



Sports



Minnesota State's Mark Dolenc (left) hit a two-run homer in Friday's 18-2 over Nebraska-Omaha. Ben King pitched eight innings for the victory.

MSU crushes UNO at regionals

Ten-run second keys 18-2 victory

Free Press staff

EMPORIA, KAN. — Minnesota State scored 10 runs on 10 hits in the second inning and cruised to a 18-2 victory Friday over Nebraska-Omaha at the NCAA II Central Regional baseball tournament.

In the second, Dane Allen singled, Ryan Greene walked and Eric Austvold singled to load bases. Nick Gonzalez, Travis Taran and Pat Ottum followed with RBI singles before Mark Dolenc drove home two runs with a single. Scott Kemp followed with an RBI single, Allen had an RBI double, Greene added an RBI single, Austvold picked up an RBI groundout and Gonzalez capped the rally with an RBI single.

"In a regional game, that was nice," Mavericks coach Dean Bowyer said. "It relaxed (starting pitcher) Ben King a little. He didn't have good stuff right away, but after we scored 10, he got the ball across and did a good job."

Dolenc added a two-run homer in the eighth. The Mavericks finished with 17 hits.

King was the winning pitcher, throwing 145 pitches in eight innings. He allowed five

MSU: Will face top seeded-team today

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hits and five walks with five strikeouts. Jake Reuvers pitched the final inning.

"He walked some guys, but to allow only five hits in eight

innings, that's pretty good," Bowyer said. "So far, we're pleased with our pitching."

Minnesota State (42-11), the second seed, plays at noon today against top-seeded Emporia State, with the loser

playing again at 7 p.m. today and the winner advancing to Sunday's championship game. Bowyer said that senior Matt McMurry will be the Mavericks' starter against Emporia State.

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DEAN BOWYER,
Minnesota State head coach