



Sports

MSU assistant coach has sights set on manager job



John Gross

Matt Magers hopes to be the next baseball coach at Minnesota State, taking over when Dean Bowyer retires after the season.

Bowyer's successor?

Matt Magers will be among applicants for Mavericks manager; athletic director said he hopes to fill position by June 1

By Chad Courrier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Eight years ago, Matt Magers took a student-assistant job with the Minnesota State baseball team, eager to learn from legendary coach Dean Bowyer.

Never did he dream that one day he might replace the 36-year veteran.

"I knew I wanted to go into coaching, and this was a place where I could work with a great mentor," Magers said. "I never really considered (being a head coach) here because I didn't think there would be an opportunity.

"I knew I wanted to work at the Division II level, and I wanted to stay in the Midwest. This is the ideal spot."

Magers is hoping to be the next baseball coach at Minnesota State, with Bowyer announcing his retirement a month ago. Minnesota

State athletic director Kevin Buisman said that applications are being accepted, and the search committee, chaired by assistant athletic director Tim Marshall, will meet for the first time next week.

Magers, a Gaylord native, played at South Dakota State from 1995-97, earning All-North Central Conference honors three times as a pitcher. He was chosen in the 16th round of the 1997 amateur draft, and played 2½ seasons with Chicago Cubs affiliates in Williamsport, Pa., and Rockford, Ill.

Magers returned to finish his undergraduate degree at Minnesota State and was a student assistant for one season. He spent two seasons as a graduate assistant, focusing on pitching, and two seasons as a part-time assistant before being promoted to full-time assistant four years ago, adding teaching and equipment room duties to

Minnesota State-UMD twinbill rescheduled

MANKATO — Minnesota State's North Central Conference baseball games at Minnesota Duluth, originally scheduled for this Saturday and Sunday, will now be played on Sunday and Monday at Duluth.

Sunday's doubleheader is slated for a 2 p.m. start, and Monday's action will get under way at 1 p.m.

The Mavericks (21-16, 11-2 in NCC) have won 13 of the last 15 games.

his contract. Magers was named associate head coach in 2007, and he has taken over much of the recruiting as well as administrative work.

"I've taken on more responsibility over the years," Magers said. "You never know what's going to happen, but I'd love to stay here with the kids I've recruited and see them win a championship."

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MAGERS: 'He teaches the game so well, and he's so organized'

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Bowyer said he doesn't need to promote Magers, that his work stands on its own merit.

As pitching coach, Magers has helped 10 Mavericks sign professional contracts.

"You need someone (as coach) who is familiar to the alumni because their support is so important," Bowyer said. "He teaches the game so well, and he's so organized. He relates to the player, and they respect him."

Buisman said he hopes

to have the position filled by June 1.

"Matt has been the beneficiary of working under one of the best in the business," Buisman said. "Matt and Dean have a very close working relationship, and they've had a good level of success working together. Dean has pointed to Matt's work in recruiting and developing pitching as primary responsibilities, and he is quick to give Matt a lot of credit in those areas. Those two areas are the lifeblood of a baseball program, and Matt has done a nice job."