



Sports



Mavericks notebook

Fake field goals fail all around

By Chad Courrier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Minnesota State and Minnesota-Duluth each tried a fake field goal in Saturday's game, but neither worked. In the Bulldogs' case, the botched attempt nearly cost them the game.

"I made a dumb call," Minnesota-Duluth coach Kyle Schweigert said. "I called a fake field goal, and it put us at risk. I thought it was there, but it was a really poor decision."

Minnesota-Duluth held on for a 28-23 victory at Blakeslee Stadium on Saturday, but the fake field goal added more drama than the Bulldogs would have liked.

The Bulldogs were leading 21-3 with the ball on the 12-yard line, trying to clinch the victory early in the fourth quarter. Britt Baumann, who looked good on three PATs, lined up for a 29-yard attempt with quarterback Ted Schlafke as the holder. Schlafke pulled the ball up and ran the option, but his pitch was behind Baumann.

Cornerback Melvin Matlock scooped up the ball and return it 82 yards, drawing the Mavericks within 28-16 with 13:34 to play.

"That's the last time we'll run it," Schweigert said.

The Mavericks tried a fake field goal in the first half, trailing 14-0 with a fourth down at the Bulldogs' 8. Jason Tompkins lined up for the 25-yard attempt, but holder Jamie VanDenElzen, also the Mavericks' quarterback, rolled out for the pass, hitting Danny Nichols, who was pushed out of bounds after a 4-yard gain.

"That was my fault," coach Jeff Jamrog said. "I called the wrong one, and we didn't get it done."

Remembering Team 28

The Mavericks wore a helmet logo with the number 28 as a memorial to the three Minnesota State automotive engineering students who died in a traffic accident in May.

Wesley Loutsch, Jamie Schlachter and Chad Wilson died en route to Detroit to participate in the Formula SAE Vehicle Design Competition. They were members of Minnesota State's Team 28.

The Mavericks also lined up at the 28-yard line for the pregame national anthem.

Jamrog compared the students' efforts to build a car to that of his football team.

"For nine months, they build a car and get ready for a one-day competition, a one-day opportunity," Jamrog said. "I



Pat Christman

The Minnesota State football team wore the number 28 on its helmets Saturday in memory of three automotive engineering students who died in a car accident in May.

told the team (Friday) night that they better appreciate their time on this earth because you never know when you'll leave it. We just wanted to remember those (students)."

Center switch

When freshman center Josh Clausen was injured early on the second drive of the game, junior Ben Roberson returned to the position in which he started the season.

Clausen suffered a left leg injury and had to be helped off the field. Roberson started the season at center but was switched to left tackle midway through the first game. Roberson then missed two games with a foot injury, and when he returned, he went

back to tackle.

Roberson had a couple of bad snaps, one that led to a fumble and the first Minnesota-Duluth touchdown. Jamrog said he wanted to look at film before evaluating Roberson's performance.

Jamrog said that if Clausen is unable to start the next game, Roberson will likely be the center.

Injuries

In addition to Clausen, running back Corey Jones injured his left leg on opening kickoff and didn't return. Tight end Nick Nalezny injured his shoulder on the second possession and had his arm in a sling the rest of the afternoon. Jamrog said Clausen, Jones and Nalezny all figured heavily in the offense's game plan.

"It's been that type of year," he said.

Coming up

The Mavericks play four of its final games on the road, starting Saturday at unbeaten South Dakota, which posted a 48-17 victory at Augustana.

"The program is not where we want to be after six games, and now you have to go to South Dakota, which will be a tremendous challenge," Jamrog said.