



Sports



Minnesota Valley Lutheran wide receiver Tim Petersen caught 46 passes and seven TDs last season.

MVL player commits to Mavericks

Tim Petersen likes direction of football program

By Chad Courier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — The campus visit is designed to finish the recruiting process, and when Tim Petersen visited Minnesota State, he was sold.

"I really got a good vibe there," Petersen said. "That's the right place for me."

Petersen, a senior receiver at Minnesota Valley Lutheran, committed to play football at Minnesota State last week.

"I liked the coaching staff, the direction of the program," Petersen said. "I want to be part of that."

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PETERSEN: 'I want to contribute right away'

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Petersen considering being a walk-on at the University of Minnesota, something his oldest brother Aaron did. He also visited North Dakota State, St. Cloud State and Gustavus Adolphus before deciding on Minnesota State, where another brother David was a walk-on in 2005.

Petersen, who lives in Mankato, played at MVL until his eighth-grade season, then transferred to Mankato West for three seasons before returning to MVL as a senior.

Last season, he made 46 receptions for 712 yards and seven touchdowns. In three varsity seasons, Petersen made 121 receptions for 1,590 yards and 14 touchdowns.

MVL coach Jim Buboltz said that Petersen spends a lot of time in the weight room, building on his 6-foot-2, 190-pound frame. Petersen's fastest 40-yard dash time has been 4.59 sec-

onds.

"It's fantastic for him," Buboltz said. "I think that offense will work for him and his skills catching the ball and running. We've discussed many colleges and taken a lot of calls from coaches. Coach Jamrog and his staff have done a great job of reaching out to Tim. It's good to see (Minnesota State) coming after the kids in their backyard as hard as they're going after kids in (other states)."

Petersen is the second area player to commit to the Mavericks, joining Mankato East quarterback Anthony Rutjes. Jamrog can't comment on recruits until he receives a signed letter of intent; the signing period begins Feb. 7.

Petersen said he's been told that he might play as a freshman.

"I want to contribute right away," he said. "I'm pretty excited. This is a burden off my shoulders. It's been pretty stressful."