



Sports

MSU falls to Augustana 21-16

The Free Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Some costly turnovers and an inability to convert on third down spelled doom for the Minnesota State University football team Saturday as Augustana knocked off the Mavericks 21-16 in the North Central Conference season-opener for both teams.

Augustana's first touchdown came off a fumble by Ryan Alberty that was recovered at the MSU 45-yard line by Nick Bentele. Five plays later, quarterback Tommy Flyger passed 10 yards to Ryan Rothenberger for a score with 8:53 to play in the first quarter.

MSU's answer in the first half was a 22-yard field goal by Jonathan Christensen and a 5-yard scoring pass from King to Dan Smedberg for a 10-7 lead.

"We had our chances to win, they just made more plays than we did," MSU coach Jeff Jamrog said afterward. "We had a that 10-7 lead with a few



Minnesota State's Ryan Alberty (left) accounted 162 yards in offense Saturday in the Mavericks' 21-16 loss to Augustana. Linebacker Tony Hunter finished with 10 tackles.

minutes to go in the first half and decided to go for it on 4th-and-9 from the 25. But we dropped pass and then Augustana came down and scored a touchdown. Instead of us being up 17-7 we were down 14-10."

Augustana's score came with 1:44 left in the half when Flyger hit Tommy Ellingworth with a 41-yard strike. Augustana upped the lead to 21-10 in the third as Rothenberger hauled in a 22-yard TD pass

from Flyger. MSU capped the scoring in the fourth with King's 23-yard scoring pass to Tony Chappell.

"We just had too many dropped passes and we didn't get any turnovers and we didn't run the ball as well as we would have liked," Jamrog said. "They scored two touchdowns after we gave them a short field to work with."

MSU outgained Augustana 315-249 in total offense but converted just 3 of 16 third-down attempts. MSU also gave up four sacks for 31 yards.

Flyger finished with 179 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Vikings. King finished the game 29 of 54 for 276 yards and two touchdowns for MSU.

Alberty ran the ball 13 times for 56 yards and caught 12 passes for 106 yards. Linebacker Tony Hunter led the defense with 10 tackles.

MSU (2-2, 1-0 in NCC) has its first bye week since 2002 next weekend.