



# Sports

## The Notebook

# Mavs get another shot at top-rated UNO

By Jim Rueda  
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**MANKATO** — Minnesota State University wrestling coach Jim Makovsky is excited for his team in tonight's rematch with the University of Nebraska-Omaha, but he doesn't want to be too excited.

The Mavericks vs. Mavericks battle takes place at 7 p.m. in Omaha and features the top two teams in Division II. UNO is rated No. 1 and Minnesota State is ranked No. 2.

"This is an opportunity for us to get a snap shot of where we are two weeks before the regional," Makovsky says. "We approach every practice and every meet as if it were a classroom. What can we learn, what can we discover about ourselves?"

The teams met at the NWCA National Duals earlier this season and UNO earned a 20-10 victory. The triumph included three 1-point wins for the two-time defending national champions.

"We're going to try to wrestle smarter and try to be more aggressive when we've already established position," Makovsky said. "We've made a lot of improvement since the last time we wrestled them and I know they've improved, too."

The only two lineup changes for MSU will be Travis Krinkie at 174 and Tom Block at 197. Krinkie was sidelined the first time the teams met and Block is replacing Ben Janicke who is out with an injury.

MSU enters the dual with seven of its

10 wrestlers in the individual rankings, including a pair of No. 1-rated competitors in Krinkie and senior John Koons. Minnesota State's other ranked wrestlers are sophomore Nick Smith (8th, 125), senior Zach Stevens (7th, 141), senior Mathias Bitz (3rd, 157), sophomore Andy Pickar (4th, 165) and senior Tim Kraemer (8th, heavyweight).

Makovsky believes the only weight class where UNO has a decided advantage is heavyweight. UNO's top-ranked Les Sigmann is a three-time defending national champion who has not lost a match to a Division II wrestler in three years.

Following UNO and MSU in this week's team rankings are Central Oklahoma in third, Nebraska-Kearney in fourth and Pittsburgh-Johnston in fifth.

## West hosts Big 9 swimming at MSU

For the first time in 11 years the Big Nine Conference Boys Swimming and Diving Championships will take place in Mankato.

The meet, hosted by West High School, will take place at the Minnesota State University pool. Starting time is 10 a.m. for diving and 2 p.m. for swimming.

Both Mankato West and East figure to have their highest finishes in the diving competition. According to West coach Andy Viker, the Scarlets' Kirby Mattocks, Luke Weber and Adam Starr, along with East's Jon Moore, have an excellent chance to grab four of the top six spots.

Other Mankato competitors seeded in the top six are West's Siu On Auyeung in

the 50- and 100-yard freestyles, Corey Davis in the 200-individual medley and East's Billy Schultze in the 200- and 500-freestyles.

Mankato East competitors seeded 7-12 include Tom Hall in the 200-IM and 100-breaststroke; Ritchie Schaefer in the in the 100-butterfly; Phil Hatfield in the 100-freestyle; Nick Burgess in the 100-breaststroke and Robbie Willaert and Riley Schaefer in the 100-backstroke.

West's swimmers seeded 7-12 include Matt Starr in both the 100-butterfly and 100-breaststroke; Evan Taylor in the 100-freestyle and Davis in the 100-breaststroke.

Admission to Saturday's Big Nine swim meet is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. No activity passes will be accepted.

## MSU soccer inks 3

Three student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to join the Minnesota State soccer team in the fall.

Abby Maxon, a four-year letter-winner at West Lutheran High School in Plymouth, is one of the signees.

Taylor Vestal, a senior at Johnston High School in Iowa, has also agreed to attend MSU. In three seasons she has led the team to a 40-14 record.

The final signee is Gina Paletta from Millard South High School in Omaha, Neb. She has led the team to state tournament appearances in all three seasons she has played and picked up all-metro and all-state honors as a sophomore and junior.