



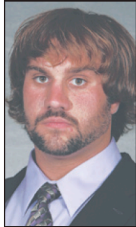
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## Blue Jackets top Canadiens in shootout

# Sports



MSU senior Jake Droessler will attempt to play through a broken fibula during today's game against St. Cloud.

## Droessler looks to play through leg injury

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — Jake Droessler has played football with a separated shoulder and a torn ligament in his knee, but never has he suffered such a painful injury as when he broke a bone in his leg a month ago.

But for five years, he's been focused on beating St. Cloud State, and since this is his last chance, he's going to do everything he can to be on the field Saturday.

"I don't know how much I'll be out there," the Minnesota State senior center said. "It depends on if I'm effective."

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MSU vs.  
St. Cloud  
State game  
preview.

The Mavericks (8-2, 8-1 in Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference) host St. Cloud State (7-3, 7-2) in the regular-season finale at 1 p.m. today at Blakeslee Stadium, hoping to stop a five-season losing streak to the Huskies. A victory would likely secure a spot in the NCAA tournament for Minnesota State, while a loss would send the Mavericks, who tied for the NSIC South Division championship, to the Mineral Water Bowl, a game between a Northern Sun Intercollegiate team and an opponent from the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association, on Dec. 6 at Excelsior Springs, Mo.

# DROESSLER: A reassuring effect on the line

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Droessler remembers a conversation he had five years ago with former teammate Adam Stroik.

"He told me St. Cloud State is the team to beat," Droessler said. "I have to play against them, I have to beat them before I leave here."

Droessler was injured in a home game against Concordia-St. Paul. He remembers getting kicked in the leg, but he kept playing, not thinking it was anything serious. Eventually, the pain became too much and he found one of the athletic

trainers, who diagnosed him as having a broken fibula.

"He told me the clicking I felt was the bone going back and forth," Droessler said.

He's spent a lot of time in the training room, and he had an X-ray last week that showed new growth on the non-weight bearing bone. So he's not so much worried about re-injury, just the pain.

"I don't want to hurt the team," he said. "It's too big a game for somebody to be out there that's only 75 percent. If it's just one snap, than that's all I can do. We've all worked too hard,

there's too much at stake."

Coach Todd Hoffner said he's not worried about Droessler, who would have to be cleared by the training staff to play. He and line coach Mike Cunningham will be watching to see if Droessler is effective. There's a certain comfort level that Droessler brings to the line, using his experience to make the proper blocking calls.

"He has a reassuring effect, a sense of leadership that you need in a tough game," Hoffner said. "It's admirable that he's willing to push the envelope, it means so much to him to be out there competing."

In his absence, junior Mike Ziedler has played well, and Droessler said that by being away from the team, new leaders, those who will be around next season, have begun to emerge. But he still wants to be out there, one last game at Blakeslee Stadium, against the biggest rival, helping his team get to the national tournament for the first time in 15 seasons.

"This could be my last home game," Droessler said. "The way the schedule was put together, I was really excited that my last game at MSU would be against St. Cloud State. This is it."