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## St. James duo takes second place at state

# Sports

## Phipps, Mavericks run wild on Mustangs in 34-14 win

### The Free Press

**MARSHALL** — Three rushing touchdowns by Julian Phipps, and another punt return by Kelvin Rodgers led Minnesota State to a 34-14 victory over Southwest Minnesota State in a Northern Sun

Intercollegiate Conference South Division football game Saturday.

“Julian read his blocks well, and there were some wide open spaces on the edge,” coach Todd Hoffner said. “Those yards up the middle were tough yards, but I think he’ll be the first

to say that’s it’s all about the offensive line and tight ends and lead blockers.”

Phipps put Minnesota State up with a 25-yard run on the second play of the second quarter, and Grady Derheim’s PAT made it 7-0. Following an interception by Eric Taylor, Phipps scored

again on a 2-yard run, and Derheim’s PAT made it 14-0 with 10:35 remaining in the quarter.

After the Mustangs cut the lead to 14-7, Rodgers scored on a 38-yard punt return, and Derheim made it



Julian Phipps



Kelvin Rodgers

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## MAVERICKS: Fick suffers injury

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21-7 with the PAT kick with 3:51 to play in the half. It was Rodgers’ fifth return touchdown this season, the second one on a punt.

Rodgers made an interception in the end zone late in the second quarter to stop a Mustangs’ drive.

Southwest Minnesota State scored again on a short run midway through the third quarter to make it 21-14, but the Mavericks answered when Phipps scored again, this time on a 19-yard run.

Derheim’s PAT made it 28-14 with 3:51 to play in the third. Ernest Walker finished

the scoring with a touchdown run that gave Minnesota State its fourth road win in the league.

“I’m proud of the way we play. We show a lot of character,” Hoffner said. “Winning on the road isn’t easy, but it’s what we expect to do. When teams get close, we respond very well to that adversity.”

Phipps rushed for 124 yards, his first 100-yard game of his career, and Walker gained 56 yards rushing. Taylor Bennett, who entered the game when Ryan Fick was injured in the second quarter, completed 6 of 11 passes for 75 yards. The Mavericks had 358 yards of offense, 203 yards by rush.

Southwest Minnesota State had 385 yards of offense, but the Mavericks made four interceptions. Tony Hunter was the leading tackler with seven.

Minnesota State (7-2, 7-1 in NSIC) returns home for its final two regular-season games, starting Saturday with Upper Iowa. With Wayne State’s victory at Augustana, there’s a three-way tie atop the South Division at 4-1.

“We’ll celebrate tonight; it’s important to enjoy your successes,” Hoffner said. “But then it’s back to work. When you have six of nine games on the road, it’s going to be nice to be home.”