



MSU football notebook

Flannigan strong in second half

By Chad Courrier
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — At halftime, Minnesota State senior defensive end Darnell Flannigan had five tackles, but in the second half, especially the third quarter, Flannigan was the Mavericks' best player on the field Saturday. "Darnell Flannigan played as good a football game as I've ever been around," Minnesota State coach Jeff Jamrog said.

Flannigan finished with 11 tackles, five behind the line of scrimmage, in the Mavericks' 18-14 loss to St. Cloud State at Blakeslee Stadium.

In the third quarter, Flannigan had a sack, two tackles for loss and a fumble recovery. He also had two pass breakups when he hit the quarterbacks arm while it was in motion. In the fourth quarter, he had another tackle for loss.

"I was just doing everything I do every day in practice," Flannigan said. "I was taking advantage of what I saw on film. All the guys around me were doing their part."

Defensively, the Mavericks held St. Cloud State to 345 yards and 18 points, well below the Huskies' season averages of 527 yards and 41 points. The Huskies had just three points through three quarters but scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns in a hard rain.

"Mentally, we were ready, and physically, we were ready," Flannigan said. "We knew we had the advantage in the defensive line, we had a nice game plan, but we didn't execute it for four quarters. When you're playing against a good team, you can't get up and think they're going to lay down."

Blocked punts

Jimmie Gunn blocked a punt late in the second quarter,



Pat Christman

MSU's Kyle Krivoruchka catches a pass behind St. Cloud State's Philip Hedorf during the first quarter Saturday.

though it didn't lead to any points. It's the fourth blocked punt of the season for the Mavericks, who had three last week against Concordia-St. Paul, two by safety Kevin Adams.

"It's more effort than scheme," Jamrog said. "We spend a lot of time on punt return in practice. It's great to go after blocks and get them."

Credit for Kriv

With a 30-yard reception on the first play of the game, senior receiver Kyle Krivoruchka became the 17th player in Minnesota State history to reach 1,000 yards in receiving.

In his career, Krivoruchka has 74 receptions for 1,002 yards. This season, Krivoruchka has made six catches for 102 yards.

Treasure struggling

This was supposed to be the season when senior running back Sean Treasure competed for rushing titles and was mentioned with the best in Division

II. But a foot injury during fall practice has slowed Treasure down, and after a quick start Saturday, he again failed to reach 100 yards.

"It's kind of frustrating," he said. "We need to come together as an offense. When that happens, we'll have fireworks again."

Last season, Treasure rushed for 1,201 yards with six games of 100 or more yards. This season, he's rushed for just 272 in four games, averaging only 3.9 yards per carry. Against St. Cloud State, he rushed nine times for 35 yards and two short touchdowns. He had 23 yards in the first quarter.

Next week

The Mavericks play at Blakeslee Stadium again on Saturday, hosting Minnesota-Duluth at 1 p.m. for the annual homecoming game.

"We're going to find out what kind of coaches and what kind of players we have," Jamrog said.