



Sports

MSU women sign St. James guard

Breau Miller averaged 17 points per game for Saints last season

By Chad Courrier
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MANKATO — For years, the Minnesota State women's basketball team played an undersized point guard, but coach Lori Fish is trying to get bigger on the ball.

"When you get size at the point, it creates some tougher matchups," Fish said. "It's something we've needed."

On Wednesday, Fish announced the signing of point guard Breau Miller of St. James and off-guard Nicole Christiansen of Chetek, Wis., on the first day of the early signing period.

Tiffany Moe, a 5-foot-9 freshman, is already on the Mavericks roster, and Fish said that 5-11 Miller will add to that depth.

"She's long, she has great court awareness, an unselfish player," Fish said. "She can play anywhere on the perimeter, she's very versatile, but we felt she fits better at the point."

Miller averaged 17.2 points, 10.8 rebounds and 6.0 assists per game last season, with four triple-doubles. She set a school record by scoring 43 points in a game.

"I really liked the campus when I went there for a visit," Miller said. "It's a fun group of girls. It's closer to home so people can come to watch me play."

Miller said she considered Concordia-St. Paul and Gustavus Adolphus, but she quickly accepted a scholarship from Minnesota State and declined other visits.

"This is exciting," Miller said. "It's been a dream of mine since I was little."

Fish said the 5-10 Christiansen is more of a wing player who averaged 14.0 points, 5.3 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game.

"She's very athletic," Fish said. "She'll help us immediately at both ends of the court."

Notes

The Mavericks were picked to finish last in the North Central Conference coaches poll, which was released Wednesday. The Mavericks were 12-16 last season, with a 3-9 record in NCC games, which was tied for fifth in the seven-team league. Defending champion North Dakota was chosen first, followed by St. Cloud State, Augustana, South Dakota, Minnesota Duluth, Nebraska-Omaha and Minnesota State. MSU received one fifth-place vote, two sixth-place votes and four seventh-place votes. ... Minnesota State opens the season Nov. 17-18, hosting Minnesota-Crookston and Bemidji State in the annual Tip-Off tournament.