



Sports

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Wild down Blues;
former Mav scores



Turnovers plague Minnesota State in loss

Minnesota State's Tory Chappell takes a hit from St. Cloud State linebacker Matt McLagan during the first quarter of the Mavericks' 27-13 loss Saturday at Blakeslee Stadium. The 19-yard catch was Chappell's only reception of the day.



Matt Gorrie

Huskies protect ball, roll to 27-13 victory

By Dan Myers
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Minnesota State head football coach Jeff Jamrog knew all week leading into his team's match-up Saturday against St. Cloud State that turnovers would be the key.

After all, the Huskies had seven of them a week before in a 44-18 loss to Augustana.

Just seven days later, on a wet field in Mankato, the Mavericks

defense was unable to force a single one while the SCSU defense forced three en route to a 27-13 St. Cloud victory at Blakeslee Stadium.

The victory was the fifth consecutive win in the series for the Huskies, who retained the "Traveling Training Kit," arguably one of college football's most unique rivalry trophies.

"We did not come out and play the kind of ball we were hoping to," Jamrog said. "We got out-

everything'd."

The Mavericks could not kick start their offense at any point during the first half as Minnesota State failed to score points in a half for just the third time this season.

Throughout the first two quarters, it seemed as though the Mavericks lacked energy and urgency as SCSU held a 17-point halftime lead.

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MAVS: Tough day for QB King

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"It's hard to imagine how you can't get up for this game," Jamrog said.

SCSU got on the board near the end of the opening quarter on a 34-yard field goal by Brian Cristan.

MSU had three turnovers in the second quarter — two of which dealt serious blows to a chance at victory.

Following the Huskies' first touchdown, the Mavericks misplayed the ensuing kickoff, as the ball ricocheted off Mike Hinton's shoulder pads. SCSU recovered, but the Mavericks forced a punt.

The Mavericks took over at their own 12-yard line, but quarterback Ben King fumbled the first two center-quarterback exchanges from Mike Zeidler — an offensive guard filling in for banged-up center

Jake Droessler. The second was recovered by SCSU at the Mavericks 10-yard line and three plays later, the Huskies were up 17-0.

"That's just fundamental football from pop-Warner that you need to execute," Jamrog said. "To have those back-to-back was very disappointing."

The Mavericks finally moved the ball deep into SCSU territory on their next drive, but fumbled again — this one by Donte Shackelford on an attempted pitch at the Huskies 9.

"You just can't make those kind of mistakes," Jamrog said.

Both teams opened the second half with three-and-outs, before St. Cloud went up 24-0 on junior quarterback Jon Quesnel's third touchdown pass of the afternoon — a 14-yard to strike to Fred

Williams. It was the second score of the day for Williams.

MSU finally climbed back into the game with a 4-yard pass from King to Shackelford on the ensuing drive. The 2-point try failed.

Shackelford added a 3-yard run in the fourth quarter to pull the Mavericks within 11.

But the Huskies continued to pressure King, who never found a consistent rhythm. King finished the game 26-of-54 for 299 yards and a touchdown.

"They came after us and played well," King said. "You have to give them credit."

Cristan added a 30-yard field goal to cap the scoring with 8:17 to play.

MSU (4-4, 2-3) continues North Central Conference play at 2 p.m. Saturday against South Dakota (5-3, 4-1) at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, S.D.