



# Sports

## South Dakota defeats MSU

### Mavericks commit six turnovers in 34-23 loss

The Free Press

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The Minnesota State University football team dropped a 34-23 decision to South Dakota Saturday in a North Central Conference game at the DakotaDome. It was the 23rd straight home win for USD.

MSU turned the ball over six times and the teams combined for 20 penalties for 164 yards. Senior quarterback Ben King led the Mavericks offensively, completing 35 of 56 passes for 480 yards and two

touchdowns.

"I'm very proud of the way our guys performed today," MSU head coach Jeff Jamrog said. "Obviously when you turn the ball over six times, it is difficult to win a football game."

After USD returned a 35-yard King interception for a touchdown 19 seconds into the game, MSU responded with a six-play, 49-yard drive that was highlighted by an 18-yard touchdown reception by junior wideout Damian Turner.

USD added two more scores before halftime from Jordan Murphy (43-yard reception) and Amos Allen (2-yard run). MSU place-kicker Jason Thompkins answered with a 25-yard field goal. The Mavericks added another score with 1:30 remaining in the half when King found sophomore Chris Nowlin for a 19-yard scoring strike.

In the third, Noah Sheppard scored on a 1-yard run and MSU's King reached the end zone on a 4-yard dash. The Coyotes' Frank Leibfarth added field goals of 25 and 26 yards to cap the scoring.

Turner and senior running back Tory Chappell each had more than 100 yards receiving in the loss. Senior tight end



Mavericks quarterback Ben King completed 35 of 56 passes for 480 yards and two touchdowns.

Jeff Fielder caught six passes for a career-high 97 yards.

Junior Ryan Weinzierl led MSU defensively with a game-high 11 tackles. Junior linebacker Blake Freese added nine stops to go with one pass breakup.

Minnesota State (4-5, 2-4 NCC) closes out the home portion of its schedule Saturday when it hosts Central Washington at noon.