



Sports

MINNESOTA STATE 6, MINNESOTA DULUTH 2



John Gross

Minnesota State's Zach Danelson eluded Minnesota-Duluth shortstop Andrew Heieie's tag Tuesday. Danelson's steal of second came during the Mavericks' 14th straight win.

One and done

By Brian Ojanpa
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — At the Minnesota State baseball game Tuesday it was standing room only.

That is, if you could stand it, there was plenty of room.

The host Mavericks shivered their way through brutal conditions to down Minnesota-Duluth 6-2 and run their record to 22-4, 3-0 in the North Central Conference.

It was MSU's 14th straight win, three shy of the school-record 17 straight set in 1970.

Tuesday's win completed an abbreviated sweep of UMD. The Mavericks beat the Bulldogs twice on Monday, but the second game of Tuesday's scheduled doubleheader was canceled due to the weather.

The temperature at game time was in the mid-30s, a southeast wind was gusting up to 25 mph, and snow swirled intermittently.

All of which made MSU coach Dean Bowyer accepting of the mutual

Mavericks win first game, chilled out of Game 2

agreement by both teams to ax Game 2.

"We got in one game today. That was our goal," Bowyer said. "You're only going to get guys hurt if you keep playing."

Senior righty Danny Klous (4-1) held UMD to four hits, walking two and fanning seven over six innings.

The Mavericks got all the runs they needed in the second inning when Eric Austvold hit a solo homer to right, and Pat Ottum added an RBI double and later scored on an error.

Designated hitter Jay Bresnahan went 2 for 3 with an RBI to up his team-leading batting average to .492 and extend his hitting streak to nine games.

Third baseman Kosuke Hattori also

had two hits and an RBI.

The Mavericks collected eight hits, six off UMD starter John Leitch (0-2).

MSU right fielder Adam Sudbeck shrugged off the weather issue.

"These are conference games, and we're going to be fired up anyway. You know it's going to be cold. You just have to be mentally prepared," he said.

"It's kind of disappointing because we would've like to have taken four games, but there'll be sunny, warmer days ahead."

As inclement as Tuesday's conditions were, Bowyer said he's seen worse.

In the late 1970s the Mavericks played Southwest State at Marshall in a game featuring temperatures somewhere in the 20s with winds to match.

Bowyer said the wind was so cutting that players hunkered behind plywood sheets in the dugout.

MSU is slated to host Upper Iowa in a nonconference doubleheader starting at 2 p.m. Thursday.