



Sports



Anthony Rutjes is expected to get a look at quarterback, but a position change is also possible.

MSU visit sways East QB

By Chad Courrier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — When the football season ended in November, Mankato East quarterback Anthony Rutjes had no intention of attending Minnesota State. He was intent on getting out of town to play college football.

But in December, he made his visit to Minnesota State, which changed everything.

"I thought I'd seen everything (at Minnesota State), but on my visit, I got to see everything in depth," Rutjes said. "They have great facilities, I got to meet the players, and they were great. The coaching staff was great. (The visit) really changed my mind."

On Sunday, Rutjes, a 6-foot-1, 175-pound quarterback, made a verbal commitment to coach Jeff Jamrog and offensive coordinator to play for the Mavericks, canceling plans to visit South Dakota and St. John's. The first day of the signing period is Wednesday, and Jamrog can not talk about recruits until he's received a signed letter of intent.

"I think MSU did a great job of recruiting him," East coach Eric Davis said. "I don't think MSU was his first choice initially, but then he saw the facilities and the direction the program is heading. It became his top choice."

Rutjes, who missed half of his junior season with a shoulder injury, rebounded this season to complete 72 of 146 passes for a school-record 1,218 yards and 13 touch-

RECRUIT: Happy to have decided

Continued from Page D1

downs, just one short of the school record. His 15 completions in the final game against Mankato West is a school record.

Rutjes rushed for 523 yards and 13 touchdowns, and his 1,741 yards of offense was the fourth-best single-season total at East. He is being recruited as a quarterback but may end up playing receiver or in the defensive secondary sometime in the future.

"Mentally, he can handle (playing quarterback), and I

think (Minnesota State likes) having a mobile quarterback," Davis said. "He'll succeed wherever he plays."

Rutjes said he enjoys playing quarterback, but he's happy to go wherever he's put.

"It's really exciting to have this decision behind me," Rutjes said. "It's kind of a relief, but I think I made a good choice."

Mankato West quarterback Dan Dobson, who was also being recruited by Minnesota State, committed last week to Minnesota Duluth.