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Sports

East beats St. Peter
in nonconference game



Sioux stun Mavericks

MSU blows 10-point fourth quarter lead, loses to No. 2 North Dakota 38-34

By Chad Courrier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Up 10 points in the fourth quarter, with a chance to upset the No. 2-ranked team in Division II and get a rare victory against North Dakota, Minnesota State needed only to grind out the final 11 minutes.

But with the strong tail-

wind, the Mavericks tried 18 passes, seven of which were incompletions, and only one running play. A couple of times, runners could have stayed in bounds to keep the clock running but didn't.

That allowed enough time for the Sioux (6-0, 3-0 in NCC) to rally, and on an 81-yard pass play with 3:27 to play, survive for a 38-34 North Central

Conference victory Saturday before 6,102 homecoming fans, the largest crowd since 1993 at Blakeslee Stadium.

"We were moving the ball," coach Jeff Jamrog said. "We had 21 rushes (in the game), and a couple of our passes are like runs. There's no second-guessing when you put up 30-some points."

The Mavericks' offensive



Pat Christian

Minnesota State receiver Marcus Hansen can't quite get to the football during Saturday's homecoming football game against North Dakota at Blakeslee Stadium. North Dakota rallied to defeat Minnesota State 38-34.

numbers were outstanding, with quarterback Ben King completing 30 of 55 passes for 458 yards, the second-highest

total of his accomplished career. And the defense had limited North Dakota, which was averaging 555.2 yards of

offense, to just 368 yards with 6:39 to play.

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MSU: Mavericks totaled 513 yards in offense

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But a five-play, 67-yard drive that took just 1:33 and an 81-yard pass on a slant pattern with 3:27 remaining boosted North Dakota to the stunning, comeback victory.

"With six minutes to go, I thought this was going to be our day," Jamrog said. "But we didn't get two stops by the defense, and we didn't take time off the clock like we wanted."

After throwing an interception inside the Minnesota State 5 on its first possession, North Dakota scored later in the quarter on a 13-yard run by Josh Murray. But the Mavericks got even on the next possession. Donte Shackelford, lining up at tailback instead of receiver, carried the final 7 yards for the score, and Jason Tompkins' PAT tied the game at 7.

The Sioux went back ahead on another Murray 13-yard run, but the Mavericks answered with a 14-play, 80-yard drive. This time, Shackelford took a pitch and threw a 6-yard scoring pass to Jeff Fielder. The PAT was blocked, leaving North Dakota up 14-13 early in the second quarter.

North Dakota added to its lead with Brandon Hellevang's 34-yard field goal midway



Pat Christian

Minnesota State's Mike Hinton (18) leads the defense as it brings down North Dakota running back Josh Murray during Saturday's game.

through the quarter, but the Mavericks again responded. A 29-yard pass from King to Damian Turner, followed by a

34-yarder to Marcus Hansen, set up Julian Phipps' 2-yard

scoring run, and the PAT gave Minnesota State a 20-17 lead with 4:59 remaining until halftime.

The Mavericks had a chance to add to the lead before half-

time, but Tompkins' 44-yard field goal try hit the left upright and bounced back with 15 seconds to play. Still, North Dakota was trailing at halftime for the first time this season.

North Dakota regained the lead on its first possession of the second half, a 16-play, 66-yard drive that ended with Brandon Brady's 1-yard run. The PAT was good, putting the Sioux on top 24-20.

Minnesota State had another answer, driving 85 yards in seven plays, battling the wind with seven straight completions. The touchdown came on a 29-yard pass, with Chris Nowlin making a twisting catch in the back of the end zone, and the Mavericks led 27-24 heading into the final quarter.

"He's a tremendous player, great speed," Jamrog said. "He's difference-maker."

Minnesota State added to the lead on Nowlin's 5-yard touchdown run on a receiver reverse, and another Tompkins' PAT made it 34-24 with 6:46 to play. It was the same play that the Mavericks used earlier in the season, but a fumble messed it up that time.

"When you execute, you get cheers," Jamrog said. "When you don't, you get bood. We executed, it was a great call by

(offensive coordinator Dan Ragsdale)."

However, North Dakota salvaged the victory with the two quick scores, one on a 2-yard run by Brady and another on the slant to Ryan Chappell, who caught the short pass and bolted through the defense for the 81-yard, game-winning score.

"Pretty simple play," Chappell said. "I just caught the pass, saw the seam and ran fast."

On the play, two defenders ran together, knocking each other out of the play and opening the hole for the speedy Chappell.

"It was hard to watch that last play," said linebacker Willie Davis, who along with Mike Hinton and Chris Brunkhorst each had 10 tackles. "I felt like we were having a good game, it was just a fluke."

North Dakota finished with 516 yards of offense, three more yards than the Mavericks, who rushed for only 49 yards.

Nowlin finished with nine receptions for 152 yards, and Turner had seven catches for 139 yards. Shackelford was the leading rusher with 27 yards, but he missed most of the second half with cramps.

"This is one of the toughest

Mavericks summary

North Dakota	14-3-7-14-38
Minnesota State	7-13-7-7-34
First Quarter	
UND—Josh Murray 13 run (Brandon Hellevang kick), 6:44.	
MSU—Donte Shackelford 7 run (Jason Tompkins kick), 4:57.	
UND—Murray 13 run (Hellevang kick), 2:43.	
Second Quarter	
MSU—Jeff Fielder 6 pass from Shackelford (kick blocked), 13:55.	
UND—Hellevang 34 field goal, 6:08.	
MSU—Julian Phipps 2 run (Tompkins kick), 4:59.	
Third Quarter	
UND—Brandon Brady 1 run (Hellevang kick), 9:21.	
MSU—Chris Nowlin 29 pass from Ben King (Tompkins kick), 3:15.	
Fourth Quarter	
MSU—Nowlin 5 run (Tompkins kick), 6:46.	
UND—Brady 2 run (Hellevang kick), 6:13.	
UND—Ryan Chappell 81 pass from Darryl Freund (Hellevang kick), 2:27.	

	UND	MSU
First downs	37	22
Rushing (at-td)	51-170	21-49
Passing (com-at-td)	22-32-1	31-56-1
Penalty yards	3-46	4-64
Total offense (at-td)	82-516	77-513
Fumbles (no-yds-lost)	0-1	0-0
Penalties (no-yds)	2-22	9-76
Punts (no-avg)	5-36.6	7-32.8
Punt returns (no-yds)	3-63	2-34
Kick returns (no-yds)	5-85	4-82
Possession time	34:08	25:52
Third-down conversions	6-18	5-14
Fourth-down conversions	2-2	1-1
Sacks by (no-yds lost)	2-17	4-22
Attendance		6,102

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: North Dakota—Murray 16-84, Chappell 15-49, Freund 10-28, Brady 3-10, Dressler 4-27, Chappell 4-6, Phipps 2-5, Nowlin 1-5, Henderson 3-4.

PASSING: North Dakota—Freund 22-32-1, 3-46 yards, Minnesota State—King 30-56-1, 458 yards, Shackelford 1-10, 61 yards.

RECEIVING: North Dakota—Dressler 9-85, Tenbath 5-82, Chappell 4-154, Grover 2-22, Sarno 1-12, Caudill 1-10, Minnesota State—Nowlin 9-92, Turner 7-139, Hansen 7-78, Fielder 4-49, Chappell 2-22, Shackelford 1-18, Haley 1-8.

FIELD GOALS: North Dakota—Hellevang 1-2 (34), Minnesota State—Tompkins 0-1.

losses I've ever been a part of," King said. "But I'm proud of the guys. We played the No. 2 team in the country, and we played well. There were some great highs during the game."

The Mavericks (3-3, 1-2) play Saturday at Minnesota Duluth.