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Sports

Winona St. halts MSU's win streak

Mavericks drop nightcap of twinbill;
Sudbeck on verge of home run record

By Chad Courrier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — When Adam Sudbeck returns to a Minnesota State baseball game sometime in the future, he figures he'll be able to look at the program's record book and fondly reminisce. There are the 43 victories last season, the 19-game winning streak this season. He'll likely own the career home run record someday, too.

"When we're old and grown up, it'll be fun to come back and say I was on those teams," Sudbeck said. "It's a good feeling. There've been a lot of records broken since I've been here."

Minnesota State tied a school record with its 19th straight victory, 18-6, in the opening game of a nonconference doubleheader with Winona State at the Minnesota State Baseball Complex. However, the streak ended in the second game, 15-8.

"These guys are mostly seniors," coach Dean Bowyer. "They're so competitive, they play good, sound baseball. To win 19 in a row, you have to be at the top of your game. You have to have good pitching, you have to play good defense. And we're starting to hit a little better."



Minnesota State's Adam Sudbeck has 28 career home runs — one shy of Josh Smith's school record.

The Mavericks cracked 13 hits and took advantage of nine walks and three errors to win the opener. Sudbeck, a senior right fielder, belted two home runs to give him five for the season, 28 for his career. The school record is 29 homers by Josh Smith from 1996-99.

"He's so strong, he has the best bat speed I've ever had here," Bowyer said. "Sometimes, he swings too hard. If he wouldn't overswing, he'd probably hit more out."

The Mavericks scored in every inning except the second, with six runs in both the third and fifth innings. Zach Danelson drove in four runs, three of which came on a third-inning homer, and Ben Smith and Kyle Hoover each had three RBIs. Sudbeck's home runs, which came in the third and fifth innings, gave him four RBIs and four runs scored.

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Pat Christman

Minnesota State's Travis Taran slides safely into third base during the third inning of Tuesday's nonconference baseball game against Winona State.

MSU: WSU goes deep in Game 2

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"(The home run record) would be a great accomplishment if I'm able to do it, but I'm a team player," Sudbeck said. "I'd rather have wins and championships. If we could get 43 wins again this year, that would be more of an accomplishment."

Tyler Sander was the winning pitcher, allowing three runs on two hits and two walks with nine strikeouts in four innings.

Winona State (19-8) used five home runs to win the second game, building a 15-3 lead through 4½ innings. Ben Barrone, who started his career at Minnesota State, hit three homers in the second game, four in the doubleheader.

Nick Gonzalez and Josh Simon each drove in two runs for the

Mavericks. Scott Kemp. Simon and Travis Taran each had two hits.

"They hit the heck out of the ball," Bowyer said. "You have to be a pitcher, not a thrower, and they liked the fastball. You don't learn a lot from losing, but the kids battled to the end. That showed character."

Jake Reuvers was the losing pitcher, lasting just 2⅓ innings. He gave up seven runs and seven hits, with three of the runs being earned.

Minnesota State (27-5) plays North Central Conference home doubleheaders against St. Cloud State on Friday and Saturday.

"It's disappointing (to lose), but you have a bad inning or a bad at-bat, that's baseball," Sudbeck said. "It was inevitable that we lose, but now we have the chance to refocus and do it again."