

# CREATING HIS OWN LEGACY

*After guiding the Mavericks to the College Baseball World Series, Matt Magers was named Regional Baseball Coach of the Year*

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Minnesota State baseball coach Matt Magers is going to have to clear some space off on his mantle above the fireplace.

Magers, who completed his second season at the helm of the Mavericks last spring, was awarded the American Baseball Coaches Association/Diamond Sports Company NCAA Division II Regional Coach of the Year award.

"When I first heard that I won coach of the year, I thought about all the individuals, including our players, parents and alumni that made it possible for me to be in that position to win such an award," Magers said. "I'm fortunate to have great assistant coaches such as Adam Christ and Tink Larson who have a great passion for developing our student-athletes on and off the field. You need to surround yourself with good people and these are two of the best."

Magers is a native of Gaylord, Minn. He played baseball at South Dakota State University from 1995-1997 and was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in 1997, playing two and a half seasons in the Cubs' minor league system. Magers was an assistant coach with the Mavericks for eight years before being named the head skipper.

That amount of time spent with the same team has led to a good relationship with his players.

"I have had a lot of different baseball coaches throughout my career and they have all taught me a lot about baseball," said infielder Patrick Dockendorf. "One of the big differences between all of my other coaches and coach Magers is that not only has 'Mags' taught me a lot about baseball, he has also taught me a lot about life and has made me a much better person over the years I have been here at MSU."

Magers also gives a great deal of credit for his successes to spending eight years under former Mavericks coach Dean Bowyer.

"The transition into becoming head coach was easier after being an assistant coach for eight years under Dean Bowyer," Magers said. "He was so good at delegating responsibility and made everyone around him better. A large part of our current success is because of the tradition he established at Minnesota State."

The Mavericks, along with Magers, had a season to remember last year with a 44-16 record. They took the NSIC regular and post-season crown and captured the NCAA Central Region title. The team then went on to compete in the Division II College World Series in Cary, N.C., where MSU finished seventh losing both games they played in. Even with the success of last year's team, Magers is excited about the potential of his 2011



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*Matt Magers led the Mavericks to a 44-16 record last season, which included a 25-7 NSIC record. The Mavericks won the NSIC and went on to capture the NCAA Central Region as the second seed.*

squad.

"This group will have a great opportunity to accomplish some special things if we

come out with a positive attitude and prepare to practice each day," Magers said. "I'm excited about the returners we

have along with a strong group of underclassmen and newcomers." **R**