



# NORTHERN STATE ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

Northern State University ••• Office of Athletic Media Relations  
Nick Kornder--Athletic Media Relations Director  
Office-605.626.7748 • Cell-605.380.9537 • Fax-605.626.2238  
E-mail-Nick.Kornder@northern.edu • Street Address-1200 S. Jay Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
[www.northern.edu/athletics](http://www.northern.edu/athletics)

**For Immediate Release:**

**March 4, 2004**

## Hammer Named NSIC Player of the Year

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Northern State's Matt Hammer was selected as the 2004-05 NSIC Men's Basketball Player of the Year. A junior forward from Elkton, S.D., Hammer led the NSIC in scoring with 278 points in 14 conference games and a 19.9 point per game average. A first-team All-NSIC selection, Hammer ranked second in rebounding with 7.8 boards a game. He ranked third in assists with 4.29 per game and fifth in steals with 1.79 a game. Hammer also led the league in overall scoring with 18.8 points a game.



Hammer, a 2002 South Dakota Mr. Basketball Award winner, was a 2003-04 all-conference performer and was named to the NSIC All-Tournament Team last season. Hammer was selected as the NSIC Player of the Week twice and collected five double doubles throughout this season. Hammer led the Wolves in scoring (18.8), rebounding (7.2), assists (113), steals (50) and minutes (33.2) during the regular season.

Hammer is only 54 points away from surpassing Sundance Wicks for #25 all-time in scoring at NSU. Hammer has accumulated 1,120 points over the past three seasons, averaging 12.7 point per game.

## Busack Named Third Team All-Conference

Northern State starting center, Aaron Busack (Jr., Redwood Falls, Minn.) was named to the NSIC All-Conference Third Team. Busack averaged 13.9 points per game and 4.9 rebounds per game during the regular season. He ranked ninth in the NSIC in scoring, and 15th in rebounding. Busack was also fifth in the NSIC in field goal percentage as he connected on 137 of 254 shots (53.9%).



Busack was an NSIC All-Conference Honorable Mention selection a year ago and was named to the 2004 NSIC All-Tournament Team. Busack is #24 all-time in scoring in Northern State's history. He is currently 17 points away from surpassing Kevin Burckhard's (1992-94) 1,196 points to become #23 on the all-time list.

Northern State will take on Bemidji State on Saturday, March 5th at 2:00 p.m. in Winona, Minn. in the NSIC Red Baron Men's Basketball Tournament Semifinals. The Wolves are currently 19-9 on the season and finished third in the NSIC with a 9-5 record.

Northern State University is an NCAA Division II institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC).

For more information on Northern State men's basketball go to: [www.northern.edu/athletics](http://www.northern.edu/athletics)