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Sports

MSU wins NCC title, sets school wins record



Minnesota State designated hitter Jay Bresnahan (left) drove in the winning run Saturday. Danny Klous pitched 7½ innings.

Minnesota State now awaits bid to NCAA D-II tourney

Free Press staff

ST. CLOUD — Designated hitter Jay Bresnahan's bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth lifted Minnesota State to the North Central Conference baseball title

Saturday in St. Cloud.

In beating Nebraska-Omaha 5-4, the Mavericks also set a school single-season wins mark of 44, besting the record of 43 victories set by last year's team.

The conference title is

MSU's 21st.

"And it never gets old," veteran MSU coach Dean Bowyer said. "It's so great that this group of seniors can leave with two straight conference titles."

MSU trailed UNO 4-2 going into the bottom of the eighth before rallying for a tie on RBI singles from Eric Austvold and Kosuke Hattori.

MSU starter Danny Klous went 7½ innings, allowing four runs on six hits and striking out 11.

"This was the best game he's pitched for us. He only made two mistakes (both pitches were hit for homers), but our pitching was just so good this weekend — and we hit just enough to win," Bowyer said.

Bresnahan, MSU's leading

hitter this season, got the game-winner on a two-strike count.

"He said he wasn't going to swing at anything but a fast-ball, and he finally got one," Bowyer said.

Closer Nick Fellman pitched a scoreless ninth.

The Mavericks now await a bid to the NCAA Division II Tournament, at a regional site to be announced Monday.