



Touchdown Club

LIVE IT.LOVE IT.

Official MSU Football Booster Club

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MSU FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB

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MAVERICKS OPEN UP 2006 CAMP WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Football head coach Jeff Jamrog opened his third pre-season camp as Maverick head coach Thursday, August 3, on the Blakeslee Stadium practice fields on the campus of Minnesota State. Jamrog welcomed 99 Mavericks to drills that will cover 24 practice sessions leading up to the 2006 season opener against Truman State on Thursday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m., in Mankato, Minn. Minnesota State will look to bounce back after posting a 2-9 record last season, losing five games by a touchdown or less, and two of those games to teams that advanced to the NCAA Divisional II national tournament. Heading into his third season as the Minnesota State head coach, Jeff Jamrog offers the following thoughts heading into fall camp:



COACH JAMROG

- The quarterback position: “It will be a battle as we go through two-a-days. Ben King returns from a year’s absence. He (King) led our team to a 6-5 record in 2004, and took the year off last season as he concentrated on baseball. Fortunately, he practiced a couple of opportunities in the spring, Coach Ragsdale is excited to work with him full time. Josh (Bryant), obviously was our quarterback last year, started about half of the season, with the other half being Jamie VanDenElzen. Josh did some good things last year, but obviously took his lumps. This spring was a learning experience for him, as he has learned this new system that Coach Ragsdale has implemented. We are excited about what both quarterbacks bring to our football team.”
- The youth of this year’s squad: “We will still be a young football team, however we will have 15 or 16 seniors that we are hopeful that will give us excellent leadership. Last season we played around 10 freshman, so we have youth that have played in some games. There are some very talented freshman coming in this year and a couple of them may play. We are excited about the seasoned veterans that we have on the team, along with the youth and we think that the youth will carry us for a long time to come.
- Melvin Matlock, Nick Wilson and Allen King highlight the secondary, how important are they to the success of this squad: “I think it will allow us to play a multitude of coverages in order to stop the run and pass. We feel much better about our depth up front. We are finally going to be able to rotate some guys on the defensive line spot. Spencer Dickinson comes back, a two-year starter, Chris Brunkhorst started the majority of the season last year as a freshman. We are very excited about those two players on our team along with a couple of ends where we will have our best depth to date. Linebackers are going to be a key position, losing two senior starters (Jimmie Gunn and Leonardo Enriquez), but we feel we have some young linebackers along with (sophomore) Tony Hunter, who had a great spring for us at middle linebacker. Junior Chad Breeden, is coming off a year he had to sit out as he started his career at Central Florida. We have four very talented freshman coming in, we think that a couple will play this year. No doubt, the strength of our defense when you look at experience and the number of athletes you are able to put on the field is our secondary. We are very excited with the talent in the backfield, it will allow us to do things to stop the run and pass.



• Expectations for the 2006 season: “Obviously, third year in the program we hope to make significant progress from last year and start getting into winning football games like we did our first year. We have to start learning to win the close ones. Starting out last year like we did against Northwest Missouri State University and losing by three in overtime are the type of games that we need win to take our program to another level. We lost five games last year by five points or less and we need to win the close ones and learn how to win on a consistent basis. This team has put on a lot of work since the season ended in November, we had a great winter, a great spring and all but one football player was here this summer working in Mankato. We had close to 58 or 59 players who stuck around this summer. Hopefully in turn it will show come August 23 in our opener against Truman State.”

“Make it new!” was the rallying cry of Ezra Pound in the post-World War I era, a declaration that helped to inspire a generation of writers and poets such as T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost and Ernest Hemingway redefine literature as we know it. Pound’s simple yet forceful words might also very well apply to the 2006 edition of the Minnesota State Mavericks that returns 32 letterwinners and 10 starters from last year’s 2-9 club. However, with a youthful bent to this year’s squad, what with 44 freshman and 13 sophomores comprising over half of the roster, new is exactly what this team led by third-year head coach Jeff Jamrog consists of.

The offensive line returns three starters from a year ago, including All-NCC Second Team selection senior Adam Van Zeeland. Rejoining Van Zeeland on the line this year are fellow seniors Ben Roberson and Kory Anderson.

While the other spots will be up for grabs, with newcomers, redshirt and true freshmen alike all likely to receive looks, sophomores Josh Clausen and Andy Schoonover both played on the line in 2005 as true freshmen and figure to be in the mix for starting nods this fall. Senior wide receiver Tyrell Smith is the fourth and final starter from a year ago on the roster just one year after turning in one of the best seasons by a Maverick wideout in school history. Smith earned All-NCC Second Team honors after catching 70 passes (fourth on the MSU all-time single-season list) for 909 receiving yards and eight touchdowns.

The quarterback position appears to have good depth heading into fall camp with seniors Joshua Bryant, and Ben King joining redshirt freshman Ryan Fick in the quest to be MSU’s signal-caller. Bryant appeared in seven games last season, with four starts to his credit. King took the 2005 season off to focus on baseball after being the Maverick starter the previous two seasons, but has decided to return to the gridiron this fall. Fick was a highly regarded recruit out Iowa who retains four years of eligibility in his MSU career.

The running back spot is going to be up for grabs following the graduation of All-American Sean Treasure. One of the replacements could be senior Dan Smedberg who played fullback last fall. Redshirt freshmen Julian Phipps and Ernest Walker could also be in the mix, along with other newcomers.

On the defensive side of the ball, Minnesota State returns five starters headlined by All-NCC honorable mention pick and senior cornerback Melvin Matlock. Lining up on the other side of the field from Matlock will be fellow senior corner Nick Wilson, while senior Allen King returns at free safety, leaving strong safety the only position affected by graduation. Senior linebacker Dan Ficcadenti brings the most experience to the Maverick corps in 2006, though sophomore Tony Hunter played well as a true freshman a year ago and is expected to continue to improve in the upcoming season. The MSU defensive line took the hardest hit due to graduation with only sophomore Chris Brunkhorst returning in a starting role.

Senior Jason Tompkins returns to battle for the kicking position in 2006 after making 4-of-8 field goal attempts last fall, though the departure of MSU’s all-time leader in punt attempts in Jamie VanDenElzen leaves that spot wide open. In the return game, Smith figures to be in the mix as he was the primary punt returner a year ago, with Matlock also a possibility. **TDC** ■



SMITH PRESEASON ALL-AMERICAN

Minnesota State senior Tyrell Smith (Detroit, Mich.) has been named to the Don Hansen Football Gazette Preseason All-America team, which was announced in late July.

Smith, a six-foot wide receiver caught 70 passes for 909 yards last season, averaging 82.6 yards per game. His 70 receptions ties him for fourth on the school's single-season receptions list. He is also tied for seventh in receiving touch downs and eighth in receiving yards.

In 2005, Smith earned second-team All-North Central Conference Second Team honors, as well as honorable mention all-region accolades from Don Hansen's Football Gazette and D2football.com.

Smith also ranks on several career charts at MSU, sitting 10th in punt return yardage (217), 12th in punt returns (23), tied for 15th in receiving touchdowns (8), 19th in receptions (70), and is 21st (909) in receiving yardage. **TDC** ■

MSU 2006 SCHEDULE AND TOUCHDOWN CLUB TENT

Like last year, you can catch up with other members of the Touchdown Club during home games at the TDC tent located close to the main entrance of Blakeslee Stadium. All members receive free admission and are able to purchase adult beverages as well as sodas and snacks.

With the home opener only a few weeks away, the Minnesota State schedule looks a bit different this year than in the years past. Gone are games with traditional rivals such as NDSU, South Dakota State and Northern Colorado and in are games with new foes from Washington state (Central and Western) as well as games against CIAA teams Truman State and Northwest Missouri State.

Thursday	August 24	Truman State	Mankato	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	September 2	Northwest Missouri State	Maryville, Mo.	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	September 9	Wisconsin-Oshkosh	Mankato	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	September 16	Augustana *	Sioux Falls	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	September 23	OPEN		
Saturday	September 30	Nebraska-Omaha (Homecoming) *	Mankato	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 7	North Dakota *	Grand Forks	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 14	Minnesota Duluth (Family Weekend) *	Mankato	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 21	St. Cloud State *	St. Cloud	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 28	South Dakota *	Mankato	1:00 p.m.
Saturday	November 4	Central Washington *	Ellensburg, WA	2:00 p.m.
Saturday	November 11	Western Washington *	Mankato	Noon

TDC ■

2006 GOLF OUTING ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

For the second straight year, the MSU Touchdown Club invaded the Refuge Golf Club in the northern suburbs of the Twin Cities and enjoyed a beautiful golf course and fantastic weather. Over 70 club members and alumni participated this year, generating nearly \$15,000 to go towards the football program.

This year's event included the standard lunch and dinner and also tested players' abilities on various holes against Coach Jamrog and other members of the staff. In addition, all par 3's included chances to win free cruises and other valuable gifts but unfortunately no golfers were up to the challenge.



STEVE CONNELLY AND FRIENDS ENJOY A BREAK IN THE ACTION.





A FEW PLAYERS RELAXING ON THE 19TH HOLE.

Two foursomes won the Scramble at 15 under, a new record for the event. Winners were team 1 made up of Mark and Kyle Krivoruchka, Randy and Nate Johnson. The other winning team was Bob Matuska, Andrew Shea, Chad Gorish and Dave Schlichte. Unfortunately, Schlichte was tested positive for HGH following the event and had to forfeit the winnings to the second place team. The test is under investigation.

Again this year, Darryl Wills did an outstanding job setting up the event supported by Rick Fossey and Brian Watson. Mark your calendars today for our 2007 which is scheduled for Friday, June 15th. The location is still to be determined. We need more volunteers for the event next year. If you are interested, please email Dave Schlichte at schlicht@hickorytech.net. **TDC** ■



THE SILENT AUCTION WAS BETTER THAN EVER!



NO HOLE IN ONES THIS YEAR!
CRUISEONE IS SAFE!!

JOIN THE TOUCHDOWN CLUB AND SUPPORT THE MAVERICKS TODAY!

With momentum at the back of the Mavericks and the Touchdown Club, we really are focusing on increasing our membership numbers for the 2006-2007 year. Membership privileges are fantastic, plus you are able to quickly get reconnected to the MSU football family. Take a few minutes to send your check in today!

2006 - 2007 Levels/Benefits

PURPLE \$150

- 2 Touchdown Club Tent Passes
- 1 Mav Pack
- Touchdown Club Newsletter Subscription
- Touchdown Club Decal
- \$50 Scholarship Donation to Maverick football

GOLD \$300

- 2 Touchdown Club Tent Passes
- 2 Season Tickets
- Touchdown Club Newsletter Subscription
- Touchdown Club Decal
- Recognition in football game program
- "Monday's with the MAVS" luncheon
- \$100 Scholarship Donation to Maverick football



VARSITY

\$550

- 4 Touchdown Club Tent Passes
- 2 Season Tickets
- Parking Pass
- 1 Maverick Football Apparel Item
- Touchdown Club Newsletter Subscription
- Touchdown Club Decal
- Recognition in football game program
- “Monday’s with the MAVS” luncheon
- \$275 Scholarship Donation to Maverick football

MAVERICK

\$1,100

- 4 Touchdown Club Tent Passes
- 4 Season Tickets
- 2 Parking Passes
- 2 Maverick Football Apparel Item
- 1 Maverick Pennant
- Touchdown Club Newsletter Subscription
- Touchdown Club Decal
- Recognition in football game program
- “Monday’s with the MAVS” luncheon
- \$550 Scholarship Donation to Maverick football

TDC ■

NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER WANTS TO EXPAND LEAGUE

North Central Conference Commissioner Roger Thomas says his focus is on expanding his league before discussing a merger with the rival Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Thomas met in July with NSIC commissioner Butch Raymond in Alexandria, Minnesota.

“Our No. 1 priority is to have the North Central Conference grow,” Thomas said. “If that doesn’t happen, maybe we’ll go to something else. I’m not trying to put (a merger) down. It’s just one piece of a complex puzzle. Some of it is out of our control and some is not.”

Talk of a possible merger has surfaced after an announcement that NCC power University of North Dakota was leaving for Division I, dropping the league’s membership to six. Other NCC schools have since begun to study their own classification and conference affiliation. “I don’t think anyone would want to stay small,” Thomas said. “But it’s still legal to be smaller as a conference. It’s just another one of the options that are out there. The continuation of our conference is our A-plus priority.” Thomas said he and Raymond discussed NCC’s interest in NSIC members Winona State and Concordia-St. Paul.

“As our membership changes, those schools have been looking at the whole Division II picture,” Thomas said. “(Conversations) will be ongoing. We’re going to continue to look for members.” Raymond said he hopes NCC can continue. “We both feel the same way,” Raymond said. “We feel it’s best if the North Central stay operating. We have a good rivalry going, and it makes for good competition. If they can stay at six (schools) there will be no further talks. If they go below six, that’s when serious talks would have to begin.”

The University of South Dakota should complete its Division I study in November. Raymond said things should start to become clear by January 1. The NCC members are South Dakota, Augustana (S.D.), St. Cloud State (Minn.), Minnesota-Duluth, Minnesota State Mankato, Nebraska-Omaha. UND will compete in the NCC until 2008-09. NSIC members are Minnesota State Moorhead, the University of Mary, Upper Iowa, Minnesota-Crookston, Northern State (S.D.), Bemidji State, Southwest Minnesota State, Wayne State (Neb.), Concordia-St. Paul and Winona (Minn.) State. TDC ■

