

# The Schackleford way

## MSU coaches expect big things at wideout from junior-college transfer

By Chad Courrier  
Free Press Staff Writer

**MANKATO** — It seems like the perfect, if not hard-to-believe, match.

Donte Shackleford didn't want to go to a winning program, and Minnesota State has only had one winning season in the last 12.

"I wasn't looking for a school that went 9-1 last season," he said. "I wanted to go somewhere that I could help out. They had a bad situation here last year with team chemistry, but everything's good now. There are no big egos; it's a good atmosphere."

The Mavericks open the season at 7 p.m. Thursday against Central Missouri at Blakeslee Stadium.

Shackleford, at 5-foot-11 and 185, is one of the newest receivers at Minnesota State. He's only played three seasons of football, switching from basketball as a high-school senior in Omaha, Neb., then playing two seasons of football at Iowa Central Community College.

"Most of the JC kids, the biggest thing they worry about is themselves because that's the way you have to think to get out of junior college," offensive coordinator Dan Ragsdale said. "That's not the case with Donte. He does everything right, from the way he talks to the way he dresses. When you talk to young receivers, you tell them if they do things the way (Shackleford) does them, you'll be OK."

At Iowa Central, Shackleford didn't catch many passes because of the run-oriented style. As a freshman, he caught 30 passes for 650 yards and eight touchdowns. The next season, he made 28 receptions for 600 yards and six touchdowns.

"When the ball's in the air, it was my job to go get it," he said.

At Minnesota State, he'll get more opportunities, one of the things that attracted him here.

"I go from a team that passes 30, 40 times a year to one that passes more than 30, 40 times a game," he said.

Despite his inexperience at catching the ball, he did learn how to block, a skill that separates him from many receivers. He's used to taking on safeties and linebackers, though he's usually giving away more than 25 pounds to the opponents he meets in the middle of the field.

"We keep it simple, run and get open," Ragsdale said. "We talk about blocking, and he was doing it 60 times a game (at Iowa Central). He excelled in



John Cross

Though Donte Shackleford has little experience as a receiver, Minnesota State coaches are predicting a big season for the junior-college transfer.

the spring, but it's different when the lights come on. I'm excited to see what he can do."

Shackleford's family still lives in Omaha, but he has an uncle in Minneapolis. Defensive backs coach Brian Bell was at Iowa Central last season, giving Shackleford, who has a blossoming musical career

under the performance name of Taggiz, a network of acquaintances nearby.

"I'm doing something I love. I'm going to college without having to pay for it," he said. "Going to college is something that's really big for me. I'm close to family; I'm happy here."

### Mavericks roster

NO	NAME	POS	YR
1	Tony Chappell	RB	SR
2	Kevin Rodgers	CB	SO
3	Donte Shackleford	WR	JR
4	Chad Bredend	LB	SR
5	Eric Taylor	CB	SR
6	Darrian Turner	WR	JR
7	Jake Aberg	RB	FR
8	Blake Freese	LB	JR
9	Laron Wilder	WR	FR
10	James Smith	FS	JR
11	Nick Haley	WR	SR
12	Ben King	QB	SR
12	Marcus Brumm	QB	FR
13	Mohamed Seck	LB	JR
13	Anthony Ruffes	QB	FR
14	Tyler Fozbille	QB	FR
14	Nyckango Artis	CB	FR
15	Ryan Rick	QB	SO
16	Jason Tompkins	K	SR
17	Ben Spencer	K	SO
18	Mike Hinton	SS	JR
19	LaTroy Dinkins	WR	JR
20	Justin Belcitt	SS	FR
21	Theodius Gibbs	DB	SR
22	Julian Phillips	RB	SO
22	Steve Robinson	FS	FR
24	Ryan Wehderf	SS	JR
25	Adam Behrends	SS	JR
26	Michael Johnson	LB	JR
27	Jesse Graves	DB	SO
28	Jesse Hamilton	FS	FR
29	Brian Fitzcarrald	FS	SO
30	Tommy Langford	LB	JR
31	Ryan Cross	WR	SO
32	Ernest Walker	RB	SO
33	Marcus Bell	LB	JR
34	Mike Basicom	FS	JR
35	Bryce Kinniry	DB	FR
36	Kevin Klug	LB	SO
38	Jason Goebel	LB	FR
39	Jeff Stenger	SS	JR
40	Kyle Henderson	CB	FR
41	Craig Warminski	RB	FR
42	Dan Fehlborg	LB	FR
43	John Jones	LB	SO
44	They Roemhild	LB	SO
45	Curtis Herzberg	LB	FR
46	Mykes Easter	FS	FR
47	Shane Reigel	TE	FR
48	Anton Graham	TE	FR
49	Matt McCusker	LB	FR
50	Ryan Becker	LB	FR
51	Erik Grimm	DE	FR
52	Telemo Bobmanuel	DE	SR
53	Nick West	LB	JR
54	Bryan Schmidt	DB	FR
55	Willie Davis	LB	JR
56	Ryan Pentimilli	DL	SR
58	Jake Wolf	DE	FR
60	Brad Dief	DT	SO
61	Jake Weber	OL	FR
62	Jake Drossler	OL	JR
63	Addison Hartung	OL	FR
64	Mike Zekler	OL	SO
65	Nathan Holmslein	OL	FR
66	Ben Porth	OL	JR
67	Chris Brunthorst	DT	JR
68	Andy Schoonover	OL	SO
70	Jeremy Clark	OL	FR
71	Eric Spierman	OL	FR
72	Matt Gray	OL	JR
73	Anthony Loew	OL	FR
74	Sandeep Bath	OL	JR
75	Chad Henning	OL	FR
76	Matt Truhlo	OL	FR
77	Adrian Battles	OL	SO
78	Mike Oralle	OL	FR
79	Jeremiah Tokoumu	DL	JR
80	Chris Nowlin	WR	SO
81	Omarr Ballon	WR	FR
82	Mike Stramer	TE	FR
85	Jay Schickel	WR	JR
86	Marcus Hansen	WR	JR
87	Tim Petersen	WR	FR
88	Jeff Reiter	TE	SR
89	Michael Robinson	DE	FR
90	Jake Oralle	DE	FR
91	Spencer Dickinson	DT	SR
92	Fred Stutz	DT	SO
94	Jordan Azam	DT	FR
95	DJ Spencer	DL	FR
96	Randy Earl	DE	SO
97	Gerard DeWet	P	FR
98	Andrew Franklin	DE	JR
99	Grant Smith	DE	SR

Head Coach: Jeff Jamung  
Assistant Coaches: Dan Ragsdale (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks), Joe Klenderman (defensive coordinator), Mike Cunningham (offensive line), Luis Schaefer (special teams coordinator/tight ends), Brian Bell (defensive backs), Brent Diersen (defensive line), Pat Zahorek (running backs).