

## MINNESOTA STATE SWEEPS MINNESOTA DULUTH



John Cross

Minnesota State's Travis Taran slides into home with a run in the sixth inning of a 22-0 victory over Minnesota Duluth in the first game of a North Central Conference doubleheader Monday.

# Pick your poison

## Mavericks rack up 25 runs, allow five hits in twinbill drubbing of UMD

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — Throw strikes, play defense and you have a chance to win. It's an old baseball mantra that is usually proven correct.

On Monday, three Minnesota State pitchers combined on two shutouts, and the defense made more good plays than bad, leading to a North Central Conference doubleheader sweep of Minnesota Duluth 22-0 and 3-0 at the Minnesota State baseball field.

"We have a lot of capable (pitchers), guys with experience," said senior pitcher Dane Secott, who tossed a two-hitter in the first game. "When we have a bad outing, it's usually when you beat yourself."

The Mavericks (21-4, 2-0 in NCC) had won 11 straight games, a streak that started during the spring trip to Florida. The Mavericks outscored opponents 94-37 in those games, building momentum toward the NCC season.

But cold, wind and snow forced a two-week break in the schedule, though the Mavericks haven't cooled off.

"The guys focus pretty good when we practice inside," coach Dean Bowyer said. "We try to treat it like a game, practice situations. We've played enough games that we know what we have to work on."

In the opener, Secott, who leads Division II by averaging 13.8 strikeouts per nine innings, had a no-hitter though five innings but gave up a single in each of the sixth and seventh innings. However, the Mavericks turned double plays in both cases to preserve the shutout. He finished with 10 strikeouts and four walks, lowering his earned-run average to 2.31.

"I'd be lying if I said (a no-hitter) doesn't go through your mind," Secott said. "I just tried to make good pitchers, and the defense did its job. I was a little disappointed with the walks."

The Mavericks scored three runs

in the first inning, five in the third and 10 in the fourth. Eric Austvold had three hits and four RBIs, and Adam Sudbeck added three hits and three RBIs. Travis Taran hit a solo home run.

"Sudbeck had been struggling so it was nice to see him get going," Bowyer said. "We need him to hit if we're going to make a run."

The Bulldogs (9-15, 0-2) didn't have much more luck against Jon Bjelland in Game 2. The left-hander, who is now 6-0 with a 2.12 ERA, allowed three hits with one walk and nine strikeouts in six innings. Nick Fellman, the program's all-time leader in saves with 27, worked a perfect seventh for his eighth save of the season.

"Not a lot of teams in the NCC have a rotation (like ours), and then we have Nick coming in to finish, that makes our job a lot easier," Secott said.

Nick Gonzalez drove in two runs in the second game, giving him five RBIs in the doubleheader. Zach Danelson, Jay Bresnahan and Pat Ottum each had two hits.

The teams are scheduled to play another doubleheader today, beginning at 11 a.m.