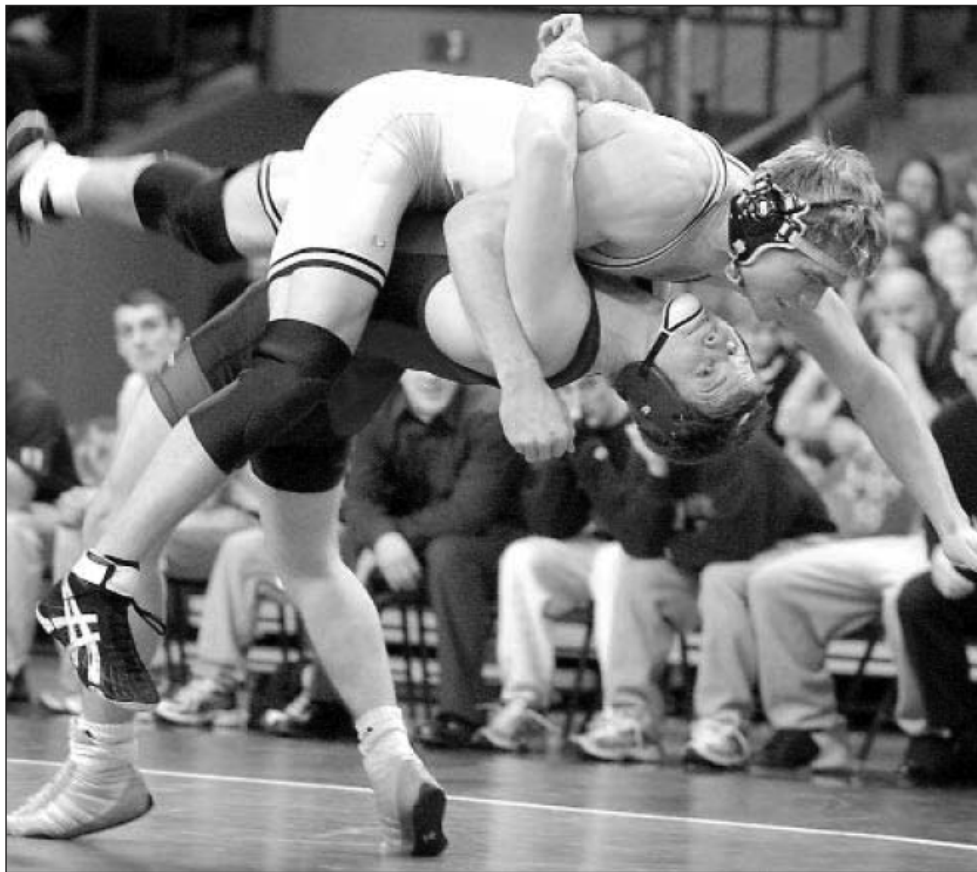




Sports



Pat Christman

Southwest Minnesota State's Tyler Johnson (top) was up the creek shortly after this throw by Minnesota State's Tim Matheson. The 174-pound Johnson landed on his back and was pinned in 4:57.

Mavericks maul Mustangs 52-0

Four MSU seniors — Krinkie, Pfaffinger, Janike, Girtz — wrestle in final home meet

By Jim Rueda
Free Press Sports Editor

MANKATO — A 52-0 shutout, seven falls and a school record 16 dual-meet victories are normally cause for celebration, but after the Minnesota State University wrestling team blanked Southwest Minnesota State at Bresnan Arena Friday, the mood was a bit more subdued than anticipated.

The reason for the melancholy was the realization that four seniors — Blue Earth's Travis Krinkie and Jeff Pfaffinger, Waseca's Ben Janike and Forest Lake's Brandon Girtz — had just wrestled in the final home meet of their careers. The four

wrestlers have accounted for more than 100 wins alone this season and head coach Jim Makovsky got a bit emotional when talking about them afterward.

"It's tough when a group of guys like this leaves," Makovsky said. "You go through a lot with them. A lot of people only see the hour and a half they spend on the mat but I see how much time and effort and all the other little things they do to be successful."

Every Maverick was successful Friday as fourth-ranked MSU improved to 16-3. Girtz (157 pounds), Andy Pickar (165), Tim Matheson (174), Krinkie (184) and Brady Wilson (heavyweight) all had

pins for MSU. Wilson had the quickest fall in 45 seconds over David Marshall.

Travis Elg (141) and Willy Mekeel (149) added technical falls for the Mavericks while Nick Smith (125), Pfaffinger (133) and Janike (197) each won by major decision.

"It was a little emotional," Krinkie said afterward. "Coming out before the meet and addressing the fans puts a little lump in your throat."

Janike agreed: "It's hard for it not to be emotional. It feels like I just got here and now I'll never wrestle on this floor again."

Makovsky credited the local kids for helping to build the MSU program up over the last four years.

**Minnesota State 52,
Southwest Minnesota State 0**
125—Nick Smith (MSU) maj. dec. Kurt Smith 13-3; 133—Jeff Pfaffinger (MSU) maj. dec. Mitch Barne 19-4; 141—Travis Elg (MSU) tech. fall Ryan Reed 19-4; 149—Willy Mekeel (MSU) tech. fall Luke Glase 19-4; 157—Brandon Girtz (MSU) pinned Chris Pad 1:15; 165—Andy Pickar (MSU) pinned Justin Crouch 2:59; 174—Tim Matheson (MSU) pinned Tyler Johnson 4:57; 184—Travis Krinkie (MSU) pinned Cody Chamberl 3:21; 197—Ben Janike (MSU) maj. dec. G.D. Johnson 10-2; HW—Brady Wilson (MSU) pinned David Marshall :45.

"Travis and Pfaff and Ben have helped put a lot of fans in the stands. They've made home meets a lot of fun.

"It's almost like a dad when his kid leaves home for the first time. You know you're going to miss them, but they're not at the end of their journey yet; we still have regionals and nationals ahead of us."

The Mavs are off until Sunday, March 25, when they compete in the North Central Regional at Minnesota State-Moorhead.