



# Sports

## MSU basketball squad adds new backcourt combo

Team also signs recruit from Iowa

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — Last season, Minnesota State men's basketball coach Matt Margenthaler recruited a lot of size. On Wednesday, he added the backcourt help he sees working well with his bigs in the future.

"Our goal was to find some young guards," Margenthaler said on the first day of the early signing period. "We got two guys who should really complement each other."

Marcus Hill, a 5-foot-9 point guard from Breck, and Preston Whitaker, a 6-3 guard from St. Cloud Apollo, both signed Wednesday, as did Mike Bisenius, a 6-9 forward from Emmetsburg, Iowa.

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## BASKETBALL: Mavericks ranked 19th in national poll

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Hill, a four-year starter, has averaged at least seven assists each season. As a junior, he averaged 20 points and 8.5 assists, playing an up-tempo style.

"He's one of the smallest guards I've ever recruited, but he makes up for that with heart and leadership," Margenthaler said.

Whitaker is more of a wing player, shooting 50 percent from the field, including 47 percent from 3-point range. He averaged 18.6 points, 5.1 rebounds and 5.1 assists per game.

"He's versatile, he really knows how to defend, and he's a great slasher," Margenthaler said. "Both (Hill and Whitaker) are guys that could step in and play as freshmen."

The Mavericks lose three starting guards after this season: Luke Anderson, Paris Kyles and Tony Thomason.

Margenthaler said that Bisenius also has great versatility and is able to play in the post, power forward or small forward.

Bisenius averaged 13

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MATT MARGENTHALER,  
Minnesota State  
men's basketball coach  
on two of his new recruits

points and 7.6 rebounds and he blocked 56 shots in 25 games.

"He's a guy who's valuable because he can do so many things," Margenthaler said.

### Notes

Minnesota State has been rated 19th in the National Association of Basketball Coaches preseason poll. The Mavericks are one of five North Central Region teams in the top 25, joining Winona State (first), Nebraska-Kearney (15th), South Dakota (16th) and Fort Hays State (25th). ... Minnesota State plays an exhibition game against Athletes in Action on Friday at Bresnan Arena, then hosts the annual Tip-Off tournament Nov. 17-18, taking on Felician College and Dominican College.