

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL



Pat Christman

Minnesota State's Pat Ottum leans away from an inside pitch during Game 1 of a doubleheader against St. Cloud State Friday.

MSU: Bowyer within one win of tying win record

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St. Cloud State (9-19 overall, 4-6 in NCC) scored the game-winner in the top of the seventh when a passed ball on a strikeout scored Gaughan.

Danelson led the Mavericks with two hits. Dane Secott took the loss, giving up five hits, fanning seven and walking two over 6½ innings.

"We just weren't mentally ready to play, and that's the first time all year that has happened," said Minnesota State coach Dean Bowyer, who moved within one victory of tying Winona State's Gary Grob for all-time Minnesota collegiate coaching victories at 1,020.

"You've got to have that swagger about you, and we just didn't have the same intensity we usually do. It was like, what else can go wrong? You just have to battle through it and get ready to go."

The two teams play a noon doubleheader Sunday in St. Cloud.

Second chance

By Denny Weller
Special to the Free Press

MANKATO — Sometimes the best sacrifice bunt is the one you don't get down.

Such was the case Friday when freshman left fielder Josh Simon's failure to execute a bunt turned into a walk-off RBI single to deep right.

The hit enabled Minnesota State to gain a 4-3, eight-inning win over St. Cloud State and a split of North Central Conference doubleheader. The Mavericks lost Game 1 4-3.

"I was trying to get the bunt down but it obviously didn't happen," Simon said. "But then I got a nice pitch to hit and I did what I could with it."

After the Huskies scored three times off left-hander John Bjelland in the top of the fourth to take a 3-2 lead, senior catcher Pat Ottum made it 3-3 with a two-out RBI single.

Junior closer Nick Fellmann came in to get the final out of the seventh with the bases loaded.

Simon's mishit turns into hit as Mavs split with St. Cloud State

In the eighth, sophomore DH Jay Bresnahan lined a single, and Adam Sudbeck followed with a walk.

Simon fouled off two bunt attempts before launching a 1-2 pitch that right fielder Dan Gaughan couldn't chase down as Bresnahan scored his second run of the game.

"I was tagging but it just kept going and it ended up getting me in," said Bresnahan, who had three hits.

"It was important we came out with mental focus the second game. St. Cloud is going to play you tough, so it was crucial we came out and established ourselves by getting those two runs."

Minnesota State (28-6, 8-1)

scored a run in its first at bat when Zach Danelson sliced a double into the left-field corner and eventually scored on Nick Gonzalez's bunt single.

The Mavericks added a run in the second when Bresnahan laced a single to left, moved up on a wild pitch, and scored when Sudbeck's grounder was mishandled.

Bjelland, seeking his eighth win without a loss, set down the first seven Huskies before a walk, and Dan Skog's single gave the Huskies a third-inning threat.

However, Bjelland recorded one of his seven strikeouts to end the threat.

St. Cloud ripped four hits an inning later to take a 3-2 lead. In Game 1, the Mavericks couldn't get the big hit off St. Cloud starter Ben Johnson, who allowed nine hits over 5½ innings.

Minnesota State scored all of its runs in the third behind Eric Austvold's two-run single and an RBI single from shortstop Scott Kemp.

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