

## Minnesota State University, Mankato Wrestling Update

**February 20, 2006**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked Mavericks swept two duals this past weekend. MSU is now 14-2 on the season and are 30-5 over the past two seasons with four of their losses coming to #1 Nebraska-Omaha. The Mavericks defeated #12 ranked Truman State University 34-7 and St. Cloud State University 41-3.

The Mavericks will compete in the Northern Regional Championships at Nebraska-Omaha this Sunday. The tournament starts at 10:00 am and will be held in Sapp Fieldhouse. The North Regional serves as the qualifier for the NCAA II National Championships. The four placers from each weight class will earn a trip to Findlay, Ohio on March 10-11.

### **Mavericks End Home Duals In Winning Fashion Over 14th Ranked Bulldogs 34-7**

2/18/06

Mankato, Minn. -- The Minnesota State wrestling team finished its 2005-06 dual competition in winning fashion at home in the Taylor Center in front of 230 fans with a win over 14th ranked Truman State 34-7. With the win, the second-ranked Mavericks move to 14-2 in duals this year while the Bulldogs fall to 10-4-1.

The afternoon started at 125 with eighth-ranked [Nick Smith](#) (Yankton, S.D.) getting the win over Allen Stokes with a pin at 5:36 to put up the first Maverick points of the day. At 133, junior [Jeff Pfaffinger](#) (Blue Earth, Minn.) downed Dan Keller 9-2 for the win.

Seventh-ranked senior [Zach Stevens](#) (Erwinna, Pa.) was upset by Adam Vogt who won by decision 6-4. At 149 pounds, junior [Brandon Girtz](#) (Forest Lake, Minn.) earned the victory over Chad Swagman with a 13-10 decision putting the Mavericks up 12-3.

Third-ranked [Mathias Bitz](#) (Bismarck, N.D.) won by major decision over Dustin Teeman by a score of 9-1 to add to the Maverick lead. At 165, fourth-ranked sophomore [Andy Pickar](#) (Brainerd, Minn.) met eighth-ranked Blake Peterson. Pickar picked up a late reversal to hold off Peterson and got the 6-5 win by decision.

At 174, top-ranked junior [Travis Krinkie](#) got the win by injury default. The match

of the afternoon heading into the dual was at 184 with #1 [John Koons](#) (Crosby, Minn.) squaring off with #2 Gregg Nurrenbern. Nurrenbern wasted no time picking up six points in the first period. Koons had not let any of his past seven opponents earn a single point up until his match with Nurrenbern. The second-ranked Nurrenbern picked up the win by a 16-3 major decision and snapped Koons' dual winning streak at 14 matches.

Freshman [Tom Block](#) (Waseca, Minn.) moved back down to 197 after wrestling at heavyweight last night and picked up the win over Steve Doeschot 2-0. At heavyweight, junior [Ben Janike](#) (Waseca, Minn.) got the call and faced Matt Craig. Janike turned an early first-period reversal into a pin at 2:36 for the win.

## **Minnesota State Rolls To 41-3 Win Over NCC Foe St. Cloud State**

**2/17/06**

Mankato, Minn. -- The Minnesota State wrestling team was in action tonight at the Taylor Center taking on North Central Conference rival St. Cloud State in dual action. The Mavericks picked up pins in their first two matches and never looked back as they rolled over the winless Huskies 41-3. MSU is now 13-2 (2-1 NCC) in duals this year while SCSU drops to 0-8.

Eighth-ranked 125 pound sophomore [Nick Smith](#) (Yankton, S.D.) started the night off for MSU and wasted no time doing so. Smith pinned Brent Johnson 11 seconds into the match and put up the first Maverick points.

Junior 133 pounder [Jeff Pfaffinger](#) (Blue Earth, Minn.) pinned Brent Johnson at 4:08 of the second period for the win and put MSU up 12-0.

Junior [Jeremy Sogge](#) (Paynesville, Minn.) got the call at 141 for MSU and faced Shad Tappe. Tappe forced an overtime period after receiving a riding time point and picked up a takedown in the extra period for the win.

At 149, freshman [Travis Puig](#) (Barron, Wis.) pinned Tom Messeli at 4:05 for the win. Third-ranked senior [Mathias Bitz](#) (Bismarck, N.D.) received the win at 157 by forfeit.

Sophomore [Jeremiah Nowak](#) (Edgar, Wis.) downed Tom Anderson in the 165 pound match with a 9-4 decision. At 174, Jason Moore gave top-ranked junior [Travis Krinkie](#) a scare but Krinkie was able to hold on for the 8-5 win.

At 184, top-ranked senior [John Koons](#) (Crosby, Minn.) won in dominating fashion and picked up his team-leading ninth win by tech fall. Koons beat Neil Russell 17-0 and won his 14th straight dual match. He has not surrendered a single

point to his opponent in his last seven matches.

Junior [Ben Janike](#) (Waseca, Minn.) picked up the win at 197 pounds with a 4-1 decision over Highro Sandoval.

Freshman [Tom Block](#) (Waseca, Minn.) who has been wrestling at 197 in his prior matches this season made the move up to heavyweight and faced Brandon Nowak. In what seemed like a mismatch on paper with Nowak having nearly 80 pounds on Block, proved to be no to be nothing of that sort. Block used an early escape and with being on top most of the match received the riding time point to win the match 2-0.

### **MSU-Mankato in the National Rankings**

6<sup>th</sup> ranked Nick Smith-125 pounds  
5<sup>th</sup> ranked Zach Stevens-141 pounds  
3<sup>rd</sup> ranked Math Bitz-157 pounds  
3<sup>rd</sup> ranked Andy Pickar-165 pounds  
2<sup>nd</sup> ranked Travis Krinkie-174 pounds  
2<sup>nd</sup> ranked John Koons-184 pound

**Head Wrestling Coach Jim Makovsky** is in his 13th season at the helm of the Minnesota State wrestling team. As the head coach of the Mavericks, Makovsky has a record of 155-62-2. He recorded his 150<sup>th</sup> win with over West Liberty State on January 11<sup>th</sup> in Shippensburg, PA. His overall record in seventeen seasons as a head coach stands 181-81-4. Makovsky has coached forty-seven All-Americans and seven National Champions and has now had seventeen straight winning seasons. Makovsky currently serves as the President of the National Wrestling Coaches Association for Division II and serves as a board member on the National Wrestling Coaches Association. Makovsky is assisted by Brandon Reichel (4<sup>th</sup> season), Mike Engelmann (1<sup>st</sup> season) and Mike Neimczyck (1<sup>st</sup> season).

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### **Probable line up for the Northern Regional Championships**

125- Nick Smith                      Sophomore      23-10

133-	Jeff Pfaffinger	Junior	26-8
141-	Zach Stevens	Senior	22-10
149-	Brandon Girtz	Junior	23-8
157-	Math Bitz	Senior	23-11
165-	Andy Pickar	Sophomore	21-7
174-	Travis Krinkie	Junior	16-3
184-	John Koons	Senior	26-11
197-	Ben Janike	Junior	12-11
HWT-	Tim Kraemer	Senior	22-10