



Sports

MSU to honor seven people, one team

MANKATO — Minnesota State University will induct six individuals and one team into its Athletics Hall of Fame and Distinction today. This year's philanthropic award recipient will also be recognized at a formal ceremony in the Centennial Student Ballroom beginning at 11 a.m.

The 2006 inductees will be introduced to the public at halftime of today's 6:30 p.m. football game between MSU and UW-Oshkosh at Blakeslee Stadium.

The new Hall of Fame members are Tom Anderson (hockey, '77), Larry McKeever (football and baseball, '61), Jamie Pass (football, '94) and John Passolt (hockey, '83). The new Hall of Distinction members (people who have made significant contributions to MSU athletics) are Dr. Richard Rush (MSU president from 1992-2001) and Don Brose (MSU men's hockey coach from 1969-2000).

Selected for induction in the team category is the 1971 MSC baseball team that captured a North Central Conference title and the NCAA Midwest Region championship prior to earning fourth place at the NCAA Division II national tournament. This year's MSU Athletics Philanthropic Award recipient is Charter Communications.

The following is a thumbnail sketch of each inductee:

Tom Anderson ('77, hockey): Anderson spent two seasons with St. Paul Vulcans junior team prior to enrolling at Mankato State in 1975. He scored 63 points in 59 games and was a team captain as a senior. MSU built a 34-19-1 record in his two years with the program when he was

twice named All-American.

Larry McKeever ('61, football and baseball): A three-year starter on both sides of the ball in football, he helped Mankato State capture conference titles in 1958, '59 and '60. McKeever was also a three-year baseball starter at shortstop and a member of conference championship teams in 1958 and 1960.

Jamie Pass ('94, football): Finished third in voting for the 1993 Harlon Hill Award as the top player in NCAA Division II, Pass was named to the Football Gazette and C.M. Frank Small College All-American First Team and First Team CoSIDA/NCAA Division II All-America as a senior. He owned or shared 19 MSU records and three NCC records upon graduation and led MSU to one North Central Conference title (1993) and two NCAA post-season appearances (1991 and 1993).

John Passolt ('83, hockey): A three-year letterwinner, Passolt played three years for Mankato State after transferring from Minnesota. The St. Louis Park native established school season records (since broken) for points (77) and assists in his first year with MSU in the national championship season of 1979-80. He totaled 85 goals and 131 assists for 216 points in 143 career games. He ranks fourth on the team's all-time scoring list and his career points per game average of 1.63 also ranks fourth.

Dr. Richard Rush (MSU president, 1992-2001): During his tenure Rush helped the university achieve gender equity in athletics, he approved the establishment of women's varsity hockey program, he supported the elevation of the men's hockey



Tom Anderson



Larry McKeever



Jamie Pass



John Passolt

program from NCAA Division II to Division I and helped the program gain admission to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association. Rush raised over \$17 million in private donations for Taylor Center, the most ambitious private project in state university history and solicited an additional \$1.2 million to expand the design of Taylor Center.

Don Brose (men's hockey coach, 1969-2000): Brose compiled a 536-335-79 record in 30 years of coaching at Mankato State/Minnesota State. He guided the men's hockey program from a fledgling independent team to NCAA Division III and Division II affiliation to NCAA Division I membership and membership in Western Collegiate Hockey Association. Brose coached MSC to the NCAA Division II title in 1980 and was named WCHA Coach of the Year in 1999-2000 after guiding Mavericks to 21-14-1 mark and a fourth-place finish in the team's inaugural year in WCHA.

1971 Baseball Team: MSC claimed the 1971 NCAA Division II Midwest Regional title (played in Mankato) with an unblemished 3-0 mark with a win over Luther and two wins over Northern Colorado. The Mankato State team appeared at the Division II national champi-



Dr. Richard Rush



Don Brose

onships and went on to finish fourth in that tournament.

The team, coached by Jean McCarthy, was 22-12 overall and was North Central Conference champions with a 14-6 league mark. The squad boasted All-NCC performers Mike Vogel and Randy Heidman, along with NCC Pitcher of the Year Ken Wilson.

Charter Communications: In addition to serving as the television broadcast partner for MSU athletics since 2000, Charter Communications has been extensively involved with MSU as a corporate partner, providing scholarships for student-athletes, and providing support through the MSU Athletics Coupon Book, season tickets, the MSU men's hockey Blue Line Club, the Dan Meyer Golf Classic, MSU basketball promotions, the MSU Women's Sports Classic, the Men's Golf Classic and by serving as the Maverick Walk for Women's Scholarships title sponsor for 2005 and 2006.