

The Free Press



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Sports

COLLEGE SOFTBALL, PAGE D3

Gustavus splits twinbill
with St. Thomas



The Notebook

MSU spring football game Saturday at Blakeslee

Free Press staff

MANKATO — The Minnesota State University football program will conclude its 2006 spring practice period with a spring game at 2 p.m. Saturday in Blakeslee Stadium. The event is free and open to the public.

Following the completion of the game, fans are encouraged to go to Boomtown for a Spring Ball Bash which includes a pizza buffet and beverage. The cost for the bash is \$10 and all proceeds will go to the MSU Touchdown Club.

MoonDogs sign two

Freshman infielder Nate Hanson from the University of Minnesota and outfielder

Bobby Verbick from Sam Houston State have signed to play for the Mankato MoonDogs in the summer collegiate Northwoods League this summer.

Hanson, an Eden Prairie native, played in 13 games at the start of the year and was hitting .354 with four doubles and eight RBIs before an injury sidelined him the past few weeks. He is expected to return to the Gophers before the end of the season.

Verbick is returning for his second stint with the MoonDogs. He was injured for Mankato last summer and the injury has kept him out of the lineup for Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas, this spring. He is expected to be

ready for start of the MoonDogs season.

In 22 games for Mankato last year, Verbick hit .278, scored 16 runs, stole two bases and did not commit an error. The MoonDogs home opener is set for June 2, 2006, against the Waterloo Bucks at Franklin Rogers Park.

Olson to Upper Iowa

Maple River standout football player, wrestler and baseball player Bobby Olson has decided to attend Upper Iowa University in the fall where he will continue his baseball career.

Olson signed his financial aid agreements this week. The Amboy native is a 5-foot-11, 195-pound catcher and right-

handed pitcher with a career batting average of .436. He has hit five homers and knocked in 85 runs for Maple River.

Olson is a two-time All-Valley Conference and all-section catcher.

He is also a two-time all-conference football quarterback and an honorable mention all-conference wrestler at 189 pounds.

Two Mavericks honored

Nate Taran of Minnesota Duluth and Ryan Greene and Dane Secott of Minnesota State have been recognized by the North Central Conference for their performances last week.

Greene has been named the NCC's Co-Baseball Player of

the Week along with Nate Taran of Minnesota Duluth.

Greene, a senior third baseman, hit .579 (11 for 19) in a doubleheader against Wayne State and four NCC games against St. Cloud State.

He hit five home runs and two doubles while delivering 13 RBIs. He also scored six runs.

Secott has been named the NCC's Co-Pitcher of the Week along with Nebraska-Omaha's Tyler Cloyd.

Secott, a junior, threw nine scoreless innings last week, striking out 12, giving up three hits and issuing four walks. He threw three innings of relief against Wayne State before starting and throwing six innings against St. Cloud State.

MSU inks Morris

Senior Abby Morris of Johnston High School in Iowa, has signed a national letter of intent to attend Minnesota State in the fall where she will continue her softball career. Morris plays second base and joins shortstop/first baseman Libbie Reichling, pitcher Samantha Rohr and third baseman/shortstop Natalie Spicer as one of four members of the Mavericks' 2006-07 recruiting class.

Morris stole 51 bases last season and has hit more than .300 in each of the last three years. She is a two-time all-conference player and was all-state honorable mention as a freshman.