



Sports



College football preview

North Dakota at Minnesota State

1 p.m. today, Blakeslee Stadium, KTOE 14:20-AM

The matchup

The Mavericks (2-6) ended a five-game losing streak with Saturday's 38-0 victory at Upper Iowa and are looking for their first North Central Conference victory against North Dakota (8-0, 3-0 in NCC). North Dakota is ranked No. 2 in Division II and No. 1 in the Northwest Region. North Dakota leads the all-time series 21-7-1, with 13 victories in the last 14 games. At Blakeslee Stadium, the Mavericks are 4-10-1 against North Dakota, with six straight losses. This is the final home game for the Mavericks, with road games against Augustana and Nebraska-Omaha to finish the season.

Finding hidden Treasure

Senior running back Sean Treasure finally had a breakout game Saturday against Upper Iowa, rushing 31 times for 167 yards and two touchdowns. Treasure, who rushed for 100 or more yards in six games last season, posted his fourth 100-yard game this season.

Treasure moved into ninth place in program history with 1,750 yards. Treasure has rushed for 10 touchdowns and has a chance at the school record of 15 set by T.J. Schraufnagel in 1999.

Smith's three-week spree

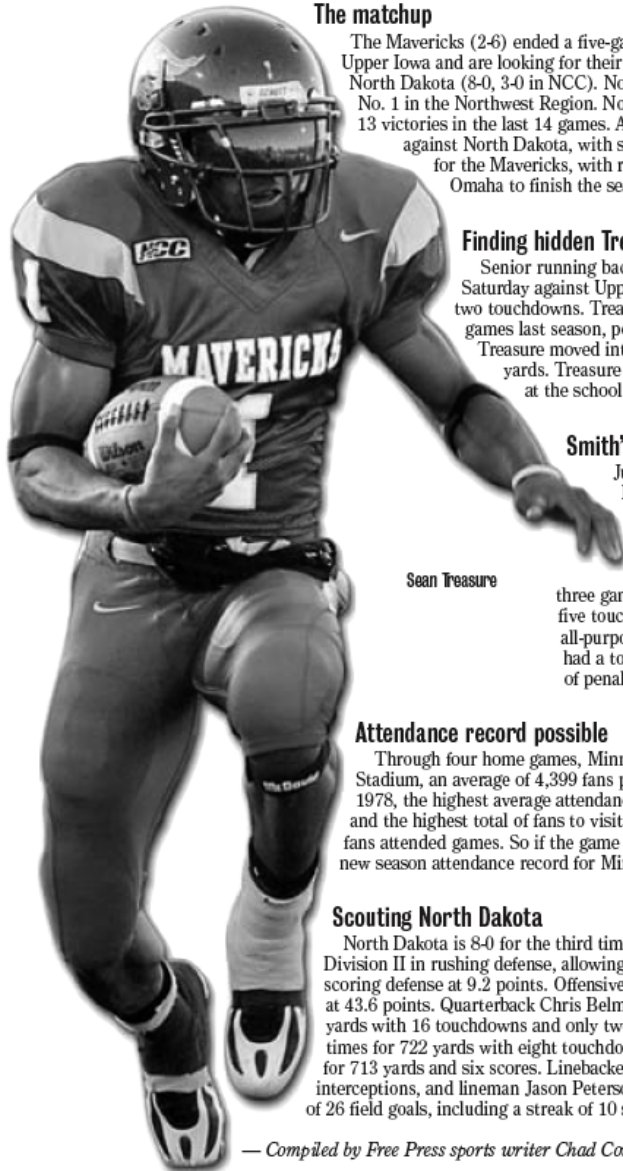
Junior receiver Tyrell Smith has led the Mavericks in catches in every game, totaling 52 for the season with three games of 100 yards or more. At his current rate of 6.5 catches per game, he will threaten the school record of 64 held by Chad Ellman (1996). Over the last three games, Smith has 25 receptions for 357 yards and five touchdowns. Against Upper Iowa, Smith had 203 all-purpose yards (rushing, receiving and returning) and had a touchdown on a punt return called back because of penalty.

Attendance record possible

Through four home games, Minnesota State has drawn 17,595 fans to Blakeslee Stadium, an average of 4,399 fans per game. With records dating back only to 1978, the highest average attendance came in 1994 with 4,523 patrons per game, and the highest total of fans to visit Blakeslee Stadium came in 1993 when 20,950 fans attended games. So if the game brings in at least 2,356 fans today, that will be a new season attendance record for Minnesota State.

Scouting North Dakota

North Dakota is 8-0 for the third time in program history. North Dakota leads Division II in rushing defense, allowing just 42.2 yards per game, and ranks third in scoring defense at 9.2 points. Offensively, North Dakota ranks fifth in scoring offense at 43.6 points. Quarterback Chris Belmore has completed 110 of 163 passes for 1,477 yards with 16 touchdowns and only two interceptions. Chris Beatty has rushed 151 times for 722 yards with eight touchdowns. Receiver Dan Grossman has 44 receptions for 713 yards and six scores. Linebacker Digger Anderson has 51 tackles and four interceptions, and lineman Jason Peterson has 6.5 sacks. Kicker Jeff Glas has made 22 of 26 field goals, including a streak of 10 straight.



Sean Treasure

—Compiled by Free Press sports writer Chad Courier

Photo by Pat Christmar
Illustration by J. Walmenger