



# Sports

MSU notebook

## Mavs prep for nationals

**MANKATO** — The Minnesota State University wrestling team will try to capture a national crown this weekend when it ventures to Findlay, Ohio for the NCAA Division II National Championships.

The Mavericks, who slipped to fifth place in the final Division II poll after holding down the No. 2 spot all season, will take nine wrestlers to nationals. No. 1-ranked Nebraska-Omaha will be sending all 10 of its wrestlers to Findlay. Augustana and Central Oklahoma are ranked second and third.

Five of MSU's nine national qualifiers can be found among the individual rankings. Three of them — Andy Pickar at 165, Blue Earth native Travis Krinkle at 174 and John Koons at 184 — are rated second in their weight class.

Pickar's No. 2 status is his highest of the year and comes after winning the North Regional by upsetting MSU Moorhead's Nate Baker (who was No. 1 at the time) and UNO's Ross Taplin (who was No. 5) in the championship match with a 4-2 win in four overtime periods. The sophomore was ranked seventh going into the regional and came away with the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award.

Teammate Mathias Bitz held on to his third-place ranking at 157 where he has been for most of the season after finishing second at the North Regional. MSU's Zach Stevens, who took third-place at the North Regional, is rated eighth at 141 pounds.

### Gusties honored

Gustavus Adolphus men's basketball players Phil Sowden and Adam TeBrake have been named to the All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team. Teammate Trevor Wittwer was named the league's Sixth Man of the Year and also received honorable mention honors.



Minnesota State's Andy Pickar (left) leads a contingent of five ranked Minnesota State wrestlers to nationals this weekend. Sophomore Abby Wagner is swinging a red-hot bat for the Mavs with a .500 batting average.

In addition, the Gusties' Trent Hollerich was named to the MIAC All-Defensive Team and Mike DesLauriers was named to the All-First Year Team.

Sowden averaged 12.7 points and 5.3 rebounds while shooting 52.2 percent from the field and 82.2 percent from the free-throw line. Sowden also led the Gusties with 72 assists and was second on the team with 143 rebounds.

TeBrake led the Gusties with a 16.2-point scoring average to finish sixth in the MIAC. TeBrake also registered a team-high 39 steals and finished second in the MIAC in 3-point shooting, hitting 45.8 percent of his attempts.

Wittwer spent most of the season as the first option off the bench for Gustavus. Wittwer led the MIAC in field-goal percentage, hitting 68 percent of his shots.

### Wagner en fuego

After nine games its safe to say MSU softball player Abby Wagner is officially on fire. The sophomore second baseman is hitting .500 (14 for 28) with five home runs and 14 RBIs. Wagner boasts a team-leading 1.107 slugging percentage, a .548 on-base percentage and is 2 for 2 in stolen bases.

Junior Kari Hudson is also off to a fast start for the Mavericks with a .406 average

(13 of 32) with four doubles, four home runs and 10 RBIs.

Two other players are also batting over .300 for MSU. Junior infielder Ashley Jay is hitting .370 and sophomore outfielder Lynndi Decker is batting .355.

So far there is no clear-cut winner in the pitching derby. Senior right-hander Janet Barker is 2-1 with a 3.74 ERA. She has 27 strikeouts and nine walks in 24 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings pitched.

Sophomore right-hander Kim Howell is 2-2 with a 3.90 ERA, 22 strikeouts and 12 walks over 23 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings. Freshman righty Brooke McKelvogue is 2-0 with a 3.68 ERA, 10 strikeouts and 10 walks in 13 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings.

### Daw to nationals

Gustavus Adolphus College Nordic ski senior Chandra Daw has qualified for the 2006 NCAA Division III National Collegiate Skiing Championships. She made the cut after finishing seventh on the final Central Collegiate Ski Association Qualification Points List.

Daw is the first Gustavus Nordic skier to qualify for the NCAA Championships which will be held March 8-11 in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

### Gonzalez paces Mavs

Junior infielder Nick Gonzalez has taken the early lead in the MSU baseball team's batting race. In four games he's hitting .455 with five hits in 11 at-bats.

Dan Woodall, the son of former MSU pitching standout Larry Woodall, is second with a .444 average. Junior infielder Adam Sudbeck is next with a .400 average.

Three MSU starting pitchers have ERA's under 2.00. They are Ben King (1.35), Jon Bjelkand (1.59) and Matt McMurtry (1.80). Three relievers — Nick Fellman, Lee Hodges and Jake Reuvers — have yet to be scored upon.