



NORTHERN STATE ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

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For Immediate Release

RATZSCH NAMED PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR AS WOLVES PICKED SECOND

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ST. PAUL, Minn. - Less than two weeks after picking up the 2008-09 season's first award, Northern State University senior Kevin Ratzsch added yet another honor to his growing list of accomplishments after he was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Preseason Player of the Year on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-7 senior forward headlines a Wolves squad that was picked to finish second in the preseason NSIC coaches poll. Both announcements were made by conference officials on Wednesday afternoon.

Ratzsch, who was named as a Street & Smith's Second Team Preseason All-American on Oct. 10, returns to the floor after finishing fourth in the conference in scoring last season (16.8 points per game). He also had a team-best 33 steals to go along with 44 blocks on the defensive end of the floor for the Wolves.

A first-team All-NSIC selection in each of the last two years, Ratzsch surpassed the 1,000-point mark on Jan. 19, 2008, en-route to a spot on the All-North Central Region team and a first team spot on the NABC Division II All-North Central District squad.

The Wolves, who finished 29-4 last season, garnered five first-place votes and 169 total points in the preseason polling of the league's 14 head coaches. Conference newcomer Minnesota State captured seven first place votes and 176 points to edge NSU for the top spot in the poll.

Last year's conference, regional and national champions, Winona State, picked up the remaining two first place votes and finished third in the voting with 159 points.

NSIC newcomers Augustana (139 points) and St. Cloud State (131 points) round out the top five.

**** GO WOLVES ****