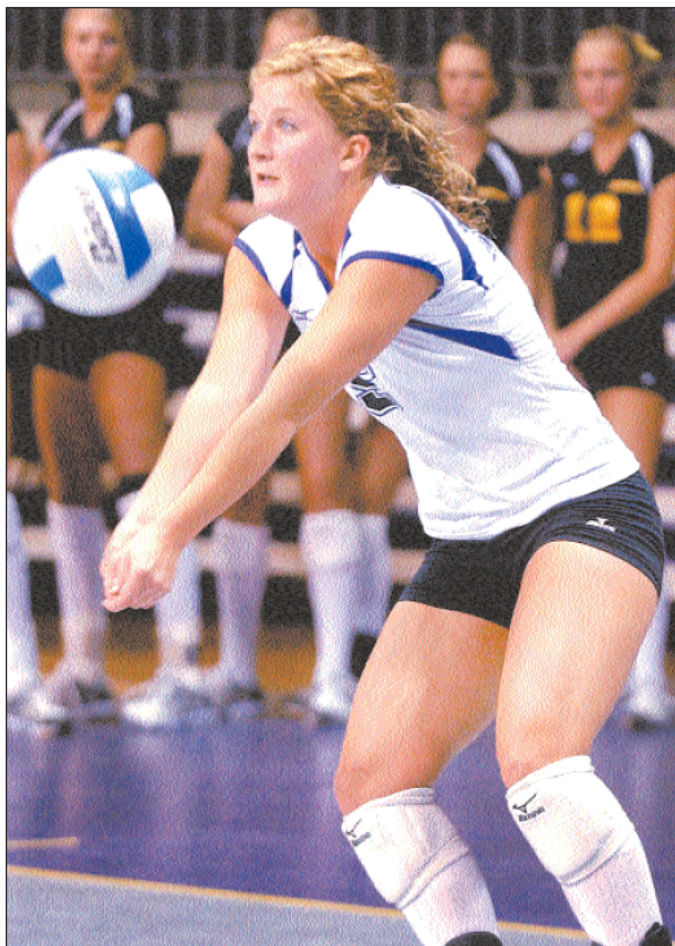


CONCORDIA-ST. PAUL 3, MINNESOTA STATE 2



Matt Gorrie

Minnesota State's Kelly Sandstrom receives a serve Tuesday in the Mavericks' loss to Concordia-St. Paul at Bresnan Arena. Sandstrom led the Mavericks with 16 digs.

MSU: Beekman tallies 21 kills, Nachreiner has 18

Continued from Page D1

when her teammates were bailing on her and she'd go diving on the floor and get a one-handed dig.

"It started with her, then everybody else on her team started doing the same thing."

Amundson agreed: "She's pretty good. Don't ever look at her technique, but the girl knows how to get

balls back. At the end of games in important times, she makes big digs."

Amanda Beekman led the Maverick attack with 21 kills. Ashley Nachreiner had 18 kills and 15 digs. Sandstrom had 59 set assists and 16 digs.

The Mavericks (15-4, 3-1) jump back into North Central Conference play Friday at third-ranked Minnesota Duluth.

Opportunity lost

No. 13 MSU lets fourth-ranked Concordia-St. Paul off hook

By Dan Myers
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — The 13th-ranked Minnesota State volleyball team had numerous opportunities to win its non-conference match against fourth-rated Concordia-St. Paul Tuesday at Bresnan Arena, but it didn't happen.

The Mavericks led 18-12 in the third game of a match they were winning 2-0. After the Golden Bears went on an 18-4 run to win the third game, MSU led 25-24 in the fourth.

Minnesota State couldn't close out the Bears either time, and Concordia took control of the fifth game en route to a 24-30, 26-30, 30-24, 30-

27, 15-8 victory.

"That team has played a lot of big matches and knows how to win them," said Mavericks' head coach Dennis Amundson. "That's something we need to learn how to do, and we will do."

Minnesota State held a lead in all five games, including a six-point edge in the third game. The turning point came when the Maverick bench received a yellow card following a questionable call by the linesman.

"At that point, we started focusing on what the other team was doing instead of what we were doing," said senior setter Stef Sandstrom. "We started hitting the ball out on our own."

The Golden Bears also stepped up their attack, led by Emily Palkert, who had 25 kills.

"They became much more aggressive," Sandstrom said. "They were swinging at hands and controlling the ball. They were swinging hard and we started hesitating."

"In our style of play, anytime we start hesitating, that's when we start making errors."

Concordia-St. Paul also got a boost from libero Mary Slinger. Every time the Mavericks appeared to capture momentum during the final two games, Slinger would save the Bears with a dig.

"I credit their win tonight to her," Sandstrom said. "She wasn't on top of her game those first two games, but the next three she was diving around. There were times

Please see MSU, Page D4