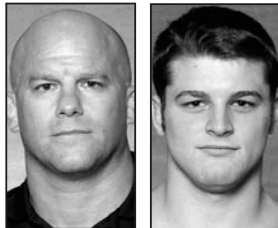


Maverick wrestlers rebound with big win

Makovsky earns 200th win as MSU's coach

By Tyler Buckentine
Free Press Staff Writer



Jim Makovsky Tim Matheson

MANKATO — After wrestling one of its most anticipated duals in recent history Friday, Minnesota State coach Jim Makovsky wanted to make sure his Mavericks came back with the same intensity Saturday against Northern State.

And did they ever.

No. 3 Minnesota State made quick work of Northern Sun opponent Northern State with a 43-3 thumping at Bresnan Arena. "If you think you're a good team you shouldn't need a whole lot of motivation to get up for any opponent," said Makovsky, whose team fell to No. 1 UNO 17-15 Friday night. "We talked about it a lot. You have to treat every opponent the same."

Makovsky's attitude trickled down to his wrestlers.

"Sometimes you come out wrestling only as good as your opponent is," said Mavericks 165-pounder Tim Matheson. "We tried not to do that today and we accomplished that."

Matheson, who lost a tough 13-7 decision to Nebraska-Omaha's No. 2 Aaron Denson the night before, rebounded with a win against NSU's Phillip Downs.

"I had to shake the loss off," Matheson said. "I did some good things last night but there was also some bad. I concentrate on getting better every day."

Trailing 5-3 in the third period, Matheson was on the bottom when he injured his rib. After nearly a minute of injury time,

Matheson came back with a 2-point reversal and 3-point nearfall to win the match 8-5.

"I knew I was down by two and I had to come up with something so I just came back pushing it," Matheson said.

"When Tim popped his rib a little bit, I think it all kind of hit him," Makovsky said. "He finally said 'the heck with it, I'm just gonna wrestle.'"

Tim Haneberg, another MSU wrestler who lost his match Friday, bounced back Saturday with a pin against NSU's Rick Shiley in 1:40 at 133 pounds.

"We talk about staying in the moment," Makovsky said. "What's done is done and (Haneberg) is the kind of guy that understands that."

MSU received technical falls from No. 4 John Putman (19-4) at 141 pounds and No. 2 Tommy Abbott (17-1) at 149.

No. 8 Andy Forstner picked up a 9-2 decision at 125 pounds and Aaron Norgren had an 8-5 decision at 184. Ben Becker had the only MSU loss, a 10-8 verdict at 174 pounds.

It was a milestone win for Makovsky who coached his 200th victory at MSU. Makovsky is now second on the school win list behind Rummy Macias (297).

The Mavericks (10-3, 6-0 NSIC) are off until Feb. 19 when they wrestle at St. Cloud State.

Sports

The Free Press



Sunday,
February 8, 2009

www.mankatofreepress.com