

MSU dismantles Sioux Falls for fourth straight win

First five minutes of second half are crucial to key division victory

By Chad Courrier
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MANKATO — Minnesota State played a good first half, making almost half of its shots, limiting Sioux Falls' shooting percentage and taking care of the basketball.

But coming out of the locker room in the second

half, the Mavericks played great basketball.

"We always talk about those first five minutes and you have to re-establish yourself," Minnesota State coach Matt Margenthaler said. "We wanted to run more in the second half and use our emotion, but when you defend like we did, we really did a good job."

Minnesota State outscored Sioux Falls 55-32 in the second half, rolling to a 90-59 victory in a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference men's basketball game Saturday at Bresnan Arena. It was the fourth straight win for the Mavericks.

The game featured the top



Quincy Anderson



Devonte Thedford

teams in the South Division, and both squads defended early with intensity. Despite that, Minnesota State made its first four shots for a 10-4 lead, but the Cougars, who hadn't played in three weeks because of COVID-19 protocols, came right back with seven

straight points.

Quincy Anderson had six points as the Mavericks went back on top 15-11, but again, Sioux Falls answered with six straight. Devonte Thedford hit a 3 and another from the lane as the Mavericks reeled off a 14-1 run, mixing some clutch shooting with inspired defense.

Anderson hit a 3 and a drive to the basket in the final two minutes as the Mavericks led 35-27 at halftime, shooting 48.3%

and committing just five turnovers.

The Mavericks were even better in the first five minutes of the second half, making 7 of the first 12 shots and holding Sioux Falls to 3 of 15 shooting in a 21-7 run.

The Mavericks maintained a 20-point lead for most of the second half, and a 14-0 run late in the half made it 81-50.

Anderson finished with

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BRIEFS

MSU women win in overtime again

MANKATO — Jessica Kondas scored 52 seconds into overtime as Minnesota State defeated Bemidji State 3-2 in a WCHA women's hockey game Saturday at Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center.

The Mavericks (6-9-1) won 1-0 in overtime Friday to sweep the series. Minnesota State is 5-0-1 against the Beavers this season.

Kelsey King scored in the first period to put the Mavericks on top. Jamie Nelson, who assisted on the game-winner, scored in the second period.

Calla Frank made 15 saves for the Mavericks, who had 31 shots on goal.

MSU track teams win Schuck Duals

MANKATO — Justus Adams won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.8 seconds and 60 hurdles in 8.39 as the Minnesota State men's track and field team defeated Winona State 102-22 Saturday at the Mark Schuck Duals at Myers Fieldhouse.

Carter Nesvold won the 200 dash in 22.37, Ben Schmied finished first in the 600 run in 1:23.58, Will Valentin won the mile run in 4:29.97, and Tanner Maier took first in the 3,000 run in 8:57.48.

In the high jump, Bryant Brown took first at 6-feet-9 3/4. Caleb Kath won the long jump at 23-2 3/4, and Stephen Ayobamidele won the triple jump at 44-9.

Bedale Naba finished first in the shot put at 52-3 1/4, Carter Aguilera won the weight throw at 62-4. Carson Dittel placed first in the pole vault at 15-7.

The women's team won 94-57. Makayla Jackson won the 60 dash in 7.71 and long jump at 18-9. Ja'Cey Simmons finished first in the 200 dash in 24.79, as did Mackenzie Woodard in the 400 dash (57.51) and Skylar Bragg in the 800 run (2:23.71).

Amanda Montplaisir won the 3,000 in 10:13.46. Denisha Cartwright won the 60 hurdles in 8.74. Samiya Abu-Youm won the triple jump at 36-6 3/4.

In the shot put, Katie Taylor won the shot put (46-3/4) and weight throw (61-1 1/4). Jessie Westman and Micah Zaemisch tied in the pole vault at 9-6 1/4.

The Free Press

When it comes to masks, athletes making

ADJUSTMENT



Photos by Pat Christman

Mankato West and Winona girls basketball players are masked up for a game Tuesday at the West gym.

Officials tasked with enforcing mandate during games

By Kevin Dudley
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When the face covering mandate for high school basketball and hockey games came down, there was good reason to be skeptical.

Whose job would it be to enforce it? Could masks really stay up over the nose amid strenuous physical activity? What about the impact on breathing? Would athletes find ways to skirt the rules to gain a competitive advantage?

Over a month into the season, it hasn't been perfect.

But it was never going to be perfect.

For the most part, it seems athletes, coaches, officials and activities directors are buying in. "They all understand that if we're to have a season and they want to be a part of it, they have to wear masks all the time," Mankato West girls basketball coach Julia Battern said. "They've embraced the concept that this is something bigger than just our team. If you care about your community and you want to keep as many people as safe as possible, this is something you have to do."

For Mankato East/Loyola senior defenseman Brett Borchardt, lung capacity is everything. An All-Big Nine Conference selection last season, Borchardt routinely plays over 30 minutes in a 48-minute hockey game, often times tasked with stopping the opposing team's best players.

He's the type of athlete who's constantly breathing hard for extended periods of time, on the ice and when he comes back to the bench.

Borchardt admitted that wearing a mask while playing has made things more difficult, and that it's not necessarily getting easier. He can't quite do what he normally does, and he's had to take shorter shifts this season.

He also knows it's worth it.

"I feel like it hasn't gotten easier physically, but our mentality behind it has gotten better," Borchardt said in a text message. "We've learned how to play with it and realized if we want to play, it has to be worn and that is something we are willing to do."

While athletes like Borchardt try to make the adjustment, high

Please see MASKS, Page A9

Purdue rallies to defeat Gophers

The Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, IND. — Brandon Newman scored 21 of his season-high 29 points in the second half Saturday, Trevion Williams added 17 points and 14 rebounds and Purdue overcame an early 14-point deficit to beat No. 21 Minnesota 81-62.

The Boilermakers (12-6, 6-4 in Big Ten) have won five of six. Coach Matt Painter earned his 174th Big Ten victory, tying former Illinois coach Harry Combes for No. 8 on the conference's career list.

Liam Robbins scored 15 points and Brandon Johnson had 11 for Minnesota (11-6, 4-6). The Golden Gophers fell to 0-5 on the road and have lost five of seven — this one perhaps the toughest of all.

They dominated most of the first half as they took a 24-10 lead.

But the Boilermakers rallied late, trimming the deficit to 35-30 at the half. They opened the second half on a 10-4 run, taking a 40-39 lead with 15:34 to play. Purdue then used an 11-0 spurt to extend the margin to 53-41 with 10:05 remaining. Minnesota never got closer than seven again.

It looked like the Golden Gophers had finally solved this season's road woes Saturday. Instead, an inexplicably poor second-half performance doomed them again.

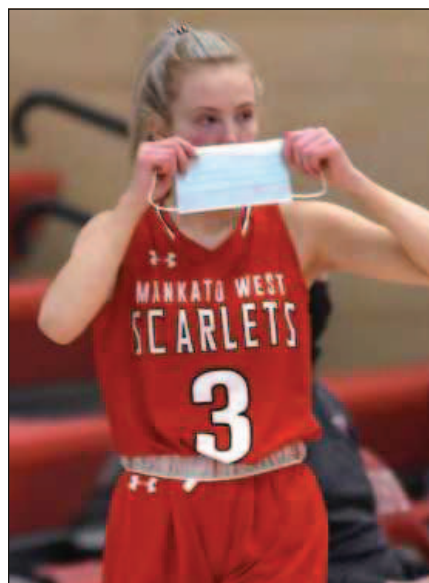
After going 0 for 5 on 3-pointers in the first half and 2 for 17 in the first three halves since Sasha Stefanovic tested positive for COVID-19, Newman finally gave the Boilermakers an answer.

The Gophers slid four spots in last week's poll. The descent will probably continue when the new rankings are released Monday — and they could fall the way out.

An impressive four-game winning streak had the Boilermakers back in the Top 25 discussion before losing at home last week to Michigan.



Mankato West's Emily Fitterer passes the ball after losing her mask while fighting for a rebound during a game against Winona on Tuesday at the West gym. Soon afterward referees stopped the game so Fitterer could pick up her mask and put it back on.



Mankato West's Callie Schumann puts on a fresh mask before going into a game Tuesday.

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TV Today

Table listing TV schedules for various sports including College Basketball (Men's and Women's), NHL, NFL Playoffs, and other events.

N.Y. Rangers 8 2 4 2 6 22 25. Central Division: Columbus 9 4 2 3 11 23 25, Florida 5 4 0 1 9 19 14, Tampa Bay 6 4 1 1 9 19 14, Dallas 5 4 1 0 8 20 10, Carolina 5 4 1 0 8 14 7, Nashville 8 4 4 0 8 20 24, Chicago 9 2 4 3 7 23 30, Detroit 9 2 5 2 6 18 32.

West Division: Colorado 9 6 3 0 12 33 19, Vegas 7 5 1 1 11 23 17, Minnesota 9 5 4 0 10 25 25, St. Louis 7 4 2 1 9 22 27, Los Angeles 8 3 3 2 8 25 26, Anaheim 8 3 3 2 8 14 17, Arizona 8 3 4 1 7 20 22, San Jose 8 3 5 0 6 22 31.

North Division: Toronto 10 7 2 1 15 33 29, Montreal 8 5 1 2 12 33 22, Winnipeg 7 5 2 0 10 28 21, Vancouver 10 5 5 0 10 36 36, Edmonton 10 4 6 0 8 30 36, Calgary 7 3 3 1 7 20 17, Ottawa 8 1 6 1 3 17 36.

Wild box score: Colorado 2 1 2 — 5, Minnesota 1 0 0 — 1. First Period—1, Colorado, O'Connor 1 (Girard, Makar), 3:02. 2, Minnesota, Dumba 3 (Brodin, Greenway), 6:49. 3, Colorado, Donskoi 4 (Burakovsky, Saad), 19:43 (pp).

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE: Philadelphia 14 6 7.00 —, Brooklyn 13 8 6.19 1%, Boston 10 7 .588 2%, New York 9 11 .450 5, Toronto 7 12 .368 6%.

Gophers box score

MINNESOTA (11-5): Johnson 4-7 3-4 11, Robbins 6-16 1-3 15, Carr 2-13 2-2 6, Kalscheur 2-5 0-0 6, Tre Williams 3-4 0-0 8, Mashburn 2-5 0-0 6, Gach 0-1 0-0 0, Curry 3-6 2-2 10, Ihnen 0-0 0-0 0, Freeman 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-57 8-11 62.

PGA

Farmers Insurance Open Saturday: Carlos Ortiz 72-68-66 — 206, Patrick Reed 64-72-70 — 206, Sam Burns 66-72-70 — 208, Lanto Griffin 66-70-72 — 208, Viktor Hovland 70-65-73 — 208, Jon Rahm 69-67-72 — 208, Adam Scott 67-69-72 — 208, Sam Ryder 71-69-69 — 209, Rory McIlroy 68-71-70 — 209, Will Zalatoris 68-71-70 — 209, Ryan Palmer 66-70-73 — 209, Xander Schauffele 70-72-68 — 210.

Henrik Norlander 73-69-68 — 210, Peter Malnati 66-71-73 — 210, Robby Shelton 73-64-73 — 210, Tony Finau 69-67-74 — 210, Max Horna 71-68-72 — 211, Rory Sabbatini 72-67-72 — 211, Richy Werenski 69-69-73 — 211, Kyle Stanley 72-70-70 — 212, Cameron Davis 70-71-71 — 212, Bo Hoag 72-69-71 — 212, Ted Potter, Jr. 71-69-72 — 212, Sungjae Im 69-74-69 — 212, Adam Hadwin 69-70-73 — 212, Will Gordon 67-70-75 — 212, Cameron Tringale 72-69-72 — 213, Marc Leishman 71-70-72 — 213, Wyndham Clark 67-73-73 — 213, Jason Kokrak 70-69-74 — 213, Alex Noren 64-74-75 — 213, Louis Oosthuizen 72-71-70 — 213, Bill Haas 71-71-72 — 214, Brandon Hagy 66-75-73 — 214, Doug Ghim 70-71-73 — 214, Dylan Frittelli 70-73-71 — 214, J.T. Poston 69-74-71 — 214, Tom Lewis 68-75-71 — 214, Denny McCarthy 67-75-73 — 215, Charl Schwartzel 70-72-73 — 215, Rhein Gibson 66-76-73 — 215, Lucas Glover 68-72-75 — 215, Luke List 66-77-72 — 215, Francesco Molinari 72-71-72 — 215, Hideki Matsuyama 74-68-74 — 216, Joseph Bramlett 69-73-74 — 216, Chase Seiffert 72-68-76 — 216, Kevin Streelman 68-75-73 — 216, Justin Suh 71-72-73 — 216, Harry Higgs 71-69-76 — 216, Cameron Percy 71-72-73 — 216, Brandt Snedeker 69-70-77 — 216, Corey Connors 72-71-73 — 216, Rickie Fowler 70-73-73 — 216, Danny Lee 74-67-76 — 217, John Huh 69-72-76 — 217, Matt Jones 70-73-74 — 217, Talor Gooch 66-74-77 — 217, Xinjun Zhang 70-73-74 — 217, Bronson Burgoon 69-74-74 — 217, Phil Mickelson 71-72-74 — 217, Michael Kim 69-74-74 — 217, Pat Perez 71-70-77 — 218, Gary Woodland 66-75-77 — 218, Byeong Hun An 72-71-75 — 218, Tain Lee 71-72-75 — 218, K.J. Choi 66-76-77 — 219, Kyle Mendoza 73-69-77 — 219, Roger Sloan 68-73-78 — 219, Steve Stricker 72-70-77 — 219, Matthew NeSmith 70-73-76 — 219, Troy Merritt 71-72-76 — 219, Sepp Straka 69-74-77 — 220, Kevin Stadler 71-72-77 — 220, Kelly Kraft 73-69-79 — 221, Tyler Dufner 74-69-78 — 221, Jason McCumber 76-67-78 — 221, Grayson Murray 69-73-81 — 223, Tim Wilkinson 67-76-80 — 223.

Prep scores

BOYS HOCKEY: Andover 4, Totino-Grace 3, Bagley/Fosston 8, Moose Lake Area 3, Brainerd 4, Bemidji 3, Chaska 5, Chanhassen 0, Chisago Lakes 2, St. Francis 0, Cretin-Derham Hall 4, Forest Lake 2, Dodge County 4, New Prague 2, Elk river/Zimmerman 12, Coon Rapids 0, Fergus Falls 5, Wadena-Deer Creek 0, Gentry 8, Tartan 0, Grand Forks Red River, N.D. 5, East Grand Forks 3, Hermantown 10, St. Cloud Cathedral 1, Lakeville South 6, Apple Valley 0, Little Falls 3, Alexandria 3, OT, Mankato East/Loyola 2, Rochester Mayo 1, Maple Grove 9, Centennial 3, Minnetonka 1, Buffalo 0, Morris/Benson Area 7, North Branch 5, Owatonna 7, Rochester John Marshall 0, Prior Lake 7, Eastview 0, Providence Academy 6, Rochester Lourdes 0, Roseau 4, Grand Forks Central, N.D. 1, Rosemount 5, Farmington 2, Shakopee 3, Eagan 1, St. Louis Park 5, Bloomington Jefferson 4, Stillwater 4, East Ridge 2, Warroad 6, Moorhead 1, Winona 7, Austin 2.

Transactions

BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League: OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Acquired LHP Cole Irvin from Philadelphia.

Transactions

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: ATLANTA FALCONS — Named T.J. Yates as passing specialist, Lanier Goethie as assistant defensive coach and Nick Perry as assistant defensive backs coach.

Scarlets slow down JM

The Free Press

MANKATO

Mankato West past Rochester John Marshall 51-39 in a Big Nine Conference boys basketball game Saturday at the West gym. Mason Ellwein, Buom Jock and Brady Haugum each scored seven points for the Scarlets.

Prep sports

at halftime. Bri Stoltzman had 13 points and four assists, and Teresa Kiewiet added seven points and nine rebounds. West (5-0) plays at Northfield on Tuesday.

Wrestling

Mankato East sweeps: Spencer Ruedy (145) and Braeden Hendel (152) each won two matches as the Cougars swept a pair of Big Nine duals. East (4-5, 3-3 in Big Nine) defeated Austin 64-15 and Winona 59-21.

Girls basketball

Mankato West 52, Rochester John Marshall 32: The Scarlets allowed only eight points in the second half of a Big Nine victory at Rochester. Lani Schoper had 21 points and five rebounds for West, which led 28-24

In a 48-34 loss to Pine Island, Sonnek won by fall at 126 pounds. Byron Getchell (132) and Matt Beyer (195) also won by fall, and Micah Hamson won by major decision. Sonnek won a 3-2 decision in a 51-12 loss to Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson 51. Kolt Bullerman (106) won a 4-0 decision, Ethan Elvebak (138) won a 7-1 decision, and Konner Harpestad (160) won a 7-1 decision. Maple River sweeps: Boden Simon and Brady Walters each won two matches as Maple River defeated Lakeville South 36-32 and White Bear Lake Area 51-22.

Rochester Mayo 55, Mankato West 13: Trenton Fontaine won the 285 match by fall in 1:56 in the Scarlets' Big Nine road loss.

Damian Riewe earned a 16-7 major decision at 160, and Gannon Rosenfeld won 4-1 at 220. United South Central loses two: Bryce Sonnek won twice as the Rebels dropped two matches in a triangular at Pine Island.

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Avalanche overwhelm Wild

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL — Brandon Saad had a goal and assist to lead a balanced scoring attack and the Colorado Avalanche beat the Minnesota Wild 5-1 on Saturday night. Logan O'Connor, Joonas Donskoi, Mikko Rantanen and J.T. Compher also scored for Colorado, which has won three straight and four of five to take the West Division lead.

his first of the year. Rantanen gave Colorado a 3-1 lead early in the second period with his seventh of the season, weaving around two defenders, cutting across the slot and scoring from the left dot. He is the first player in Avalanche/Nordiques history to score in the team's first five road games. Rantanen, who entered tied with four others for the league lead in goals, has scored in seven of the past eight outings. In his first game of the season, O'Connor's long shot deflected off Kahkonen's stick laying in the crease at 3:02. Dumba answered less than 4 minutes later with a rising wrist shot that went off the mask of Grubauer. Donskoi scored on the power-play with 15.7 seconds left in the frame.

No Fiala

Wild LW Kevin Fiala served the first game of his three-game suspension for a game misconduct in Thursday's win over Los Angeles. Fiala scored three goals in his past four games. Minnesota dressed 11 forwards. Brad Hunt slotted into the lineup as a seventh defenseman.

In and out

Colorado D Erik Johnson left in the first period after getting crushed into the boards by Jordan Greenway. ... Avalanche C Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and D Devon Toews missed their first games with lower-body injuries. Coach Jared Bednar had no timetable for either's return. O'Connor replaced Bellemare on the fourth line. D Conor Timmins took Toews' spot. ... Wild G Cam Talbot backed up Kahkonen after missing the past three games with a lower-body injury.

MAVERICKS: Teams have rematch at Bresnan

Continued from Page A8

21 points and eight rebounds, and Ryland Holt had 17 points and six boards. Devonte Thedford collected 15 points, six rebounds and seven assists. The Mavericks held Sioux Falls to 27.0% shooting in the second half. The Cougars couldn't take advantage of 19 offensive rebounds that turned into only 13 points. The Mavericks also got some runouts when Sioux Falls was crashing the offensive glass.

Continued from Page A8

“Sioux Falls is one of the best rebounding teams in the nation,” Margenthaler said. “But we were able to stay with them. Defensively, we stayed with the game plan. Sioux Falls is a physical team.” The Mavericks (7-2, 6-1 in South Division) and Sioux Falls (4-1, 2-1) play again today at Bresnan Arena, starting at 2 p.m. The winner will lead the South Division with six games remaining. “It’s going to be a war,” Margenthaler said. “We’re going to have to be better.” Follow Chad Courier on Twitter @ ChadCourier.

MASKS: Proper fit is important

Continued from Page A8

school officials like North Mankato's Terry Reynolds are also getting used to the new reality. Activity directors and coaches are involved in enforcing the rules, however, during games, the job ultimately seems to have fallen upon officials. “The games that I’ve seen, I think the officials have done a really nice job of just reminding kids,” Mankato Loyola activities director John Landkamer said. Reynolds, who has officiated basketball games for 21 years, had done six games this season prior to this week, and thinks things are going pretty well. There was one instance where he had to speak firmly with a player who he felt wasn't complying, and he also noted that some players are wearing loosely fitting masks that might slip down while running.

Continued from Page A8

But it certainly hasn't been a major issue. He feels disposable masks come down under the nose more than cloth masks, but that both can work well if they fit properly. In basketball, officials instruct players to pull their masks up during stoppages in play. If a certain player seems to be trying to skirt the rules, officials are to give players two warnings and then request a sub upon the third violation. Reynolds has not had to do that yet. “I would say, far and beyond, the compliance has been very high,” Reynolds said. “Every game you go into, there's going to be one or two athletes that you have to take care of during the game, but as far as the compliance goes, it's going very well.” Follow Kevin Dudley on Twitter @ DudleyKevin.