

Mavericks still winless after 118-104 loss to Wolves

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Doug West scored 15 of his 23 points in the first half, when Minnesota built a 21-point lead, and the Timberwolves earned their first victory, 118-104 Tuesday night over the Dallas Mavericks.

It was the initial win of Minnesota's Christian Laettner, the NBA's third-overall draft pick. He

had 14 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Chuck Person and Micheal Williams, also in their first seasons with the Timberwolves, scored 24 and 20 points. Minnesota (1-2) was coming off a 121-119 overtime loss to Golden State.

Walter Bond, a free agent from the University of Minnesota who starts for Dallas because guard Jim Jackson — the league's fourth-overall draft choice — hasn't

signed, scored 25 points. Derek Harper added 23 for the Mavericks (0-2).

Person had 10 points and West nine in the first quarter, when the Timberwolves shot 57 percent and took a 38-27 lead.

Bond's 10 third-quarter points kept the Mavericks from getting blown out, though they still trailed 94-77. With Randy White scoring seven points, Dallas began the fourth with an 18-9 run that

made it 103-95 with 6:53 to play.

Dallas trailed 113-104 when Harper hit a 3-pointer with 3:07 left. But the Mavericks, who were blanked in the final 3:32 in their opening 122-106 loss to Utah, didn't score again.

Laettner made two free throws — the Timberwolves were 33 of 36 from the line, including 22 of 23 in the second half — and Person made a long 3-pointer to seal Minnesota's victory.

Eckersley becomes only 4th reliever to win AL Cy Young

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. — Dennis Eckersley, who had a career-high 51 saves for the Oakland Athletics this season, on Tuesday became the first reliever since Detroit's Willie Hernandez to win the American League Cy Young award.

He received 19 of 28 first-place votes from a panel consisting of two writers in each of the 14 league cities. With three seconds and three thirds, Eckersley totaled 107 points under the 5-3-1 system.

Jack McDowell of the Chicago White Sox was a distant second with two firsts and 51 points, followed by Roger Clemens of

Boston with four firsts and 48 points. Mike Mussina of Baltimore was fourth with two firsts and 26 points, followed by Jack Morris of Toronto with one first and 10 points, Kevin Brown of Texas with nine points and Charles Nagy of Cleveland with one point.

Hernandez won the Cy Young in 1984. Milwaukee's Rollie Fingers (1981) and New York's Sparky Lyle (1977) are the only other relievers to claim the AL pitching honor.

Eckersley, the second A's pitcher in three years to win the award, came to Oakland in 1987 intending to be a starter. After 18 years in the majors, he has emerged as one of the best closers in the histo-

ry of the game. In the last five seasons, he has 220 saves in 246 chances.

This year, the 38-year-old right-hander converted all but three save opportunities as the Athletics won their fourth AL West title in five years.

Even A's manager Tony La Russa, not usually given to hyperbole, tended to gush when talking about Eckersley's season.

"It's amazing you can have that much stuff and be that competitive night after night," he said late in the season. "What can I say, he's the best thing going in baseball."

Eckersley's amazing year may be remembered more for the

shocking way it ended.

In Game 4 of the AL playoffs with Toronto, Eckersley came on in the eighth with a 6-2 lead. Two Blue Jays runs scored before Roberto Alomar hit an Eckersley pitch for a two-run homer that completed a five-run Toronto rally. The 7-6 win gave the Blue Jays a 3-1 lead on the way to winning the playoffs and the World Series.

Eckersley began his major league career in 1975 with Cleveland, going 13-7 with a 2.60 ERA, and threw a no-hitter on Memorial Day 1977 against the California Angels. After being traded to Boston before the 1978 season, he became the first Red Sox pitcher in seven years to win 20 games.



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In South Carolina, 78,000 people showed up to watch North Carolina play Clemson. North Carolina and Clemson!

How many fans came out to see Southern Mississippi at Florida? Gainesville had 82,882 rowdies in town.

Are these fans better than us? Are they more loyal than us?

They must be because their teams aren't nearly as good as ours, and none of them surpass our student enrollment by the 30,000 or so that the numbers reflect.

In fact, I remember Stanford losing to a certain Texas school way back in August by a 10-7 margin.

So what did you do last week?

Washing your car and/or hair is not a valid excuse. It was an overcast day, and cleaning your hair doesn't take all after-

noon.

Were you visiting Grandma? Grandma could have visited the week before when A&M took on Southern Methodist in Dallas. It was the perfect weekend to take care of those pesky familial relationships.

Were you watching it on tee-vee?

Bad Aggie. Bad, bad Aggie. You should be punished for such apathy by having to serve as the tackling dummy for line-backer Marcus Buckley this week.

You have one more chance to make things good with your beloved football team. Texas Christian University comes to Kyle Field on November 21, and the Horned Frogs will be looking for an upset.

Don't laugh. The T-tips did last week and were then soundly defeated by TCU, 23-14.

And if you want extra credit, you could go to Houston this Thursday, and then to Austin on Thanksgiving Day.

Or is this team still not good enough for you?

Lady Aggies

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seed in the SWC tourney will be guaranteed. If the Lady Aggies lose, they will have to rely on a coin flip to determine their seed.

The Lady Bears will have extra incentive on their side tonight, as their early-season winning streak was put to an abrupt halt Oct. 14 when A&M breezed through Baylor's Ferrell Center with an easy three-game win. That additional motivation is something the Lady Aggies are expecting to confront.

"They want to beat us real bad," Wood said. "We always expect that from Baylor."

"We are definitely looking for them to come out and play hard."

Edmiston backed up her teammates' comments, but with an air of confidence.

"I'm not worried, but I am expecting Baylor to come in ready to play hard," Edmiston said. "We're just going to concentrate on our side of the court and doing

what we have to do to win."

The Lady Aggies gained a character-building experience to prepare them for Baylor with their trip to California, even though they split their two matches.

With their loss to Cal Poly-SLO, A&M was forced to look inward for motivation to come back and defeat Nevada-Reno. As a result, the team has found its second wind at the time when it needs it most.

"I think as a team, we got things prioritized and put into place after we lost to Cal Poly," Edmiston said. "I think it (the road trip) was a good step for us."

The loss Edmiston spoke of seemed to be just one of many close matches A&M has suffered this season. The Lady Aggies were within striking distance in all three games, but Cal Poly managed to pull each of them out.

"We kind of found ourselves in California," Wood said. "(When we) lost to Cal Poly, we had to sit down and evaluate ourselves."

"I think it helped us. We went out against Nevada (Reno) and just had a blast."

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