



Dugout Chatter

FALL 2004

Dugout Chatter Preview

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2004 Leaders

- **Batting Average**
Jay Nessler (.409)
- **Homeruns**
Landon Danelson (10)
- **Runs Batted In**
Jay Nessler (50)
- **Stolen bases**
Scott Kemp (8)
- **Wins**
Matt McMurtry (8)
- **ERA**
Jon Dudycha (3.34)
- **Innings Pitched**
Dane Secott (54.2)
- **Appearances**
Joe Kern (20)

Official Newsletter of Minnesota State University, Mankato Baseball

Championship Club Members

A very special thanks you to all 191 of you that gave over \$21,000 to the Championship Club. When you see our baseball field you will see how your gifts are being put to good use.

You also helped raise \$5,900 for the Matt Magers Pitching-In-Fund. We are fortunate to have him back this year as he has picked up some teaching duties along with the athletic department "pitching in" more. Adam Christ is back for his second year as junior varsity coach. He does a great job with the young players. Jay Nessler, last years NCC MVP, is also helping coach this years' team. He did an outstanding job last year leading by

example. Greg Trembl, a marketing graduate assistant, is also helping out.

Enclosed you will find a pledge card for the 2004-2005 year. Many of you like to donate by the end of the year. For you people that have already pledged to the phone-a-thon, I will fill out the pledge card for you. I receive a print out monthly from the development office.

Thank you once again. You help keep the Maverick baseball tradition going!

In Baseball,

Dean Bowyer

2004-2005 Maverick Preview

Dear alumni and friends of MSU baseball, We started fall ball September 9th and our last day will be October 23rd. We will then condition four days a week and hit the weights for five weeks.

Last season was fun with the seniors playing well and many young players stepping up. Since we have our four top starters back we feel that we have a nucleus for a strong team. The pitching staff, which led the NCC with a 4.73 ERA, returns 5 out of the top 8 pitchers. However, the loss of senior relievers, Joe Kern, Jon Dudycha, and Justin Dering, will be tough to replace. Leading the way is Matt McDonald (Sr.) who finished with a 4-1 record and allowed only 5 earned runs in his last 34 innings. Matt McMurtry (Jr.)

had the most wins (8) and finished with a 4.47 ERA. Ben King (So.) led the team in strikeouts (56). Dane Secott (So.) led the team in starts (11) and innings pitched (54.2). Mark Dolenc (So.) finished with a 5-1 and was second on the team a 3.34 ERA. Kevin Dixon (So.), red shirt freshman Lee Hodges, Jon Huber (So.), Bob Wellmann (So.), Jon Jarchow (Jr.), along with newcomers Ben Kaus (Jr.) and Andy Kreidermacher (Sr.) will compete for innings on the mound.

The infield will be led by T.J Therrien (Jr.). He hit .343 last year and will be starting his third year at shortstop. Adam Sudbeck (So.) and Ryan Greene (Jr.)

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2004 Award Winners Announced



Jay Nessler became the 8th Maverick to be named conference MVP. Along with Nessler, former winners are Darnell Nelson, Jeff Schugel, Gary Menssen, Steve Janni, Josh Smith, Scott Geiger, and Ryan Dutton.

The Minnesota State baseball team announced its award winners for the 2004 season at the annual banquet in September.

Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year was senior third baseman **Jay Nessler** (Mankato, Minn.). Named the *North Central Conference's Most Valuable Player* for 2004, Nessler completed his career as a two-time All-Region pick. Nessler, who hit .409 in 2004, finished his four-year MSU career with a .396 batting average and led the Mavericks in hitting for the third consecutive year in 2004.

Nessler owns the school record for career doubles (45) and shares the school record with career runs batted in (141).

Most Valuable Pitcher was sophomore lefthander **Matt McMurtry** (North Platte, Neb.). McMurtry, who went 8-2 and sported an earned run average of 4.47, was a Second Team All-Region selection and a First Team All-North Central Conference pick in 2004. McMurtry led the Mavericks

in wins (8).

Most Improved Player was sophomore shortstop **T.J. Therrien** (Spring Lake Park, Minn.). Therrien, in his second campaign as MSU's starting shortstop, hit .343 to rank fourth on the team and had 41 RBI's to rank second.

The team's *Top Newcomer* was freshman infielder **Scott Kemp** (Council Bluffs, Iowa). Kemp saw action in 40 games in his maiden season with the Mavericks while playing second base.

The recipient of the *Tom Blaisdell Spirit Award* was senior pitcher Jon Dudycha (Eden Prairie, Minn.). Dudycha led MSU with a 3.34 earned run average and went 2-0 in 18 appearances.

Therrien, McMurtry and **Kurt Beulke** (White Bear Lake, Minn.) will serve as team captains for the 2005 season which begins March 3 in Georgia.

2004-2005 Mavericks continued...



MSU's new logo was unveiled during homecoming week.

are slated to replace Jay Nessler at third base. Sudbeck hit .397 in 25 games before going down with a season ending shoulder injury. Greene, a transfer from SDSU, hit .284 with 10 homeruns and 43 RBI's, could also see time behind the plate and at shortstop. Scott Kemp (So.) returns at second base after hitting .319 and leading the team with 8 stolen bases during his freshman campaign.

Pat Ottum (So.) and Brandon Larue (Jr.) are back behind the plate along with Ben Barrone (So.). Barrone, a transfer from Des Moines Area C.C., hit .368 in 40 games.

Kevin Dixon (So.) will man 1st base after hitting .329 with Cullen Bahn (Jr.), Jimmy Bohmbach (Jr.), and Dane Allen (Jr.) competing for the time at first base and DH. Allen transferred from Mesabi Range J.C. after hitting .523 with 14 homeruns.

Roaming the outfield will be Landon

Danelson (Sr.), Kurt Beulke (Sr.), Eric Austvold (So.), and Greg Holker (So.). Danelson led the team with 10 homeruns and hit .302. Beulke hit .346 and committed no errors in the outfield. Austvold and Holker both spent time on junior varsity before joining the varsity squad and making an impact during the conference title run. Pitchers Matt McMurtry, Mark Dolenc, and Dane Secott also have experience in the outfield.

As you know we are one of the few Division II colleges that still have a Junior Varsity program. Until last season very few freshman played varsity ball. The J.V. is very valuable in that it gives players a year to learn the game and improve their skills.

Yes, we do have some big shoes to fill through graduation but we feel we have some competitors that are willing to work hard to help us win another championship.

Attention CC Members:
Beginning January 2005
the Dugout Chatter
letter will be sent out
via email. Please send us
your e-mail address or
include it on the pledge
card.



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Whiteford and Wilkens Recognized by MSU

Former Maverick baseball players Dave Whiteford and John Wilkens were recently recognized at the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame and Distinction Banquet.

Whiteford, an 89' graduate, was inducted into MSU's Hall of Fame. He finished his playing career holding seven school records. Some other accomplishments include being a three-time All-North Central Conference selection; two-time all-region selection; member of three NCC championship teams (1985, 1986, 1987), and a member of the 1986 DII College World Series team that finished fourth.

Wilkens, a 70' graduate, was inducted into

MSU's Hall of Distinction. He was a two-year letter winner, playing on two conference championship teams (1968, 1969). During the 69' season, Wilkens was the NIC batting champion, and all conference and all region team selection. Wilkens has also been the secretary/treasurer of the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Association since 1978.

The MSU Athletics Hall of Fame and Distinction was established in 1963 to honor those people who have made outstanding contributions to MSU Athletics.

Alumni Golf Tournament

Over 30 alumni and friends of MSU baseball turned out for the 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Terrace View Golf Course. The winning team included John Peterson, Bryan Zollman, Jay Brown, and Tim Blaisdell. Tentatively mark your calendar for September 17th or 24th for this year's event.



About the Championship Club

The Championship Club is the chief fundraising function for the Minnesota State University, Mankato Baseball team. Each year more than 200 loyal and dedicated alumni, fans, and parents donate \$25,000 to the Championship Club. Every dollar raised is used to support and

maintain the program. Donor support has played a key role in the Mavericks 18 conference championships in the past 28 years. Contributions to the MSU, Mankato Championship Club are essential for the continued success of the Maverick baseball team. Thanks for the continued support!

MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University.