



# Sports



## Minnesota-Duluth at Minnesota State

1 p.m. today, Blakeslee Stadium, KTOE 1420-AM

### The matchup

It's homecoming week at Minnesota State and the Mavericks (1-4, 0-1 in NCC) have a 42-29-2 record in this annual game. However, the Mavericks have lost the last three homecoming games, though they did spoil Minnesota-Duluth's homecoming last season with a 34-13 victory. Minnesota-Duluth (4-1) plays its North Central Conference opener today, having already played its five nonconference games with wins against Chadron State, Concordia-St. Paul, Minnesota State-Moorhead and Upper Iowa and a loss to Division I-AA Northern Iowa. Minnesota-Duluth holds a 16-12-1 in this series, and the teams have split 10 games played at Blakeslee Stadium.

### Attendance is up

The homecoming crowd is generally one of the largest each season, and Minnesota State is already ahead of last season's attendance average of 2,867. Through three games, the Mavericks have averaged 4,241 fans, with a high of 5,162 for the season-opener against Northwest Missouri State. Last week against St. Cloud State, 4,102 fans attended despite poor weather.

### Porter pops up everywhere

Expect to see senior D.J. Porter all over the field today. The 5-foot-9, 177-pound transfer from Rhode Island has already played at receiver and quarterback, running the ball as much as throwing it. He ranks third on the team with nine receptions for 88 yards and a touchdown, and he's fifth in rushing with eight carries for 53 yards. At quarterback, he's completed 3 of 5 passes for 56 yards.

### Notes and stuff

Running back Sean Treasure needs 69 yards to crack the top 10 in school history for rushing yards. Treasure, who has 272

yards this season, currently stands at 1,473 for his career. ... Perhaps after his first punt, senior Jamie VanDenElzen will move into second place in career punting yards.

VanDenElzen, who is averaging 38.0 yards this season, has punted for 7,964 yards in four seasons, ranking behind John

Scherwinski (1989-92) at 8,649 yards and Ryan Dutton (1997-00) at 7,988 yards. VanDenElzen's 213 punt attempts is second behind Scherwinski's 228.

... After today, the Mavericks have just one more home game. Minnesota State plays at South Dakota and Upper Iowa before returning to Blakeslee Stadium on Oct. 22 against North Dakota. The Mavericks finish the season with road games at Augustana and Nebraska-Omaha.

### Scouting the Bulldogs

The Bulldogs have just 10 seniors on the roster. Freshman quarterback Ted Schlafke has completed 114 of 177 passes (64.4 percent) for 1,188 yards with touchdowns and only three interceptions. Sophomore Joe Russell is the leading rusher with 202 yards on 49 carries with three scores. Sophomore Vinny Flury has an NCC-best 31 receptions for 348 yards and one touchdown. Freshman Greg Aker has four touchdown receptions. Sophomore linebacker Jon Ruffedt leads Minnesota-Duluth with 35 tackles, including five for loss, while sophomore Cody Ahmann has five sacks and seven tackles for loss. Marcus Davis is averaging 23.0 yards per punt return.

— Compiled by Free Press staff writer Chad Courrier; Photo by Pat Christman; Illustration by J. Malmanger

