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MSU wrestling coach
still fine-tuning
his lineup

Sports

MSU's Makovsky still tinkering with his lineup

The Minnesota State wrestling team's season is four weeks old and head coach Jim Makovsky still has some unanswered questions about his lineup.

Makovsky said he'd like to have a few more answers by now but will probably have to wait until the team heads to the NWCA National Duals in early January to get a better take on his squad. So far, the Mavericks have had one dual meet — a 37-6 win over Waldorf College — and three open invitationals that

included Division I competition.

"We've been pushing our guys pretty hard because we want them to be physically and mentally tough for the dual-meet season," Makovsky said. "It's challenging for them, especially for some of the newcomers."



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The most difficult part for the first-year wrestlers is handling the losing against D-1 competition. Most of them won the overwhelming majority of their matches in high school.

"(Heavyweight) Brad Wilson is a three-time all-American for us and he has four losses already," Makovsky said. "Some of these freshmen barely lost four matches all through high school."

One newcomer who has stood out is Robby Fischer. Wrestling at 141 pounds, the Bloomington native has compiled a 9-4 record so far.

Two other unfamiliar faces who have looked good are Justin Turek and Darren Olson. Both junior college transfers, Turek is 5-5 and Olson is 7-6. Both wrestle around the 157-pound mark and may be asked to move

up or down depending on where they best fit into the lineup.

Makovsky says one of the things he learned early is that his team still needs to develop some depth at the upper weights. Sophomore Aaron Norgren (184) and sophomore Pat Mahan (197) have yet to wrestle because of injuries.

Norgren is recovering from a broken foot and may be back this weekend. Mahan has shoulder issues and will likely be out until at least the first of the year.

MSU wrestles at St. Cloud State in the Husky Open this weekend and

Makovsky said the team is looking forward to it. There will be no Division I teams there, so the Mavericks will get a chance to see how they stack up against their peers.

Prep rankings

The first high school wrestling rankings were released by The Guillotine shortly after Thanksgiving and three area teams have found their way into the top dozen.

In Class AA, Scott West is rated fourth. In Class A, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial is ranked third and Sibley East is rated 11th.

Three area wrestlers are ranked No. 1 in their respective weight classes. New Ulm's Pat Brinkman tops the heavyweight rankings in Class AA.

United South Central's Alex Dreyer is first at 215 pounds in Class A. Sibley East's Aaron Rose is No. 1 at 285 pounds in Class A.

An updated set of rankings is slated to be released on Friday.

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