



# Sports

## Mavericks finding ways to get Albery going

### Minnesota State making most of senior running backs' abilities

By Chad Courrier  
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**MANKATO** — An off week could have been restful and relaxing for Minnesota State senior running back Bryan Albery, but it wasn't. The 5-foot-8, 165-pound Albery spent most of the break in the training room, putting ice on nearly every body part.

"I'm always beat up," he said.

Albery will be a key player for the Mavericks offense in today's homecoming football game against Nebraska-Omaha. The kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Blakelsee Stadium.

Despite his size, Albery has played a big role in the Minnesota State attack, with nearly half of the team's rushing attempts and almost a third of the receptions.

"We have to get the ball in his

hands as much as possible," offensive coordinator Dan Ragsdale said. "You can't pound him into the line 20 times. You have to be smart about how you do it."

Albery came to Minnesota State in July of 2005 after spending seasons at Valley Community College, Pierce Community College and Texas A&M-Commerce. It was at Pierce that Albery met Ken Gordon, the Mavericks' defensive coordinator who persuaded

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Senior running back Bryan Albery has more than 40 percent of Minnesota State's total offense through four games.

Pat Christian

## ALBERTY: Senior has carried ball 35 times, made 28 receptions

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Albery to transfer here.

Because of eligibility issues, he could not play last season, instead watching as his teammates suffered through a 2-9 season.

"I wanted to be out there with my friends," Albery said. "I think I could have helped them win."

This season, Albery has rushed 35 times for 170 yards and made 28 receptions for 273 yards and two touchdowns. He was slated to be a receiver this fall, but during spring practice, he was moved to running back, where he could more easily get 15 to 20 touches per game.

"He hasn't broken the big play yet," Ragsdale said. "But he's had a lot of 15-yarders.

We've handed off to him, we've thrown short and deep. We have to continue to be innovative in how we get him the ball."

Nebraska-Omaha presents the toughest defensive matchup to date, and the Mavericks are in a position where they would need to win the rest of their games to challenge for the NCC championship. Albery hasn't played on a winning team since his high school days at Riviera Beach, Fla.

"We're hungry for wins," he said. "Everybody's excited, we had a great practice (Sunday). This team is capable of winning if everybody does their job. We need all parts of the game to play well because the heart's there. I've seen it."