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# Sports

## East football coach joins Mavericks staff



Pat Christman

Eric Davis has resigned after four seasons as the head football coach at Mankato East to take an assistant coaching position with the Minnesota State football program.

### Davis will coach tight ends at MSU

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — A few years ago, Eric Davis started to wonder about coaching at the college level, and after going through practice with the Minnesota State football team for a couple of weeks last fall, he was sure he wanted to pursue that option.

"I'm lucky that an opportunity presented itself in a town I like to live in," Davis said.

Davis has accepted an assistant position with the Minnesota State football program and resigned as football

coach at Mankato East. Davis will continue to teach in the mathematics department at East, though he will teach one less class per day, and this will be his last season with the Cougars baseball team, where he's been the head coach for 10 seasons.

Davis said that the lost income from a decreased teaching contract and not coaching at East will about be replaced by what he'll be paid at Minnesota State.

"It will be different," Davis said. "The coaches (at East) have been supportive; I think they thought this might be something I wanted to do.

The players were a little surprised so that was tough to tell them. I've helped players take the next step to college, and now it's my turn to follow."

Davis was an assistant football coach at East from 1995 until 2003, taking over as the head coach when Gary Dierks resigned. In four seasons, Davis' teams have posted a 31-19 record.

Davis played baseball at Minnesota State from 1992-96, serving as the team captain as a senior.

Last fall, Davis volunteered for a couple of weeks with the Mavericks, assisting

coach Jeff Jamrog and offensive coordinator Dan Ragsdale. When coach Todd Hoffner was hired, Ragsdale mentioned that Davis might be interested in joining the staff.

"He's a genuine person, very outgoing," Hoffner said. "He's a guy who wants to stay in the community, and we're fortunate we can acquire his services.

"To be able to hire quality people like Eric is exciting. It's a win-win for both of us, everybody and everything he coaches seems to maximize their potential."

Davis will coach tight ends, working under new offensive coordinator Stan Zweifel.