

Wrestling

# Mavericks earn the 'W' in nail-biter

After a slow start, the upper weights rallied and led the Mavericks to a win over NSIC rival

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The Minnesota State Mankato wrestling team was able to squeeze out a narrow victory in their first Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference road test of the season.

The Mavericks beat Minnesota State Moorhead Thursday in exciting fashion 19-18.

After the first six matches, the Mavericks found themselves trailing 15-7. Paul Norgren earned a 7-5 decision at 141-pounds and Jesse Westphal won his 149-pound match with an 8-0 major decision.

"We weren't happy with our performance, but I'm happy to get a win," said head coach Jim Makovsky. "We had two of our better wrestlers — Andy Forstner and Tel Todd — get beat which we weren't planning on." The Mavericks then mounted a furious comeback sparked by Ben Becker's 9-5 decision win at 174-pounds. Aaron Norgren followed Becker's match with a 21-4 tech fall win at 184-pounds.

"Our upper weights really got the job done," Makovsky said. "They did what they needed to do for our team to get

MSU	19
MOOR	18

## NSIC STANDINGS

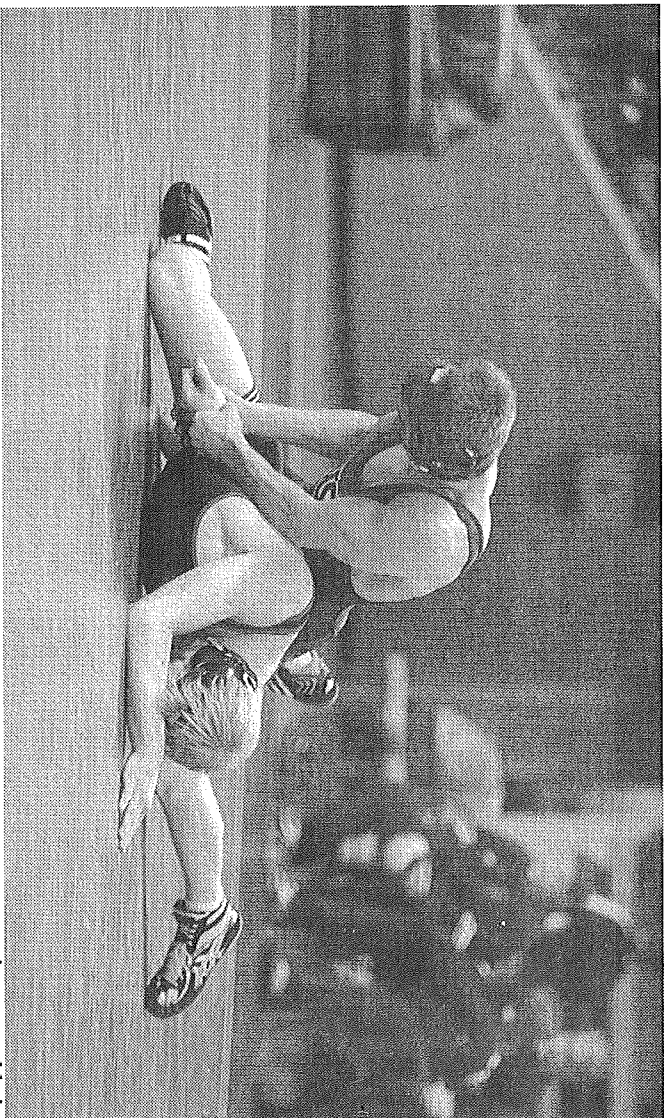
School	Conf.	OVR
(2) Augustana	3-0	9-1
(7) MAVERICKS	3-0	7-2
(10) Upper Iowa	2-0	3-2
(2) St. Cloud State	1-0	14-0
(20) MSU Moorhead	1-2	3-5
SW Minnesota State	0-1	4-1
Northern State	0-3	3-4
U-Mary	0-4	3-7

a 'W'."

Junior Pat Mahan then wrestled in the match that would prove to decide the dual when he earned a four-point major decision victory at 197 pounds, defeating Moorhead's Brian Woelfel 8-0.

"I had the same mindset going into that match as I do before any match," Mahan said. "I focus on hitting solid technique and scoring points. I try not to focus on the score of my match or the score of the dual."

Mahan's win put the Mavericks lead at 19-15. The Dragons would end up winning the final match when Jon Swart defeated



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*The Mavericks still have to match-up with three ranked NSIC opponents this season.*

freshman Nate Haynes 7-2. The win left the Dragons one point short as the Mavericks escaped with a 19-18 victory.

"We definitely did not wrestle to our full potential, which is good and bad," Mahan said. "It also shows our weaknesses and what we need to improve on.

Shining light on our weaknesses can help us hone our technique for March."

According to Mahan, the team has a goal of peaking in March, around the time of the National Tournament.

Being down early in the dual was not the only adversity the team had to deal with as their bus broke down on the drive up and their replacement didn't have heat.

"At least I know my guys can overcome adversity," Mak-

ovsky said. "We didn't perform as good as we could, but it was another learning experience and now we're looking forward to this week."

The win improved the Mavericks overall record to 7-2, 3-0 in the NSIC. The team will be back in action Thursday when they face off against Upper Iowa at the Taylor Center. 