



Sports

MSU signing day

Men's hoops inks one

MANKATO — Kyle Swanson, a forward from Ogden, Iowa, has signed a national letter of intent and will enroll at Minnesota State next fall to join the basketball program, coach Matt Margenthaler said Wednesday, the first day of the fall signing period.

"Kyle is going to be a typical big man in the (North Central Conference) with a big body and an ability to move well without the ball," Margenthaler said in a news release. "I really look for him to be a force for us on the inside and the outside in the near future."

Swanson, 6-foot-7 and 220 pounds, has started and lettered for three years at Ogden, earning Class 2A Heart of Iowa Conference first-team honors in all three seasons. Swanson has averaged 19.0 points and 8.0 rebounds for his career, making 44.0 percent from 3-point range and 81.0 percent on free throws. He's also received all-state honors as a junior and sophomore.

Minnesota State posted a 24-8 record in 2004-05, advancing to the NCAA Division II national tournament for the third time in school history and for the first time since 1976. The Mavericks open the season on Tuesday with a game at Winona State.

Volleyball

Coach Dennis Amundson has announced that three student-athletes have signed letters of intent to attend Minnesota State.

"We are excited about this

recruiting class; all three players are from championship programs," Amundson said in a news release. "As we build the program at Minnesota State, it is important to find players who have had experience winning. These players, put together with our current freshman class, bode well for the future of Maverick volleyball."

Erica Jost is a 6-0 outside hitter from Oakdale and Tartan High School. She's a four-year letter winner and all-conference selection. She also lettered in basketball as a four-year starter and twice in track and field.

Kelly Sandstrom is a 5-6 libero from Andover, where she was a four-year letterwinner. She's the sister of current setter Stef Sandstrom and Minnesota State volleyball alum Kari Sandstrom.

Christina Timmer is a 5-9 setter from Sioux Falls (S.D.) Lincoln High School, where she competed in volleyball, track and field and softball and made state appearances in all three. She was a member of the state runner-up team her sophomore season and state championship team this season.

Softball

Coach Lori Meyer announced that she has received letters of intent from Libbie Reichling of Johnston, Iowa, and Samatha Rohr of Lakeville, who will both enroll at Minnesota State next fall.

"I am excited to have Libbie come be a part of our program," Meyer said in a news release.

"Defensively, I'm already pleased with her skills as she can offer us versatility at short-stop and first base. Offensively, I think that she will only continue to mature, get stronger and more aggressive, which will naturally improve her hitting."

Reichling received Class 4A All-State Special Mention and all-conference second team honors as a sophomore in 2004 after receiving all-conference honorable mention accolades the previous two years. Last year, Reichling served as a team captain while receiving all-conference honorable mention recognition. A four-year letterwinner in softball, she has also earned letters in volleyball and basketball.

Reichling's older sister Katie is an outfielder/pitcher for Iowa State University.

"Samatha will come in and complement our pitching staff very well," Meyer said. "I look at her as an off-speed, junkball pitcher. I like the fact that she had experience at (Iowa Lakes Community College), and she is a competitor out there on the mound. She finds a way to win, and she's done that at every level she's ever played at."

Rohr currently attends Iowa Lakes Community College at Esterville, Iowa, and the right-handed pitcher will be a junior for the 2006-07 season. Last year, Rohr earned NFCA first team All-American and all-region honors while setting single-season school records with 28 victories, 260 strikeouts and 12 shutouts.