

## East grad, MSU prospect represents Outstate in all-star football game

Former Mankato East standout and MSU football prospect Brad Diel is one of nine defensive linemen on the Outstate all-star football team.

By Chad Courier, Free Press Staff Writer [published in The Free Press, Mankato, MN, 6/23/2005]

Photo by Pat Christman



Former Mankato East standout Brad Diel (93) is one of nine defensive linemen on the Outstate all-star football team that will play a team of Metro all-stars Saturday at St. Cloud.

ST. PETER — Brad Diel figures this is the week in which he begins his college football career, trying to get into top physical condition as well as learn the self-discipline it will take to play at the next level.

Diel, who just graduated from Mankato East and will attend Minnesota State this fall, will represent the Outstate team at Saturday's Minnesota High School All-Star football game, which will be played at 7:10 p.m. at St. Cloud. He's been practicing this week at Gustavus Adolphus with the state's other top graduated seniors.

"It's amazing," Diel said. "These guys are really good. It's enjoyable going up against equal talent, there are no pushovers here."

Diel, a 6-foot-3, 265-pound defensive lineman, was a three-sport athlete at East, also competing in swimming and track and field. He made 37 solo tackles and 36 assists last season, making 3.5 sacks and three fumble recoveries to catch the eye of Minnesota State coaches.

"I thought he stuck out and did a great job," said Minnesota State offensive line coach Spence Nowinsky, who attended a practice. "He moved well, and physically, you can tell he's been working out. He looks good, he was very aggressive, not intimidated."

With the track season just ending a couple of weeks ago, Diel hasn't had much time to concentrate on football. He's worked out some at Minnesota State in preparation for the all-star game, but this is the beginning of what he hopes will be a four-year career with the Mavericks.

"I'm starting to get back in shape, but not football shape," he said. "You really notice the difference when you get here."

Diel said the all-star practice week is a good primer for college football, with a set schedule of practices and meetings each day to reinforce the importance of time management.

"They expect 100 percent every day here," Diel said. "That's what they'll expect in college."

The all-star game has been one of Diel's goals. He's watched former teammates Jamie Steffensmeier and Craig Dahl use the all-star game as a springboard to successful college careers, Steffensmeier at St. John's and Dahl at North Dakota State. Testing his game against the state's best has forced him to remember the fundamentals.

"You can't just throw someone to the side if you get off to a bad start (on a play)," he said.

Diel's excited about Saturday's game, his last prep performance in what has been an all-city and all-conference career at East.

"I think it will be amazing," he said. "Pretty much everybody here will be going off to play Division I or Division II or Division III football. I'll be playing with the best players in the state so I want to be competitive and have fun."

Notes:

Steve Jewison, a 6-1, 230-pound lineman from Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, and Jordan Berg, a 6-1, 185-pound quarterback from Sibley East, are also playing with the Outstate team. Jewison will be a walk-on this fall at Minnesota State, while Berg will be attending Minnesota-Duluth. ... Chris Brunkhorst, a 6-4, 261-pound lineman from Rochester Lourdes, has signed with Minnesota State to play this fall.