

## **Backes signs contract with St. Louis Blues**

**Maverick hockey junior forward David Backes has signed a National Hockey League contract for the 2006-07 season with the St. Louis Blues.**

St. Louis, Mo. --- Maverick hockey junior forward David Backes has signed a National Hockey League contract for the 2006-07 season with the St. Louis Blues.

Blues Senior V.P. and General Manager Larry Pleau made the announcement March 15. Backes will join the Peoria Rivermen, the Blues' affiliate in the American Hockey League, for the remainder of the season as an amateur tryout.

Financial terms of the deal were not announced.

Selected by St. Louis in the second round (62nd overall) in the 2003 draft, Backes missed one game in his three-year collegiate Mavericks career. With 46-73--119 in 115 games, he ranks 23rd on Minnesota State Mankato's all-time scoring list. His career totals stand third in Maverick scoring during the Division I era, with only Aaron Fox (1996-00) and Shane Joseph (1999-04) rank ahead of him.

Backes led the Mavericks in scoring the past two years (he tied for the 2005-06 scoring lead with 13 goals and 29 assists for 42 points). His 42 points are a career-high, and the Blaine, Minn., native also led the Mavericks with a career-high 29 assists and 150 shots on goal this year. He ranked second on the team with seven power play goals and was third in goals (13) and game-winning goals (2).

The Mavericks' captain this past year, Backes was named 2004-05 MVP, was a member of the 2003-04 WCHA All-Rookie team, and was a 2004-05 All-WCHA Third Team selection.