

Another sweep for the Mavericks

TIGE HUTCHESON
staff writer

With nothing but NSIC play left in front of them, the Minnesota State University volleyball team couldn't ask for a much better start to the season.

After going 4-0 and winning last weekend's Ferris State Tournament, the No.17 Mavericks passed their final non-conference test by winning all four of their games in the 2010 Hyatt Place Shark Classic in Fort Lauderdale, FL., and returned home with an 8-0 record.

The Mavericks were prepared and began the tournament with a 3-0 sweep over the Christian Brothers University Buccaneers. Senior Amanda Beekman, who was named the NSIC Offensive Player of the Week the following Monday, led the charge on offense putting up 11 kills in the game. MSU also received eight kills apiece from Amanda Thompson and Chelsea Fogarty. Fogarty also led the Mavericks in digs with 12 in game one. Friday also marked a special day for the MSU volleyball program as head coach Dennis Amundson collected his 100th career win as the Mavericks defeated the University of West Alabama Tigers 3-1 in the team's second game of the day.

The momentum carried the Mavericks through day two as they swept both the University of the District of Columbia and the perennially talented Lynn University. Beekman continued her impressive play in Fort Lauderdale by once again putting up a team-best 18 kills against the District of Columbia Firebirds in game one. Senior Kimber Kuhl recorded nine kills, and junior Alli Rice led the Mavericks on defense by recording a team-high 11 digs in game one. In their final match of the tournament, the Mavericks rolled through the Lynn University Fighting Knights behind Fogarty's team-high 11 kills.

"I liked the way we finished," Kuhl said, who was named to the All-Tournament team. "Towards the beginning it was rough, but towards the end I think we refined a lot of points of our game and we became the team that's going to beat everyone else."

The Mavericks will begin conference play on the road against the 5-3 Winona State Warriors tonight in Winona at 7 p.m. 