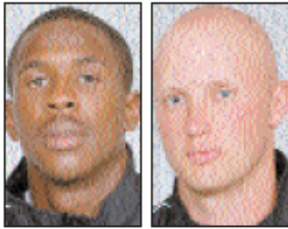




# Sports



Minnesota State's Tyrell Smith (left) scored the first Maverick touchdown Saturday against NW Missouri State. Quarterback Ben King threw for 267 yards and one touchdown but was sacked four times.

## Mavs falter in fourth quarter

Free Press staff

**MARYVILLE, MO.** — Last season, the Minnesota State football team played most of its opponents even through three quarters, only to get outscored 99-86 in the fourth quarter.

On Saturday, Northwest Missouri State scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to pull away for a 31-14 nonconference victory over Minnesota State.

"We had a chance to do it," coach Jeff Jamrog said. "We didn't come up with the plays when we needed to."

Northwest Missouri State, ranked No. 2 in Division II, led 17-14 at halftime, but the Mavericks were driving late in the third quarter with a first down at the Bearcats' 26. However, three incomplete

## MAVS: Freese racks up 12 tackles

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passes and a sack gave the ball back to Northwest Missouri State, which scored on consecutive possession to widen the margin.

"The sack was huge because then we couldn't kick the field goal," Jamrog said.

Xavier Omon rushed 28 times for 112 yards, with a 5-yard touchdown run and a 3-yard scoring reception from Josh Mathews that made it 14-0.

Minnesota State's first touchdown came on a 20-yard pass from flanker Joshua

Bryant, also the Mavericks' backup quarterback, to Tyrell Smith early in the first quarter. Minnesota State tied the game with a 12-yard pass from Ben King to Nick Haley and Jason Tompkins' second PAT.

A field goal with four minutes remaining until halftime put Northwest Missouri State up 17-14.

In the fourth quarter, Mathews threw two touchdown passes, a 34-yarder to end a drive that was kept alive by a roughing-the-kicker penalty and a 63-yarder, in the final nine minutes. Mathews finished 17 of 25 passing for

281 yards.

King was 27 of 48 for 267 yards but was sacked four times. Bryan Dalton had nine receptions for 105 yards, and Bryan Alberty had nine catches for 76 yards. Minnesota State rushed only 12 times for 5 yards.

Blake Freese led the defense with 12 tackles and now has 24 tackles through two games. Chris Brunkhorst and Telema Bobmanuel each made a sack.

The Mavericks (1-1) return to Blakeslee Stadium for a nonconference game at 6:30 p.m. Saturday against Wisconsin-Oshkosh.