

CLASS AA

MOORHEAD SPUDS

In late January, it appeared as if the season was slipping away from Moorhead. Memories of a 5-0-1 start were long gone and the Spuds were beaten down by an eight-game losing streak that sent them tumbling in the rankings. But the Spuds still believed.



Altenbernd

They recovered with a string of overtime victories and rolled through the Section 8AA playoffs, beating Roseau for the third time this season in the title tilt.



Johnson

Now it's back to familiar territory. In a 14-year span between 1992 and 2005, the Spuds qualified for 10 state tournaments, although they never came home with a title.



Doschadis

The keys to bringing a first state title back to Spuds country come from Moorhead's strengths: great team speed and a balanced line rotation.



Buckellew

Coach Dave Morinville's Spuds can turn on the jets when they need to, most notably reflected in undersized speedster Trent Johnson. He's not



Rahman

big, but he's a hard-nosed player who is tough to knock off the puck. Along with Jordan Doschadis, Quinn Buckellew and Braden Rahman, the scoring load is well-distributed among the top Spuds.

Moorhead must get Alex Altenbernd back from illness to be

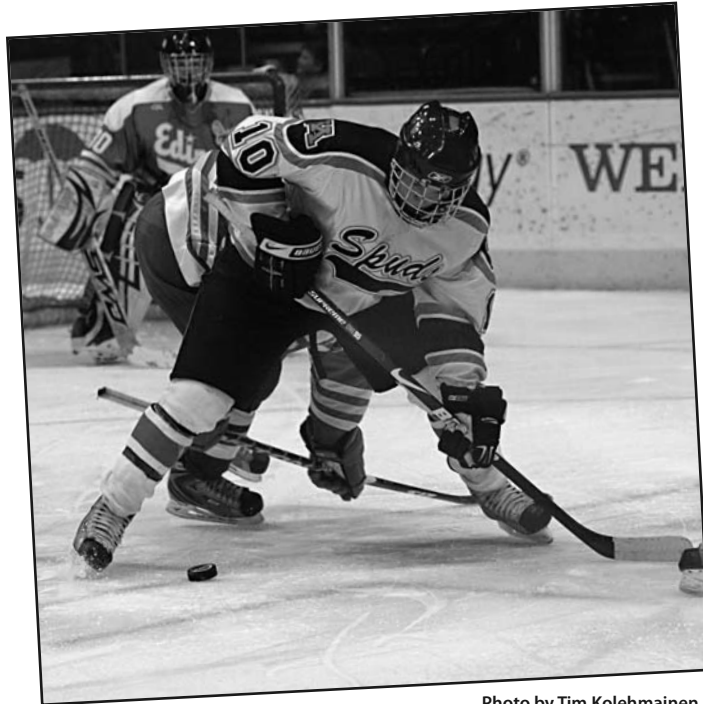


Photo by Tim Kolehmainen

Junior Braden Rahman (10) has stepped up his production in the playoffs.

at full strength, however. Until missing the section playoffs with illness, Altenbernd was the leading scorer and helped turn around an eight-game losing skid in midseason.



Cochran

The Spuds' defense is senior-dominated, with Ian Cochran, Jason Strand, Blake Kostich and Evan Johnson as stalwarts.

While it was freshman Michael Bitzer who had a perfect 7-0-0 record this season, it's junior Logan Marks who got the nod in the sections. His statistics suffered during the eight-

game losing skid, as the Spuds could only net him seven goals in support. But he's a very talented goalie and the son of longtime ECHL coach John Marks.



Marks

Marks and Moorhead faced Edina, the Spuds' opening round foe, once already this season, losing 3-0. But they played the Hornets close until an Anders Lee goal as the horn sounded at the second intermission broke their spirit. Expect another close battle Thursday night. ■

Program info

Conference: Mariucci
 Section: 8AA
 Record: 15-9-3
 State trips: 1992, 93, 94, 95, 97, 2001, 02, 03, 04, 05, 09
 Coach: Dave Morinville
 Assistants: Erik Grafstern, Mark Fabian, Josh Arnold

Top players

Scorers	G	A	Pts
Trent Johnson	21	8	29
Alex Altenbernd	15	11	26
Jordan Doschadis	13	13	26
Braden Rahman	9	15	24
Ian Cochran	1	22	23

Goalies	W-L-T	GA	SV
Logan Marks	8-9-3	2.21	.909
Michael Bitzer	7-0-0	1.98	.910

Full roster

#	Name	Gr	Pos
2	Nate Thompson	11	D
3	Ian Cochran	12	D
5	Evan Johnson	12	D
6	Lucas Melquist	11	D
7	Jordan Doschadis	12	W
8	Jason Strand	12	D
10	Braden Rahman	11	W
11	Alex Altenbernd	12	C
14	Trent Johnson	12	W
15	Ben Doda	10	C
17	Kyle Kraemer	11	C
19	Lucas Henry	11	W
20	Quinn Buckellew	11	W
21	Codi Wilder	11	W
22	Cy Grosli	12	W
24	Blake Kostich	12	D
25	Brandon MacLeod	11	W
26	Andrew Vandal	11	W
27	Tyler Larson	11	C
30	Zach Johnson	10	G
31	Logan Marks	11	G
33	Michael Bitzer	9	G

Road to the X

Section 8AA quarterfinals, 2/24
Moorhead 8, River Lakes 0

Buckellew 2 goals, 1 assist

Section 8AA semifinals, 2/28
Moorhead 4, Buffalo 0

Rahman 1 goal, 3 assists

Section 8AA finals, 3/4
Moorhead 5, Roseau 2

Johnson 2 goals

Marks 22 saves

Making an impact at every level!



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