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Sports

Mavericks lose two defensive coaches

By Chad Courrier
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MANKATO — For the first time in six seasons, the Minnesota State football team will have the same offensive coordinator. However, coach Jeff Jamrog will have to rebuild his defensive staff after two assistants resigned late last month.

Defensive coordinator Ken

Gordon and defensive line coach Spence Nowinsky, both original members of Jamrog's staff, have left Minnesota State to take jobs at Emporia State, a Division II program in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Emporia State recently hired Garin Higgins, who spent the 2004 season as offensive

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Defensive coordinator Ken Gordon (left) and defensive line coach Spence Nowinsky have left MSU to take jobs at Emporia State.

COACHES: Klanderman 'in the mix for a promotion' at MSU

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coordinator at Minnesota State, as its head coach. Neither Gordon nor Nowinsky could be reached for comment.

"I appreciate the efforts of coach Gordon and coach Nowinsky over the last three years," Jamrog said. "I wish them the best in their future coaching careers."

Gordon spent three seasons at Minnesota State, the last two as defensive coordinator. Last season, the Mavericks allowed 23.5 points per game, giving up 152.7 yards rushing and 216.1 yards passing.

Nowinsky, who played for the Mavericks from 1991-94, had also been on the Minnesota State staff for three seasons, two coaching the defensive line and one coach-

ing the offensive line.

Jamrog is at a coaches convention in San Antonio until Tuesday, and he hopes to talk with potential replacements.

"In 19 years of coaching, you compile a list of coaches who impress you," Jamrog said. "The phone's been ringing off the hook, there's a lot of interesting names to sort through. Ultimately, you want to find the best fit for your

staff. I'm excited about the possibilities."

Joe Klanderman, the lone remaining defensive assistant, is also a possibility to replace Gordon or Nowinsky.

"He will be in the mix for a promotion," Jamrog said.

Recruits begin visiting campus Jan. 13, and the spring semester begins Jan. 16. Jamrog would like to have coaches in place by then.