

Bowyer bowing out

MSU baseball coach announces retirement

By Jim Rueda
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MANKATO — A legend announced his retirement on Thursday and his name wasn't Brett Favre.

For 32 years, Dean Bowyer's name has been synonymous with Minnesota State University baseball. On Thursday, he announced he would retire as the head coach at the end of the season.

"It's been a great run," Bowyer said during an emotional afternoon press conference. "It's been about so much more than wins or losses. It's been more about trying to make a difference in young people's lives."

His attempts have obviously been successful. Bowyer has made an impact on thousands of young men's lives, as evidenced by the large following of alumni the program attracts

during their extended road trips and at home games.

"This is a bittersweet moment," MSU athletic director Kevin Buisman said. "His departure will leave a huge hole to fill."

Bowyer has a career record of 1,037-516-7 in 36 years of coaching. He ranks third on the NCAA Division II active coaches list and fifth on the Division II all-time list.

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Pat Christman

Longtime Minnesota State University baseball coach Dean Bowyer announced Thursday he will be retiring at the end of the season. Bowyer is fifth on the NCAA Division II all-time wins list (1,037) and guided three MSU teams to the D-II College World Series.

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BOWYER: Still plans to help program

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He's won 21 league championships and his teams have qualified for the NCAA postseason 20 times in the last 31 seasons.

Through years, Bowyer said he's been guided by three things — faith, family and baseball.

Faith has been the most important and was a key component of his philosophy to always treat people with respect and kindness, even when they make mistakes.

His extended family has

played key roles in virtually every aspect of MSU baseball, from working concession stands, selling tickets, field maintenance, coaching and even playing. His son Shane played for Bowyer and MSU in the late 1980's-early 1990's.

"It hasn't just been the Bowyer family," he said, "but also the families of all the ball players. ... The families have always been there for their kids and other kids."

During the conference Bowyer made it clear that while he may be stepping

down as the head coach, he still plans on helping out the program and Minnesota State University any way he can.

"I'm sure he'll be out there mowing the grass and turning on the sprinklers at midnight, just like he always has," said Dean's wife Cheri. "He's always going to be around baseball."

Assistant coach Matt Magers said it would be difficult to think of MSU baseball without Dean Bowyer and he intends to make sure that doesn't hap-

pen.

"He's going to stay involved," Magers said. "I'd like to have him throw batting practice a couple of times a week if I can."

Buisman said the university plans to open up the search for a new head coach in April and hopes to have someone named by the end of May.

"... His legacy is immense and his impact on the program immeasurable," Buisman said. "I want to thank him for his loyalty, dedication and service to MSU baseball."