



# Sports

## MAVERICKS SWEEP ONE OF REGION'S BEST TEAMS



Pat Christman

Minnesota State freshman Tony Altavilla (5) receives congratulations from teammates after hitting a solo home run during the second game of Tuesday's nonconference doubleheader against Wayne State. It was Altavilla's first home run of the season.

# Blow out

## Wind aids McMurtry, MSU's bats in 10-0, 9-5 wins over Wayne State

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — When he's pitching, Matt McMurtry doesn't mind seeing some wind. He actually prefers when it's blowing hard.

So when the Minnesota State left-hander took the mound Tuesday, with a stiff wind blowing toward the right-field fence, he wasn't worried.

"I love the wind," he said. "If it's blowing out to right, I just go inside, inside, inside. Then when (the batter) is backed up, I hit the outside corner."

McMurtry had his control, and control of the Wayne State order, leading the Mavericks to an important 10-0 and 9-5 sweep of a nonconference doubleheader at the Minnesota State field. Wayne State (27-10), one of the top teams in the region, lead the Northern Sun

Intercollegiate Conference at 14-0 and had won 18 straight games, including a 9-4 victory Monday over North Central Conference leader Nebraska-Omaha.

"When you play in the region, you have to win those games," Minnesota State coach Dean Bowyer said. "We've been having trouble getting up for the nonconference games, but I told them how important these games were and we played with intensity."

McMurtry, a senior, set the tone in the opener, combining with Dane Secott on a two-hitter. With an effective fastball, McMurtry (6-2) pitched the first four innings, allowing one hit and equaling a career best by fanning 10 of the 15 batters he faced. Secott pitched the final three innings, giving up a hit and a walk with five strikeouts.

"If you've got good stuff, (the wind) doesn't make much difference," Bowyer

said.

Meanwhile, the Mavericks took advantage of the wind, with Mark Dolenc, Dane Allen, Adam Sudbeck and Ryan Greene each hitting home runs.

The offensive attack continued into the second game when Greene hit a three-run homer and Tony Altavilla nailed a solo shot as the Mavericks took a 5-0 lead in the first inning. The lead grew to 9-1 in the third when Nick Gonzalez and Dan Woodall each had a two-run single.

Mark Dolenc got the victory, pitching five innings and allowing six hits and two walk with two strikeouts. He allowed five runs, only one of which was earned. Jon Huber and Nick Fellman each pitched an inning to complete the game.

"Our pitchers are throwing more strikes, our defense is getting better," Bowyer said. "We scored some runs early. We're just getting more consistent."

The Mavericks have won six straight and 13 of the last 14 games. Minnesota State (27-9) plays a pair of NCC doubleheaders against St. Cloud State this weekend, Friday at St. Cloud and Sunday at home.