



# Sports

## MINNESOTA STATE 6, AUGUSTANA 2



John Cross

Minnesota State second baseman Nick Gonzalez (left) and first baseman Dane Allen rejoice after collaborating on an out to end a third-inning Augustana scoring threat Thursday at MSU Baseball Complex.

# One up, one down

## Top-seed Mavericks down Augustana in NCC tourney opening round

By Brian Ojanpa  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — The two Danes did their duties, and Minnesota State took its first step toward a North Central Conference baseball tournament title Thursday.

Junior Dane Secott held Augustana to one run on four hits over seven innings, and senior first baseman Dane Allen cracked three hits, including a three-run homer, to give the Mavericks a 6-2 win at MSU Baseball Complex.

The No. 1-seed Mavericks move on to play No. 2-seed Nebraska-Omaha at 3:30 p.m. today at Franklin Rogers Park.

Allen gave MSU all the runs it would need in the first inning when he crushed a Troy Wunderlich fastball over the fence in left-center.

"He made a full-count mistake. He just threw a fastball right over the middle," Allen said.

With a stiff wind blowing straight out to left, pitchers had little margin for error, and Secott and Wunderlich were both up to the task.

*"He made a full-count mistake. He just threw a fastball right over the middle."*



**DANE ALLEN,**  
MSU senior first baseman

The game remained 3-0 until the top of the seventh, when Augustana shortstop Donny Taylor hit a solo homer.

MSU came right back in the bottom of the inning. Outfielder Ben

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## NCC: Fellman earns 15th save of season

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Kaus led off with a double, and shortstop Scott Kemp doubled him home.

With a 4-1 lead, MSU coach Dean Bowyer had closer Nick Fellman come on in the eighth inning.

Secott walked two and fanned six to run his season record to 8-1.

"His change-up was working well today, and he throws hard enough to make it effective," said Bowyer, who had special praise for the

Mavericks' defense, which continues to sparkle.

"Our D is probably the most valuable player on our team," said Bowyer, in his 30th season as MSU coach. "This is one of the best defensive teams we've had here."

Pinch hitter Tony Altavilla's two-run double in the eighth gave MSU its final runs.

Fellman pitched a 1-2-3 ninth inning to record his 15th save of the year.

The Mavericks (39-11), have won 20 of their last 22 games.

### 2006 NCC Tournament THURSDAY'S RESULTS

#### First round

Augustana 8, St. Cloud State 7  
Minnesota Duluth 5, North Dakota 4

#### Second round

Minnesota State 6, Augustana 2  
Nebraska-Omaha 11, Minnesota Duluth 5

#### TODAY'S GAMES

##### Losers' bracket

Minnesota Duluth vs. St. Cloud State, 11 a.m., MSU field.

North Dakota vs. Augustana, 11 a.m., Franklin Rogers Park.

Winner UMD/SCSU vs. Winner UNDAugustana, 3:30 p.m., MSU field.

##### Winners' bracket

Minnesota State vs. Nebraska-Omaha, 3:30 p.m., Franklin Rogers Park.