The Free Press, A8, Saturday, March 27, 2021

To break through, MSU must lean on 'ground game'

Mavericks still searching for first NCAA Tournament victory

By Kevin Dudley

kdudley@mankatofreepress.com

LOVELAND, COLO. — Over the last few months, the Minnesota State men's hockey team hasn't always started games the way it wanted.

For the most part, poor play in the opening minutes hasn't cost MSU, as the Mavericks have consistently dominated opponents in the

second and third periods. However, it cost them last week, as the Mavericks got down early against Northern Michigan in the WCHA semifinals and couldn't recover.

Dallas Gerads and his teammates know they need to be better early in games if they hope to make a run in the NCAA Tournament. Gerads feels MSU will be at its best if it starts doing the things it does in the second and third periods, immedi-

"Setting up our ground work right away, I think that really translates into games. If we start off and we're getting pucks behind the D, keeping it simple and hard, that gives us more confidence going in." Gerads said. "I think over the past month, our starts have kind of been too cute. We're trying to make too many plays right away, and it's kind of come back to bite us in the butt."

When Gerads mentions "ground work," he's talking about the identity of this MSU team. Along with "heavy," the "ground game" is a term that continues to come up when discussing MSU's forward play. These terms sound cliche, but as one of MSU's "heavy" guys, Gerads has no problem explaining.

'The ground work is using what our best attributes are. I feel that our team is really good down below the

Please see HOCKEY, Page A9



Pat Christman

Minnesota State's Dallas Gerads feels keeping it simple and starting quickly will be key in the NCAA Tournament.

BRIEFS

Gustavus baseball splits with St. Mary's

WINONA — The Gustavus Adolphus baseball team split is MIAC opener on Friday, winning the first game 10-3 before losing 9-5 in the second game.

In the opener, Bryce Novak had four of the Gusties' 13 hits with a run scored and RBI. Ethan Mocchi had three hits, and Nick Azar picked up two RBIs.

Christian Johnson pitched 6 1/3 innings, allowing eight hits with four strikeouts.

St. Mary's scored three runs in the sixth inning and four in the seventh inning of the nine-inning Game 2. Jack Hanson had three hits, including two home runs, and three RBIs. Novak had two hits, including a double, and scored a run.

Gustavus (4-1, 1-1 in MIAC) hosts Bethany Lutheran in a nonconference doubleheader Sunday.

Waseca rolls into state tournament

GLENCOE — Matt Seberson scored a game-high 21 points to lead Waseca to a 95-44 victory over Glencoe-Silver Lake to win the Section 2AA boys basketball championship Friday.

Andrew Morgan added 16 points, 14 rebounds, five assists and four blocked shots. and Ryan Dufault had 16 points and 14 assists. Zach Hoehn scored 15 points, and Kyreese Willingham had 14 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots.

Waseca had a 45-18 advantage in rebounding.

Waseca (20-1) will play in the Class AA tournament, which begins next week. Pairings, times and sites will be determined Saturday.

Andree not enough for St. Clair

ARLINGTON — Connor Andree scored 30 points for St. Clair, but Sleepy Eye St. Mary's won 80-67 in the championship game of the Section 2A boys basketball tournament Friday.

Andree, who scored 32 points in the Cyclones' double-overtime victory against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in the South Subsection championship game Wednesday, made 4 of 9 from 3-point range and grabbed five rebounds.

Thomas Loeffler added nine points, and Derrick Zeldenrust scored eight

St. Clair ends the season at 14-4. St. Mary's plays in the Class A tournament next week, with the pairings announced Saturday.

The Free Press

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CHAMPS

Scarlets win section title for first state trip since 2009



Mankato West's Buom Jock and Louis Magers hug teammate Mason Ellwein as they celebrate the Section 2AAA championship victory over Marshall on Friday at the West gym.

Magers provides early spark with inside offense

By Chad Courrier

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MANKATO — Two weeks ago, it looked like Louis Magers might not be playing basketball any more this

But on Friday, he was jumping around on the court, celebrating with teammates, after the Scarlets

"I'm really happy for these seniors," he said. "They've been on some teams that haven't been very successful, and to help them win this is an honor. There's no group of guys I'd rather be out there

West (15-4), the top seed in the section, earned its first trip to the state tournament since 2009, defeating Marshall 52-47 in the Section 2AAA championship game at the West gym. Magers, a junior, had a big first half, taking advantage of a single-team in the lane with a soft jump hook.

"I knew coming into the season that we needed (a center) so that's what I worked on," Magers said.

"That's my role." Magers suffered a foot injury a couple of weeks ago, hyperextending his toe, with the ligament tearing away a chunk of the bone. He didn't play for a couple of weeks, while West lost three games, and was fitted with an orthotic that took some of the pressure off the toe. He said he could play without doing further damage, provided he could stand the pain.

"It feels good right now," Magers said, a smile sneaking out from the corner of his mask. "It was tough to watch from the bench, especially when we lost three games. That wasn't fun."

The Scarlets hit their first three 3-pointers to jump ahead 11-6, but Marshall responded with an 8-2 run to take the lead.

Buom Jock hit another 3-pointer, then Magers scored 11 of the final 13 points as West led 31-23 at



Marshall's Jack Bly looks for a way around Mankato West's Louis Magers during the second half Friday at the West gym.



A photo gallery accompanies this story at mankatofreepress. com.

halftime.

"Louis is a guy we like to use to take some of the (defensive) load off of Mekhi (Collins) and

Buom (Jock)," West coach Jeremy Drexler said. "He worked hard on his shot in the summer, and he was huge for us tonight. He and Brady (Haugum), they're our glue guys. They do the intangibles for us on the floor."

Marshall was able to close within

Please see WEST, Page A9

Prep sports

Rosenfeld takes 3rd at state

The Free Press

ST. MICHAEL — Mankato West's Gannon Rosenfeld pinned two more opponents and finished third in the 195-pound weight class at the Class AA wrestling tournament Friday.

Rosenfeld (195) pinned his opening opponent in 1:13, his sixth straight pin in the postseason, but he lost 5-0 to undefeated Quayin Short of Simley in the semifinals. He came back with a fall in 2:56 in the third-place match against Mason Iverson of Thief River Falls.

West's Damian Riewe (152) lost his opening match 11-9, then came back with a fall in 5:45 in the consolation bracket. He pinned Joe Kozlowski of Lake City in 1:58 in the fifth-place match.

Waseca's Mason Gehloff (120) won his quarterfinal match 24-9, but lost in the semifinals. He finished fourth for the second straight season when he lost 10-8 in the third-place match against Ty Bisek of New London-Spicer.

Tri-City United's Chris Johnson (113) lost his opening match but bounced back with a pin in the consolation bracket. He lost 7-1 in the fifth-place match against Cash Sixberry of Big Lake.

Riley O'Malley (220) lost his opening match but won by fall in 2:00 in the first consolation match. He pinned Havden Hoernemann of Dassel-Cokato/ Litchfield in 3:49 in the fifth-place match.

Brody Rud (182) lost his first two matches and was eliminated.

New Ulm Area's Parker Kamm (106) won his opening match with a fall at 41 seconds, then lost a major decision in the semifinals. In the third-place match against Simley's Brandon

Morvari, he lost 11-5. Cole Ranweiler (182) lost his opening match but came back with a 3-0 decision in the consolation bracket. He faced Brian Ramos of Perham in the first-place match and won 7-4.

Jaden Drill (285) lost his first two matches and was done

Gymnastics

Mankato West scored 143.70 and finished third at the Class A meet Friday at Champlin Park High School.

Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran won the team title with 146.350.

Jenna Sikel finished 10th in the all-around with a score of 36.35. She placed

Please see PREP, Page A9

MSU baseball series relocated with time changes

The Free Press

MANKATO — Minnesota State has announced a change in the schedule for this weekend's Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference baseball series with

Game 1 of the series, which will be nine innings, will take place at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at ISG Field. A seven- and nine-inning doubleheader will begin

MSU Notebook

at noon Sunday at Bowyer Field.

The games are not open to the general public. Up to 250 family members of Mary and Minnesota State student-athletes and coaches will be admitted into the events.

Minnesota State is 8-1, including 5-0 in the Northern Sun, with a seven-game winning streak.

Softball

Minnesota State's doubleheader at Concordia-St. Paul on Tuesday has been postponed due to CO-

scheduling guidelines, the doubleheader between the Mavericks and Golden Bears will be rescheduled to

a later date. Women's track

Minnesota State was Sun championship in a

The Mavericks received ahead of Augustana and a first place vote. Winona State was picked fourth,

while Northern State rounded out the top five.

The Mayericks finished second at the national indoor championships earlier this month. The Mavericks last won the Northern Sun outdoor championships in

Men's track

The eight-time defending Northern Sun champions

picked to win the conference championship again, it was announced this week in a poll of the league's coaches.

The Mavericks received nine first-place votes. Augustana was second, followed by Northern State, Mary and Minnesota State

The Mavericks won their indoor title in February.

SCORE<u>CARD</u>

TV Today

AUTO RACING

national Circuit, Sakhir, Bahrain

ternational Circuit, Sakhir, Bahrain 5:30 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR Camping World Truck Series:

5 p.m.

1 p.m. SECN — Mississippi at Alabama

5 p.m.
PAC-12N — Oregon at Arizona
6 p.m.
ACCN — Georgia Tech at Duke

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
11 a.m.
CBS — NCAA Division II Tournament: NW Mis-

souri St. vs. W. Texas A&M, Championship, Evans-ESPN — NIT Tournament: Memphis vs. Colorado St., Semifinal, Frisco, Texas 1:30 p.m

of Chicago, Sweet 16, Indianapolis 2 p.m.

Louisiana Tech, Semifinal, Frisco, Texas 4:15 p.m. CBS — NCAA Tournament: Villanova vs. Baylor,

TBS — NCAA Tournament: Oral Roberts vs. Arkansas, Sweet 16, Indianapolis

8:45 p.m. ton, Sweet 16, Indianapolis

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) Noon

2 p.m.

Sweet 16, San Antonio

State, Sweet 16, San Antonio 7 p.m. ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: Arizona vs. Texas A&M, Sweet 16, San Antonio

COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S) Noon ESPNEWS — NCAA Tournament: Boston U. vs.

9 p.m.

ESPNU — NCAA Tournament: Omaha vs. Minnesota, First Round, Loveland, Colo.

COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S)
4 p.m.

ACCN — Virginia Tech at Syracuse

FS1 - Providence at Georgetown

BTN — Indiana at Michigan 3 p.m. BTN — Maryland at Northwestern

11 a.m ACCN — Duke at Clemsor – Auburn vs. Missour

ESPN — LSU at Florida

ESPNU — Purdue at Ohio St. BTN — Wisconsin at Penn St.

FIGURE SKATING

2:30 p.m NBCSN — ISU: World Championships, Stock holm, Sweden (taped)

Sweden (taped) GOLF

GOLF - PGA Tour: The WGC-Dell Technologies. Match Play

GOLF — PGA Tour: The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, Third Round, Corales Golf Club, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

HORSE RACING

dan Grandstand, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

1:30 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

3:30 p.m

Park, Hallandale Beach, Fla MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Vegas 7 p.m. ESPN — UFC 260 Prelims: Undercard Bouts,

Las Vegas

MLB BASEBALL – Tampa at Minnesota

3 p.m Colorado, Scottsdale, Ariz. 8:30 p.m.

MLBN — Spring Training: San Francisco vs. Se-

7 p.m. FSN — Houston at Minnesota 9 p.m. NBATV — Philadelphia at LA Clippers NHL HOCKEY 2 p.m.

6 p.m. — Edmonton at Toronto

VID-19 testing protocols at Concordia-St. Paul. Per Northern Sun

picked to win the Northern preseason poll of the league coaches.

13 first-place votes, ranking Mary, which each received

from Minnesota State were

Towns leads Wolves' rally

Moorhead. 10th straight Northern Sun

Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts

6:55 a.m.
ESPN2 — Formula One: Practice, Bahrain Inter-9:55 a.m. ESPN2 — Formula One: Qualifying, Bahrain In-

Qualifying, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol,

5 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Bristol
Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn.
7 p.m.
FS1 — NASCAR Camping World Truck Series:

The Pinty's Truck Race on Dirt, Bristol Motor Speed-way Dirt, Bristol, Tenn. COLLEGE BASEBALL

SECN — Kentucky at Auburn

8 p.m.

PAC-12N — UCLA at Southern Cal

CBS — NCAA Tournament: Oregon St. vs. Loyola ESPN — NIT Tournament: Mississippi St. vs.

Sweet 16, Indianapolis

TBS — NCAA Tournament: Syracuse vs. Hous-

ABC — NCAA Tournament: Iowa vs. UConn, Sweet 16, San Antonio

ABC — NCAA Tournament: Michigan vs. Baylor,

5 p.m. ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: Indiana vs. NC

St. Cloud St., First Round, Albany, N.Y.

COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN'S)

ESPNU - Virginia at Notre Dame

COLLEGE SOCCER (MEN'S)

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

ACCN — Syracuse at Pittsburgh 4 p.m.

SECN — Georgia at Mississippi COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)

8 p.m. BTN — Indiana at Illinois

ISU: World Championships, Stock holm, Sweden

NBC — ISU: World Championships, Stockholm,

Round of 16, Austin Country Club,

NBC — PGA Tour: The WGC-Dell Technologies. Match Play — Quarterfinals, Austin Country Club,

5 p.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Kia Classic, Third Round, Aviara Golf Club, Carlsbad, Calif.

7 a.m.
FS1 — The Dubai World Cup: Undercard, Mey-

11 a.m. FS1 — The Dubai World Cup: From Meydan Grandstand, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2 p.m.
FS1 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races NBCSN — The Florida Derby: From Gulfstream

6:30 p.m. ESPN — UFC 260 Prelims: Early Prelims, Las

MLBN — Spring Training: Toronto vs. NY Yan-MLBN — Spring Training: Chicago White Sox vs.

attle, Peoria, Ariz.

NBA BASKETBALL

NHLN - Vegas at Colorado

9 p.m. NHLN — Winnipeg at Calgary NWHL HOCKEY

RODEO CBSSN — PBR: The Lucas Oil Invitational, Louisville, Ky. (taped)

NBCSN — Isobel Cup: TBD, Final, Brighton

RUGBY

FS2 - NRL: Sharks at Eels 9 a.m. — Premiership: Harlequins at Bristol

8 p.m. - MLR: Toronto at Utah SOCCER (MEN'S) 11:50 a.m. ESPN2 — FIFA World Cup Qualifying: Norway vs

Turkey, Group G, Malaga, Spain

ESPN2 — FIFA World Cup Qualifying: Belgium at SOCCER (WOMEN'S) 12:30 p.m.

NBCSN — FASL: Reading at Manchester City

TENNIS 10 a.m. — Miami Open: ATP 2nd Round, WTA

Week in sports

SATURDAY Minnesota State men's hockey vs. Quinnipiac, NCAA tournament, 4 p.m., Loveland, Colo. Minnesota State football vs. Gustavus Adolphus, scrimmage, noon, Blakeslee practice fields Minnesota State baseball vs. Mary, 5:30 p.m.,

Gustavus Adolphus baseball at St. Mary's, doubleheader, 1 p.m. Gustavus Adolphus men's tennis vs. St. John's 1:30 p.m., Swanson Tennis Center Gustavus Adolphus women's tennis vs. Wart-

burg, 6 p.m., Swanson Tennis Center
Bethany Lutheran softball vs. Wisconsin-Stout 1 p.m., Bethany field Minnesota State men's hockey at NCAA tourna-ment, if necessary, TBA, Loveland, Colo.

9:30 a.m. Minnesota State baseball vs. Marv. doubleheader, noon, Bowyer Field
Gustavus Adolphus vs. Bethany Lutheran, doubleheader, 1 p.m., Gustavus field

Minnesota State women's tennis at Winona State

MI R

Pct. .667 .652 .591 .571 .565 .545 .500 .476 .435 .417 .375 .360 .316

.500

.500 .500 .500

.500 .458 .455

.381 .292

Golden State

	MILD						
AMERICAN LEAGUE							
	W	L					
Kansas City	14	7					
Toronto	15	8					
Oakland	13	9					
Texas	12	9					
Boston	13	10					
New York	13	10					
Los Angeles	12	10					
Detroit	11	11					
Seattle	10	10					
Chicago	10	11					
Minnesota	10	13					
Baltimore	10	14					
Tampa Bay	9	15					
Cleveland	9	16					
Houston	6	13					
NATIONAL LEAGU	E						
	W	L					
Miami	12	5					
Chicago	13	8					
Los Angeles	11	8					
Atlanta	13	11					
Milwaukee	12	11					
Colorado	12	12					
Pittsburgh	12	12					
New York	10	10					
San Francisco	10	10					
Washington	9	9					
St. Louis	8	8					
Philadelphia	11	13					
San Diego	10	12					

12 13 17 Friday's Games Detroit 5, Pittsburgh 2 Tampa Bay 7, Boston 3 Cleveland 5, Colorado 4 San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 5 Chicago White Sox 7, Milwaukee 5 Cincinnati 7, Arizona 3 Atlanta 7, Minnesota 6 Miami 9, Houston 0 Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 3 Baltimore 4, N.Y. Yankees Toronto 6, Philadelphia 5

Kansas City vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz. Oakland vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz. Seattle vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz. Saturday's Games 12:05 p.m. vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla. Boston vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 12:05 p.m. Philadelphia

12:05 p.m.

San Jose

Winnipeg

Cleveland vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 2:10 p.m.

Houston vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Milwaukee vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz. Texas vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.

Baltimore vs. Atlanta at North Port, Fla., 5:05 p.m. Miami vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 5:05 p.m Chicago Cubs vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 8:05 p.m. San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.,

NHL East Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ
Washington	33	22	7	4	48	114	95
N.Y. Islanders	34	22	8	4	48	102	76
Pittsburgh	34	21	11	2	44	109	90
Boston	29	16	8	5	37	80	70
N.Y. Rangers	32	15	13	4	34	102	85
Philadelphia	32	15	13	4	34	100	119
New Jersey	32	12	16	4	28	78	101
Buffalo	32	6	22	4	16	66	115
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ
Tampa Bay	33	24	7	2	50	120	78
Carolina	32	22	7	3	47	108	81
Florida	33	20	9	4	44	107	94
Chicago	34	16	13	5	37	101	108
Columbus	34	13	13	8	34	89	110
Nashville	34	16	17	1	33	86	104
Dallas	30	11	11	8	30	85	80
Detroit	34	10	20	4	24	72	113
West Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ
Vegas	31	22	8	1	45	101	72
Colorado	32	21	8	3	45	111	72
Minnesota	32	21	10	1	43	94	78
St. Louis	34	16	13	5	37	98	110
Arizona	33	14	14	5	33	83	101
Los Angeles	32	13	13	6	32	91	90
C I	0.4	40	4.4		00	00	400

North Division

GP W L OT 33 21 10 2 33 20 11 2

14 19

30 26 89 78

Pts 44 42 GF 110 109 GA 85 92

42

9 37 100 3 35 100 3 33 89 4 28 94 100 87 100 120 89 102 94 135 Montreal Calgary

time loss. The top four teams in each division will qualify for playoffs under this season's temporar

Thursday's Games Pittsburgh 4. Buffalo 0 N.Y. Rangers 8, Philadelphia 3 N.Y. Islanders 4, Boston 3, OT Toronto 3, Ottawa 2, OT Chicago 3, Florida 0 Minnesota 2. St. Louis 0 Nashville 7. Detroit 1 Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3 Colorado 5, Vegas 1

Washington 4, New Jersey 0 Anaheim 4, St. Louis 1 Edmonton at Montreal, ppd San Jose at Arizona Winnipeg at Calgary Saturday's Games

Friday's Games

Buffalo at Boston, noon
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, noon Columbus at Detroit, 2 p.m. Vegas at Colorado, 2 p.m. Edmonton at Toronto, 6 p.m N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m Tampa Bay at Carolina, 6 p.m Nashville at Chicago, 7 p.m

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

		•••	_		G.D		
	Phila.	32	13	.711	_		
	Brooklyn	31	15	.674	11/2		
	New York	23	22	.511	9		
	Boston	22	23	.489	10		
	Toronto	18	27	.400	14		
Southeast Division							
		W	L	Pct	GB		
	Charlotte	22	21	.512	_		
	Atlanta	22	22	.500	1/2		
	Miami	22	23	.489	1		
	Washington	15	28	.349	7		
	Orlando	15	30	.333	8		
Central Division							
		W	L	Pct	GB		
	Milwaukee	29	15	.659	_		
	Indiana	20	23	.465	81/2		
	Chicago	19	24	.442	9½		
	Cleveland	17	27	.386	12		
	Detroit	12	32	.273	17		
		WESTERN					
			est Divisi				
		W	L	Pct	GB		
	Dallas	23	19	.548	_		
	San Antonio	22	20	.524	1		
	Memphis	21	20	.512	11/2		
	New Orleans	19	25	.432	5		
	Houston	12	32	.273	12		
			est Divisi				
		W	L	Pct	GB		
	Utah	32	11	.744	_		
	Denver	27		.600	6		
	Portland	27	18	.600	6		
	Oklahoma City		25	.432	13½		
	Minnesota	11	34	.244	22		
Pacific Division							
		W	L	Pct	GB		
		**		1 01	ab		

22 20 .489 .444 Thursday's Games Portland 125. Miami 122 New York 106, Washington 102 L.A. Clippers 98, San Antonio 85 Sacramento 141, Golden State 119

Phila. 109, L.A. Lakers 101 Friday's Game Phoenix 104. Toronto 100 Boston 122, Milwaukee 114 Denver 113, New Orleans 108 Minnesota 107, Houston 101 Portland 112, Orlando 105 ndiana at Dallas Memphis at Utah Atlanta at Golden State

Saturday's Games Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m. Houston at Minnesota, 7 p.m. New York at Milwaukee, 7 p.m. Chicago at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. Boston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Memphis at Utah, 8 p.m. Cleveland at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

Phila, at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.

Wolves box score

HOUSTON (101) 4-6 24, McLemore 7-15 0-0 21, Wall 6-25 1-2 14 Martin Jr. 1-3 0-0 2, Wilson 2-6 0-0 6, Augustin 4-5 3-3 13. Totals 37-87 10-13 101

MINNESOTA (107) McDaniels 5-5 2-2 14, Vanderbilt 2-5 1-2 5, Towns 9-26 7-8 29, Edwards 4-17 2-2 12, Rubio 0-7 2-2 2, Hernangomez 7-10 3-4 19, Reid 7-14 2-3 16, McLaughlin 1-5 0-0 2, Nowell 4-14 0-1 8. Totals 39-103 19-24 107. Houston 29 34 28 10 — 101 Houston

innesota 33 21 22 31 — 107 3-Point Goals—Houston 17-44 (McLemore 7-14 Brown 3-5, Augustin 2-3, Wilson 2-4, Wood 2-6, Wall 1-7, Martin Jr. 0-2, Tate 0-3), Minnesota 10-38 (Towns 4-9, McDaniels 2-2, Hernangomez 2-5, Edwards 2-7, McLaughlin 0-2, Reid 0-2, Vanderbilt 0-2, Rubio 0-3, Nowell 0-6). Fouled Out—Houstor 1 (Tate), Minnesota None. Rebounds—Houston 47 (Brown 11), Minnesota 50 (Towns 16). Assists-Houston 26 (Wall 15), Minnesota 30 (Rubio, Towns -Houston 20, Minnesota 13. A-0 8). Total (19,356)

College hockey UMass 5, Lake Superior St. Championship

Saturday, March 27 nidji St. vs. UMass, 3 p.m FARGO REGIONAL At Scheels Arena Friday, March 26 Minn. Duluth vs. Michigan, no contest North Dakota (21-5-1) vs. American Internationa (15-3-0)Championship Saturday, March 27 Minn. Duluth vs. North Dakota-AIC winner 5:30 p.m. ALBANY REGIONAL At Times Union Center Albany, N.Y. First Round

Saturday, March 27

Boston College vs. Notre Dame, no contest St. Cloud St. (17-10-0) vs. Boston U. (10-4-1),

5:30 p.m.

Championship Sunday, March 28

Boston College vs. St. Cloud St.-Boston U. winner

MINNEAPOLIS — Karl-Anthony Towns had 29 points and 16 rebounds, and Juancho Hernangomez had 19 points off the bench as the Minnesota Timberwolves came back to beat the Houston Rockets 107-

By Brian Hall

The Associated Press

Minnesota trailed by as many as 19 in the second half, but closed with a 22-0 run to stop a four-game losing streak a day after standing pat at the trade deadline.

Towns had 14 points during the final stretch as the Timberwolves won for the fourth time in 15 games under new coach Chris

Finch.

John Wall had 14 points and a season-high 15 assists for Houston. Christian Wood scored 24 and Ben McLemore added a seasonhigh 21 points on a seasonbest seven 3-pointers for

the rebuilding Rockets. The teams continue a back-to-back set in Minnesota on Saturday.

WEST: 'The reward for all the hard work'

but Mason Ellwein, who

Continued from Page A8

101 on Friday night.

four early in the second half, but Jock hit another 3-pointer and Magers scored on a putback. The Tigers (17-4) kept making runs, but each time, the Scarlets answered.

Collins had two inside buckets and Haugum scored from the lane to make it 48-40 with 4 minutes to play.

The lead shrunk to three

points in the final minute,

missed most of the second half with a hand injury, made a layup, and Haugum and Jock each hit a layup to clinch the victory. Collins ended up with 15

points and seven rebounds,

while Magers finished with

13 points and eight boards.

Jock scored 12 points, with three 3-pointers, to go with 10 rebounds. Bryce Lance paced Marshall with 20 points.

pairings will be announced Saturday morning. "This is why the kids put

in the work," Drexler said. "Four years ago, we had a talented team, but we knew we might struggle for a couple seasons. This is the reward for all the hard work." West (16-4) advances

to the Class AAA tourna-

ment, which begins next

week with quarterfinal

Follow Chad Courrier on Twitter @ChadCourrier.

games at neutral sites. The

PREP: Schreiber placed 12th in all-around

Continued from Page A8

third on uneven bars at 9.400 and 12th on balance beam at 9.00.

Teammate McKenna

Schreiber was 12th in the

all-around at 36.15, placing

12th on bars at 8.9 and 12th on floor exercise at 9.200.

cise at 9.300.

(9.35).New Ulm Area's Kayla

the all-around at 35.200.

Continued from Page A8 hash marks in the offensive zone ... getting bodies (to the net), finishing checks, getting pucks to the net and really working teams down low," Gerads said. "Taking what we can get instead of trying to make

something out of nothing." Added goalie Dryden McKay: "They're drawing penalties, they're wearing down the other team's defensemen, they're forcing the other team's top lines

Once the ground game is established, MSU uses its size and depth to wear teams down, which is part of the reason the Mavericks have been dominant in the second and third periods, outscoring opponents 62-26.

"Later in the game, I

think it really shows ... if we have everybody buying in ... we don't have to play them, they're playing us," Gerads said. "We're going to dictate the pace, we're going to dictate the physicality. ... It really plays into the second and third period.

Five things to know

in our heads and the other

West's Zoey Hermel placed ninth on floor exer-East's best finish was a 22nd-place performance

St. Peter's Trista Landsom took 11th on bars at 8.800.

HOCKEY: 'We're going to dictate the pace'

to play defense.'

This style has made MSU one of the best defensive teams in the country, as it's harder to score when you're worn down. It's also a reason the Mavericks lead the nation in shots on goal allowed per game at 19.08, with second-place American International being nearly three behind the Mavericks at 22.17.

"That's where the start is huge. To get that mentality

The second-seeded Mavericks (20-4-1) will play

third-seeded Quinnipiac (17-7-4) in the West Region semifinals of the NCAA Tournament at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Budweiser Events Center at Loveland, Colorado. The winner will advance to play the winner of top-seeded Minnesota and fourth-seeded Omaha in the West Region final at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Friday's game will be tele-

vised on ESPN3 and can be

heard on KTOE AM-1420.

Sunday's game can be seen

on ESPN2 and heard on KTOE AM-1420. Here are five things to know about the matchup. 1. Breaking through: MSU's 0-6 record in the national tournament in its Division I history has been a big topic and will continue to be until the Mavericks finally get that first victory. While MSU isn't focusing on 0-6 or looking for bulle-

tin board material, it's very

clear a win would mean a

lot to everyone. "We've got a group of seniors who have been through a couple of these, and we discussed what we learned from it," Hastings said. "Going through my coaching career ... I've learned a lot from not getting to the top and not winning big games and having those opportunities, which we have in front of us. You've got to own your past and dictate your future, and that's what we've talked about." Added McKay: "We're

done with the 'what ifs' ... it's time that we just go out there, play our best and win. That's really all we can do at this point. We can't change the past.' 2. A common oppo**nent:** In a season where

nonconference play has

by Ella Turner in the vault Goblirsch finished 19th in

been nearly nonexistent, the Mavericks and Bobcats have a common opponent: Bowling Green. On Dec. 18-19, the Falcons went to Quinnipiac and got a sweep, winning 4-1 and 4-2. On Feb. 5-6, the Mavericks swept the Falcons at Mankato, winning 4-0 and

3. Richter finalist: On Friday, McKay was named one of three finalists for the Richter Award, which goes to the nation's top goaltender. Last season, McKay lost out to Maine's Jeremy Swayman. Other finalists for this year's award are Boston College's Spencer

Knight and Minnesota's

Jack LaFontaine.

4. The state of MSU: The Mavericks are coming off what was likely their worst game of the season in the loss to Northern Michigan. MSU still leads the nation in goals allowed per game by a wide margin at 1.52 and is seventh in scoring at 3.52. The MSU power play ranks third in the nation at 27.3%, with the penalty kill ranking 15th at 84%.

5. Scouting the Bob-

cats: Quinnipiac is led by Hobey Baker Award finalist Odeen Tufto, who ranks second in Division I with 45 points. With 38 assists, Tufto leads Division I in that category. The Bobcats rank 11th in goals per game at 3.46 and sixth in goals allowed at 1.96. Special teams are also a strong point for Quinnipiac, with the power play tied for fifth nationally at 25% and the penalty kill also ranking fifth at 88.6%. It will be the first matchup between the Mavericks and Bobcats.

Follow Kevin Dudley on Twitter @Dudley7Kevin.