

## College football gameday

# Minnesota State at Western Washington

3 p.m., Bellingham, Wash., KTOE 1420-AM

The Mavericks (4-6, 2-5 in NCC) wrap up the final season of North Central Conference football with a game against Western Washington (2-7, 1-6) at Bellingham. Last season, Western Washington defeated the Mavericks 35-21 in the season finale at Blakeslee Stadium.

Senior Ben King, who has set just about every single-season and career passing record at Minnesota State, needs 90 yards to break the program's single-season record for passing yards. Jamie Pass set the record of 3,756 yards in 1993. King ranks 13th in NCAA Division II history with 10,606 yards passing in his career, and at his current average of 366.7 yards per game, he would move into seventh place.

Kelvin Rodgers, who has 261 yards in punt returns, needs 63 yards to move into second place at Minnesota State.

Freshman receiver Omaar Balton, who missed four games with a shoulder injury, returned last week and caught eight passes for 80 yards, bringing his season totals to 38 receptions and 457 yards. Linebacker Blake Freese leads the Mavericks with 78 tackles, five more than his team-leading total from last season. Sophomore Randy Earl leads the NCC with eight sacks, which is tied for ninth-best in a single season at Minnesota State. In two seasons, Earl has 13.5 sacks, more than halfway to the school record of 25, held by Andrew Tippins (2000-02). Earl has 20.5 tackles for loss, and that career record is 48 by Tippins.



**Randy Earl**