



Southwest Minnesota State University Athletics

2008 Mustang FOOTBALL

Athletic Communications Director: Kelly Loft, loftkr@southwestmsu.edu (contact)

Assistant Athletic Communications Director: Crystal Kruger, krugercr@southwestmsu.edu

Assistant Athletic Communications Director: Andy Schlichting, schlica@southwestmsu.edu

www.SMSUmustangs.com • phone: (507) 537-7177 • fax: (507) 537-6578

For Immediate Release:

MARCH 27, 2008

SMSU Football Set to Begin Spring Drills

MARSHALL, MINN.: The Southwest Minnesota State University football team will begin spring practice for the upcoming 2008 season on Monday, Mar. 31 beginning at 3:45 p.m. at Mattke Field. SMSU has scheduled 15 practices, including two scrimmages during spring drills that are scheduled to conclude on Apr. 26 with the annual Spring Game beginning at 2 p.m. at Mattke Field.

Mustang head coach Eric Eidsness, who is entering his fifth season in 2008, announced the team will practice Monday afternoons from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., Wednesday mornings from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. (except Apr. 2), Friday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (a complete schedule is located on page 3).

SMSU has 91 players on its spring roster and returns 47 letterwinners from 2007, including 10 starters on offense, seven on defense and both placekicker and punter. Last season's team finished 2-9 overall and 2-7 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, which tied for eighth place in the 10-team conference. SMSU lost five of its games by a total of 24 points.

The spring roster features 46 players on offense, 43 on defense and two kicker/punters. The SMSU offense has five quarterbacks, four running backs, 13 wide receivers, 19 offensive linemen and five tight ends. The SMSU defense has 12 linemen, 16 linebackers and 15 defensive backs. The roster includes 15 seniors, 23 juniors, 30 sophomores and 23 redshirt freshman.

The Mustang offense returns 10 starters including two-year starting quarterback senior Josh Shudlick. A 2007 honorable mention All-NSIC honoree, Shudlick completed 250 of 444 pass attempts for 2,942 yards with 18 touchdowns and 14 interceptions while also rushing for two touchdowns. He finished the 2007 season strong passing for over 300 yards in the final five games becoming the first SMSU quarterback to do so since 1992. Senior Tony Rislov also returns at quarterback having played in 17 games during his career with 12 starts.

At running back the team returns its top two rushers including junior Zach Wysong, who earned honorable mention All-NSIC honors last season. Wysong rushed for a team-high 651 yards and six touchdowns on 164 carries and has now rushed for 1,254 career yards ranking ninth all-time in school history. He also was a threat catching the ball out of the backfield as he finished the season third on the team in receptions with 35 for 368 yards while recording a team high five touchdowns. Junior Paul Benesh also returns after playing in 10 games and finishing the season with 435 yards and two touchdowns on 96 attempts. He has rushed for 851 yards and eight touchdowns in his two-year career.

SMSU not only returns its starting quarterback and leading rusher it also returns its top six and eight of its top nine receivers from last season's team. Junior wide receiver Derek Townsend led the team a year ago with 50 receptions for 698 yards and four touchdowns while senior tight end Matt Fischer finished second on

the squad with 36 receptions for 387 yards and two touchdowns while earning honorable mention All-NSIC accolades. Sophomore wide out Bret Ballantine had a solid rookie season in 2007 finishing fourth on the team with 29 catches for 320 yards and four touchdowns. Junior receiver Blake Wilson also returns in 2008 after ranking fifth with 25 receptions for 334 yards and one touchdown. Senior receiver Tim Cariveau (12 receptions), sophomore receiver Sean Patrick O'Leary (12 receptions) and sophomore tight end Shane LaDage (eight receptions) round out the top receivers returning from last season. Another addition to the receiving corps is senior Ryan Wudtke, who missed last season with an injury. In 2006 he started eight games and finished fourth on the team with 16 receptions for 157 yards.

The Mustang offensive line returns all five starters that helped lead an SMSU offense that averaged 357.3 yards and 23.4 points per game in 2007. Three players who have started a combined 65 games in their career earned post-season honors a season ago led by junior Bill Noethlich, a second team All-NSIC honoree, who started all 11 games at left tackle. Senior right guard Jim Nelson and senior center Tom Kolb also return after both earned honorable mention All-NSIC honors last season. Rounding out the returning starters are junior left guard Tony Weiler and sophomore right tackle Josh Ferryman who both started all 11 games a season ago.

The Mustang defense returns seven starters and is headlined by senior strong safety Tyler Reed, a 2007 first team all-region honoree. Reed became just the third SMSU player to earn first team all-region honors at the NCAA Division II level (since 1995) as he led the squad with 101 tackles including 56 solo stops. He also had three interceptions, two fumble recoveries and five pass break-ups. Reed added two touchdowns during the season returning an interception and a fumble for scores. Also returning is junior free safety Bryce Haessly, who ranked second on the team with 74 tackles and added two interceptions, and sophomore linebacker Robbie Slinkman (55) and junior linebacker Levi Bullerman (50), who ranked fifth and sixth respectively on the team in tackles. Bullerman recorded a team-high 10 tackles for loss and two sacks.

The defensive line returns all three starters from 2007 and will add a veteran who missed last season with an injury. Junior defensive end Nick Wagner led all linemen with 43 tackles including seven and a half sacks while junior defensive end Matt Carmody finished with 42 tackles and ranked second with eight and a half tackles for loss. Junior nose guard J.D. Koedatich started all 11 games a season ago and racked up 34 tackles including six for loss. Senior nose guard Brad Wolf returns after suffering an injury in fall camp last August that sidelined him the entire season. Wolf, the 2006 NSIC Defensive Newcomer of the Year, posted 35 tackles including four for loss during the 2006 season.

Also returning on the defensive line is sophomore nose guard Michell Moya (13 tackles) and sophomore defensive end Chris Christianson (17 tackles, team-high three sacks) who both gained valuable playing time in their rookie seasons. At linebacker SMSU has a host of players who played major snaps a season ago including senior Michael Liggins (35 tackles), sophomore Jason Fernholz (33 tackles), junior Shaye Thomas (32 tackles) and sophomore Paul Muecke (13 tackles). The defensive secondary returns four players who saw significant time in 2007 including junior cornerback Kevin Wagner, who started three games and recorded 20 tackles. Junior safety Michael Hagny had 15 tackles and one interception while sophomore safety Alex Mayorov added 11 tackles and one pass break-up. Sophomore cornerback Ryan Laustad will also add depth after playing in six games and finishing with one interception and seven tackles while sophomore cornerback Curt Gosser played in five games with seven tackles.

The SMSU special teams returns a pair of key veterans at both placekicker and punter. Senior kicker Scott

Talcott booted 10 field goals last season, was a perfect 25 of 25 on point after attempts and finished second on the team with 55 points. A second team All-NSIC honoree in 2007, Talcott ranks second in school history with 21 career field goals made. Senior punter Korey Roethler returns for his final season after a solid junior campaign in which he earned honorable mention All-NSIC honors. Roethler finished last season with a 37.6 yard average which included 13 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

SMSU will have nearly 30 players who have signed since the national signing day in February join the 91 players on the spring roster when fall camp opens on Aug. 6. The Mustangs open the 2008 regular and conference season hosting Minnesota, Crookston on Saturday, Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. The game will also be the first ever played at the new Regional Events Center on the SMSU campus.

Tentative 2008 Spring Practice Schedule

Mon.	March 31	3:45 p.m.	(helmets)
Wed.	April 2	2 p.m.	(helmets)
Fri.	April 4	3:30 p.m.	(shells)
Sat.	April 5	10 a.m.	(shells)
Mon.	April 7	3:45 p.m.	(full pads)
Wed.	April 9	6 a.m.	(full pads)
Fri.	April 11	3:30 p.m.	(shells)
Sat.	April 12	10 a.m.	(scrimmage #1)
Mon.	April 14	3:45 p.m.	(full pads)
Wed.	April 16	6 a.m.	(full pads)
Fri.	April 18	3:30 p.m.	(shells)
Sat.	April 19	10 a.m.	(scrimmage #2)
Mon.	April 21	(makeup day for bad weather)	
Wed.	April 23	6 a.m.	(full pads)
Fri.	April 25	3:30 p.m.	(helmets)
Sat.	April 26	2 p.m.	(spring game)

2008 Southwest Minnesota State University Football Spring Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
1	Scott Talcott	K	5-11	185	Sr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Lincoln HS)
2	Tye Dill	WR	6-1	167	RFr.	St. Cloud, Minn. (St. Cloud Tech HS)
3	Maxon Keating	WR	6-5	220	Jr.	Madison, S.D. (Madison HS/South Dakota State University)
3	Josh Wendland	S	6-0	186	RFr.	Hutchinson, Minn. (Hutchinson HS)
4	Sean Patrick O'Leary	WR	5-11	175	So.	Carroll, Iowa (Carroll HS)
4	Levi Reiff	S	6-3	211	RFr.	Dell Rapids, S.D. (Dell Rapids HS)
5	Bryce Haessly	S	5-11	213	Jr.	Poynette, Wis. (Poynette HS)
7	Derek Townsend	WR	6-0	210	Jr.	Council Bluffs, Iowa (Jefferson HS)
9	Tyler Mickelson	QB	6-2	212	Jr.	Rio, Wis. (Columbus HS)
10	Nate Holleman	WR	6-0	180	So.	Hancock, Minn. (Hancock HS)
10	Dusty Roemhild	QB	6-2	212	RFr.	Mora, Minn. (Mora HS)
11	Blake Wilson	WR	5-10	173	Jr.	Frankfort, S.D. (Doland-Conde HS)
12	Josh Shudlick	QB	6-5	214	Sr.	Tomah, Wis. (Tomah HS)
13	Tony Rislov	QB	6-1	212	Sr.	Pierre, S.D. (T.F. Riggs HS)
14	Tyler Bair	WR	6-1	192	So.	Fairmont, Minn. (Fairmont HS)
14	Ryan Blum	QB	6-5	203	RFr.	Sonoma, Calif. (Sonoma Valley HS)
15	Jordan Wager	WR	6-0	186	Jr.	Dawson, Minn. (Dawson-Boyd HS)
16	Levi Bullerman	OLB	6-0	222	Jr.	Adrian, Minn. (Adrian HS)
18	Sam Woitalewicz	WR	6-1	190	So.	Fulda, Minn. (Fulda HS)
18	Nate Finkey	CB	5-9	161	RFr.	Wayne, Neb. (Wayne HS)
19	Ryan Wudtke	WR	6-3	203	Sr.	Elk Grove, Ill. (Elk Grove HS)
20	Eric Dockter	TE	6-3	227	Jr.	Aberdeen, S.D. (Central HS/Northern State University)
22	Zach Wysong	RB	5-10	193	Jr.	Hills, Minn. (Hills-Beaver Creek HS)
23	Matt Coen	CB	5-10	164	RFr.	Newton, Iowa (Newton HS)
24	Curt Gosser	CB	5-11	182	So.	Washburn, Wis. (Washburn HS)
24	Kellen McCrary	WR	6-2	202	RFr.	Bloomington, Minn. (Kennedy HS)
25	Paul Benesh	RB	6-0	205	Jr.	Lodi, Wis. (Lodi HS)
26	Alex Mayorov	S/K	6-0	182	So.	Georgievsk, Russia (Green Mountain-Garwin (Iowa) HS)
27	Tyler Reed	S	6-3	211	Sr.	Ottumwa, Iowa (Ottumwa HS)
28	Michael Hagny	S	5-11	200	Jr.	Gettysburg, S.D. (Gettysburg HS)
29	Michael Liggins	OLB	6-3	236	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo. (Parkway Central HS/Rock Valley (Ill.) College)
30	Zach Kasper	CB	5-9	183	RFr.	Forest City, Iowa (Forest City HS)
32	Ryan Lausted	DB	6-0	145	So.	Colfax, Wis. (Menomonie HS)
33	Jordan Kerr	DB	6-1	176	RFr.	Hull, Iowa (Rock Valley Boyden-Hull HS)
34	Scott Beehler	RB	5-10	195	So.	Foley, Minn. (Foley HS)
34	Tony Awoleye	LB	6-0	215	RFr.	Marshall, Minn. (Marshall HS)
35	Robbie Slinkman	ILB	6-2	213	So.	Anoka, Minn. (Anoka HS)
36	Korey Roethler	K/P	6-0	200	Sr.	Norwalk, Iowa (Norwalk HS)
37	Bud Sanken	LB	6-2	213	RFr.	Brownnton, Minn. (Glencoe-Silver Lake HS)
38	Shaye Thomas	OLB	6-0	203	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central HS)
39	Kevin Wagner	CB	5-10	198	Jr.	Oakdale, Minn. (Tartan HS)
41	Tom Tiernan	ILB	5-11	218	So.	Granger, Iowa (Dowling Catholic HS)
42	Chad Gardner	OLB	6-0	201	So.	Richardson, Texas (Berkner HS)
43	Derek Klinkner	LB	6-3	235	RFr.	Artesian, S.D. (Sanborn Central HS)
45	Seth Rohde	ILB	6-1	202	Jr.	Kingsley, Iowa (Kingsley-Pierson HS)
46	Kris Johnson	LB	6-2	213	RFr.	Holmen, Wis. (Holmen HS)
48	Calvin Kosminskas	LB	5-11	209	RFr.	Blaine, Minn. (Blaine HS)
49	Jason Fernholz	ILB	6-3	243	So.	Murdock, Minn. (Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sundburg HS)
50	Nate Hacker	DE	6-4	253	So.	Hancock, Minn. (Hancock HS)
51	Paul Muecke	ILB	5-10	210	So.	Plymouth, Minn. (Osseo HS)
53	Ben Nath	ILB	5-10	210	So.	Luverne, Minn. (Luverne HS)
54	Nick Wagner	DE	6-4	253	Jr.	New Brighton, Minn. (Irondale HS)
55	Tom Brown	C	6-0	237	Sr.	Hayfield, Minn. (Hayfield HS)
57	Ryan Burke	OL	5-9	266	So.	Waterford, Wis. (Waterford HS)
58	J.D. Koedatich	NG	5-11	292	Jr.	Excelsior Springs, Mo. (Excelsior Springs HS)
59	Zach Westermann	OLB	5-11	178	RFr.	Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Park Center HS)
62	Tom Kolb	C	6-2	286	Sr.	Goodwin, S.D. (Waverly HS)
63	Scott Mansfield	OG	6-3	275	So.	Juda, Wis. (Juda HS)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (High School/Previous School)
64	Brian Rodas	OL	6-4	311	RFr.	Farmersburg, Iowa (MFL-MarMac HS)
65	Mike Ganger	OG	6-2	302	Jr.	Nicollet, Minn. (Nicollet HS)
66	Bill Noethlich	OT	6-7	298	Jr.	Doland, S.D. (Doland-Conde HS)
67	Ramon Gomez	OL	6-1	290	So.	Soap Lake, Wash. (Soap Lake HS)
68	Berlon Curry	OG	6-2	360	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. (Oak Ridge HS/Graceland (Iowa) University)
69	Josh Griebel	OL	5-11	268	So.	Delano, Minn. (Delano HS)
70	Eric Roberts	OT	6-2	260	So.	Irving, Texas (Ranchview HS)
71	Alex Ault	C	6-3	301	So.	Longmont, Colo. (Skyline HS)
72	Brian Bular	OT	6-2	273	So.	Andover, Minn. (Andover HS)
73	Ryan Vette	OG	6-6	299	Jr.	Waverly, Iowa (Waverly-Shell Rock HS)
74	Jon Cox	OL	6-4	267	RFr.	Glencoe, Minn. (Glencoe-Silver Lake HS)
75	Josh Ferryman	OT	6-7	255	So.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista HS)
77	Jim Nelson	OG	6-6	325	Sr.	New Brighton, Minn. (Irondale HS)
78	Tony Weiler	OT	6-5	304	Jr.	Burlington, Wis. (Burlington Catholic Central HS)
79	Matt Stark	OL	6-6	306	RFr.	Bloomington, Minn. (Kennedy HS)
81	Bret Ballantine	WR	6-2	179	So.	Ames, Iowa (Ames HS)
82	Shane LaDage	TE	6-4	236	So.	Parker, Colo. (Ponderosa HS)
85	Matt Fischer	TE	6-4	237	Sr.	Marshall, Minn. (Marshall HS)
86	Dan Brannen	TE	6-5	247	So.	Burlington, Wis. (Waterford HS/Truman State University)
87	Tim Cariveau	WR	6-0	188	Sr.	Dawson, Minn. (Dawson-Boyd HS)
89	Eric Hendrickx	TE	6-3	235	RFr.	Brookings, S.D. (Brookings HS)
91	Caleb Dufrane	DL	6-3	268	RFr.	Milan, Minn. (Lac Qui Parle Valley HS)
93	Mark Mitchell	DE	6-3	265	So.	Fort Pierre, S.D. (Stanley County HS/Minnesota West C.C.)
94	Matt Carmody	DE	6-3	269	Jr.	Pipestone, Minn. (Pipestone Area HS)
95	Brad Wolf	NG	6-3	290	Sr.	Brunswick, Ohio (Brunswick HS/North Iowa Area C.C.)
96	Chris Christianson	DE	6-1	244	So.	Alexandria, Minn. (Alexandria HS)
97	Randy Erickson	DL	6-2	264	RFr.	Hutchinson, Minn. (Hutchinson HS)
98	Joe Patten	DL	6-5	255	RFr.	Princeton, Minn. (Princeton HS)
99	Michell Moya	DL	6-1	311	So.	El Paso, Texas (Coronado HS)
	Martez Brayboy	CB	5-10	168	Jr.	Cheraw, S.C. (Cheraw HS/College of Siskiyous (Calif.))
	Johnney Garza	CB	5-7	166	So.	Chowchilla, Calif. (Chowchilla HS/College of the Sequoias (Calif.))
	Akili Roach	RB	5-10	190	Jr.	Santa Clara, Calif. (Santa Clara HS/De Anza C.C.)
	Ed Smith	DE	6-1	232	Sr.	Tampa, Fla. (Tampa Bay Tech HS/Fergus Falls C.C.)

Head Coach: Eric Eidsness (fifth season)

Assistant Coaches: Tim Steinbach (defensive coordinator/assistant head coach), Andy Carr (offensive line), Jake Box (defensive line), Brett Atkins (defensive secondary/special teams), Gilbert Rodriguez (defensive backs), Sean Van de Merghel (receivers), Peter Hahm (tight ends), Brian Nardo (running backs), Kyle Steve (equipment manager)