

MSU head coach Jim Makovsky said it's that kind of attitude that makes Forstner a pleasure to work with.

"He's awesome to coach because he listens and he hears what you're saying," Makovsky said. "If you put a hurdle in front of him, he looks at it as an opportunity to jump over it and build confidence, not as an obstacle."

Right now, Makovsky says Forstner is probably better than 80 percent of the 125-pounders in Division II. "The goal is to get into the top 1 percent and there's every reason to think he do it," Makovsky said. "I believe he

has the potential to be a national champion, he just needs to refine some of the little things with his technique."

Forstner is off to a decent start already this season. He has a 13-9 record which makes him tied for second on the team in wins. Makovsky said Forstner could have easily turned four of those losses into victories if he were a little more polished.

"That's a big difference — 17-5 or 13-9," he said. "I think he'll get there."

"He's grounded, he has a supportive family, he's a level-headed guy. When he wins he'll have a little smile; when he loses you don't have to hide the steak knives."

Despite having to watch

from matside for most of his first two seasons, Forstner said he couldn't have asked for a better place to go to college. He's made some great friendships and is enjoying his classes as an exercise science major.

"My dad and I were talking the other day about how I almost went to Rochester Technical College after high school," Forstner said. "I probably could have wrestled right away but I know I'm so much further along now from having been here two years already. I'm really excited to get a chance in the starting lineup."

Forstner and the Mavericks are off until Saturday, Jan. 10, when they travel to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to try to defend their NWCA National Duals title. MSU's first home meet is Wednesday, Jan. 28, against Upper Iowa University.