



Sports



Mavericks receiver Tyrell Smith (left) caught nine passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns in Saturday's 35-21 loss to Concordia-St. Paul. Defensive end Darnell Flannigan recorded nine tackles and two sacks.

Bears' scoring blitz buries Mavericks

Concordia lays 28 consecutive points on MSU in 35-21 win

Free Press staff

ST. PAUL — Concordia-St. Paul reeled off 28 consecutive points through the middle of the game and defeated Minnesota State 35-21 in non-conference football Saturday.

Minnesota State outgained the Bears 318-257 and had two minutes more in time of possession, but the Mavericks converted on just 2 of 16 third downs.

Quarterback Josh Bryant — making his first start of the season — scored on an 8-yard run, and Jason Tompkins booted the PAT to tie the game 7-7 late in the first quarter.

Concordia-St. Paul quarterback James McNear — who rushed for 112 yards and passed for 115 yards — scored on runs of 2 and 12 yards, then passed 17 yards to Tyrone Ruffin for another touchdown.

Aaron Cawthorn scored on a 2-yard run as the Bears took a 35-7 lead into the fourth quarter.

Jamie VanDenElzen quarterbacked the Mavericks in the final quarter, completing 10 of 18 passes for 134 yards. VanDenElzen threw two touchdown passes to receiver Tyrell Smith, one of 10 yards and another from 40 yards with six seconds remaining.

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MSU: NCC opener Saturday

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Smith finished with nine receptions for 134 yards, the highest total since Sean Fonoimoana had 145 yards against St. Cloud State in 2002. Smith was also the leading rusher with 51 yards on two carries.

Darnell Flannigan and

Jimmie Gunn each made nine tackles, and Flannigan made two sacks. Leonardo Enriquez had seven tackles, and Spencer Dickinson added a sack.

Minnesota State (1-3) opens the North Central Conference schedule 6:30 p.m. Saturday with a game against St. Cloud State at Blakeslee Stadium.