



# Sports

## Rally falls short for Mavericks

**CARY, N.C.** — The Minnesota State baseball team finally got its opening-round game of the NCAA Division II College World Series played, and the outcome was not what the Mavericks would have preferred.

Due to numerous rain delays, the game began at 10 p.m. Sunday and ended at 1:28 a.m. Monday. When it was over, the University of Southern Illinois had defeated MSU 8-6.

The Mavericks started junior Bret Mitchell against USI's Taylor Dennis. The two right-handers matched goose eggs for the first three innings before the Screaming Eagles rallied for three runs in the top of the fourth.

Three base hits, a hit-batsman, a throwing error and a sacrifice fly staked Southern Indiana to a 3-0 lead. The Mavericks answered with a solo run in the bottom half of the inning as Danny Miller hit a leadoff single, moved to second on a wild pitch, advanced to third on a sacrifice fly by Matt Kuchenbecker and kept going home when the



Steve Helget



Matt Odegaard

return throw to second got away from the fielder.

After Southern Indiana tacked on another run in the fifth, the Screaming Eagles clinched the victory with a three-run sixth. Mitchell, who had control problems from the start, was chased after 5½ innings. A two-RBI base hit by Wes Fink and a run-scoring single by Ehmke led USI's sixth-run rally.

Trailing 8-1, MSU staged a five-run rally in the bottom of the ninth. Two-run singles by Zach Rowles and Ben Kincaid led the last-ditch effort which ended when reliever Wandy Rosario struck Matt Kuchenbecker out swinging with a runner on third.

Dennis got the win, allowing one earned run on seven hits with six strikeouts and one walk through seven innings. Mitchell took the loss, yielding seven earned runs on eight hits, fanning eight and walking five.

Mitchell's eight strikeouts gives him an MSU single-season record of 108 for 2010.

Offensively, Steve Helget led the Mavericks with four hits in four at-bats, including a double. Matt Odegaard was 3 for 4 and Rowles and Kincaid finished with two RBIs apiece.

The 11th-ranked Mavericks are now 44-15 on the season. They will take on Franklin Pierce in an elimination game at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Cary, N.C.