



# Sports

## MSU to announce future plans

By Chad Courier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — Minnesota State University has set a press conference for 2:30 p.m. today on campus where a decision on the future affiliation of the athletic department will be announced.

One option, which has been widely speculated, is that Minnesota State will remain in Division II and make application to join the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. The other option that has been discussed has been to reclassify the programs to Division I.

Athletic director Kevin Buisman would not comment on the planned announcement. Some of Minnesota State's coaches said they were not privy to the decision.

The Northern Sun, which includes 10 universities in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska, has set a deadline of Jan. 1 for interested programs to apply. Earlier this month, Northern Sun commissioner Butch Raymond said that 10 is a perfect number of teams for a conference, but he added that the Northern Sun might be receptive to expansion.

## MSU: Cuts possible if team moves to Division I

Continued from Page D1

Minnesota State, Augustana, St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth were left without conference affiliation when the North Central Conference announced it would disband following the 2007-08 seasons. South Dakota and North Dakota have announced intentions of elevating to Division I, and Nebraska-Omaha has had discussions with the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association about joining that league.

Augustana, St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth have already announced that they have applied to the Northern Sun.

University officials have said that a move to Division I would likely require at least \$2 million in additional funding, and some of Minnesota State's 23 programs may have to be cut.