Medicine Hat, Alberta — Jeff Van Nest passed for two touchdowns and ran for another as the Montana State-Northern Lights opened the 2009 football season with a nonconference 30-19 victory over the University of Calgary Dinos.

The game was played with a hybrid of Canadian and American rules. On the 110-yard Canadian field, both teams played four-down football, and the two defences were forced to adjust to offensive schemes they rarely see. When Calgary was on offense there were 12 players per side on the field; when the Lights had the ball there were 11.

Calgary led 7-0 early on before the Lights tied it on Van Nest’s 5-yard run. Northern scored on Tyrell Cochrell’s 1-yard plunge and a 28-yard field goal by Great Falls native Luke McKinley in the second quarter.

The Lights outscored the Dinos 13-3 in the second half. Both Northern scores came on Van Nest touchdown passes, an 8-yarder to Kyle Kercher and a 10-yarder to former Cut Bank prep star Matt Stuart.

Cochrell rushed for 133 yards for coach Mark Samson’s Lights, who are ranked 18th in the NAIA preseason poll. Stetson Koffman had a quarterback sack and Justin Montelius registered a team-high eight tackles for the unit of Lights’ defensive coordinator Rick Wells.

**MSU-Northern 7 10 6 7 — 30 Calgary 13 3 0 — 19**

**First Quarter**

Calgary—Chris Dobko 3 pass from Erik Glavic (Aaron Ifield kick)

MSU-Northern—Jeff Van Nest 5 run (Kyle Kercher kick)

Calgary—Matt Walter 5 run (Taylor Altilio pass failed)

**Second Quarter**

MSU-Northern—Tyrell Cochrell 1 run (Kyle Kercher kick)

MSU-Northern—FG Luke McKinley 28

Calgary—FG Aaron Ifield 50

**Third Quarter**

MSU-Northern—Kyle Kercher 8 pass from Jeff Van Nest (kick failed)

Calgary—FG Aaron Ifield 43

**Fourth Quarter**
MSU-Northern—Matt Stuart 10 pass from Jeff Van Nest (Kyle Kercher kick)

Northern Calgary

First downs 24 17
Rushes-yards 36-227 23-169
Passing yards 162 143
Total yards 389 312
Passes 13-28-0 11-22-0
Fum-lost 0-0 0-0
Pen-yards 6-48 9-100
Punts-ave 1-32 4-42.8
Time of poss 34:44 25:16

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—MSU-Northern Tyrell Cochrell 20-133, Stephen Silva 4-47, Jeff Van Nest 6-41, Jake Handley 1-2, Trent Thomas 1-2, James Chandless 2-1, Michael King 2-1; Calgary, Matt Walter 8-88, Steve Lumbala 9-38, Deke Junior 5-38, Erik Glavic 1-5.

PASSING—MSU-Northern, Jeff Van Nest 13-28-0—162. Calgary, Deke Junior 6-12-0—64, Erik Glavic 5-9-0—79, Taylor Altilio 0-1-0—0.


BILLINGS — Rocky Mountain College’s new head coach Brian Armstrong looks pretty good now that his Battlin’ Bears have upset 15th-ranked Dickinson State 28-7 in the season opener for both teams Saturday at Herb Klindt Field.

Having a pass-and-receive tandem like Kasey Peters and Brian Guisti helps a lot, too.

Guisti, a 6-foot, 220-pounder from Centerville, caught three of Peters’ four scoring passes, scoring from 25, 26 and 21 yards. His game totals were equally as impressive: seven catches, 163 yards.

Peters, a senior from Newport Beach, Calif., completed 28 of his 44 attempts for 421 yards with four scores, the fourth being a 59-yard bomb to fellow California native Nathan Barnett in the fourth quarter. Peters was sacked only once and had no interceptions.

All in all, the Bears (1-0) ground out 538 yards in total offense while holding the Blue Hawks to 331 total, 171 of that through the air.

The Blue Hawks (0-1), who were ranked 15th in the NAIA preseason poll, got their only score in the third stanza when former Baker standout Blaine Berg caught a 28-yard toss from Cody Holland.

Dickinson State 0 0 7 0 — 7 Rocky Mountain 7 0 21 0 — 28

First quarter

RMC—Brian Guisti 25 pass from Kasey Peters (Bjorn Nelson kick), 12:41
Third quarter

RMC—Guisti 26 pass from Peters (Nelson kick), 12:39

DSU—Blaine Berg 28 pass from Cody Holland (Cole Zamira kick), 10:07

Fourth quarter

RMC—Nathan Barnett 59 pass from Peters (Nelson kick), 9:23

RMC—Guisti 21 pass from Peters (Nelson kick) 2:14

A—3,876

DSU EMC

First down 19 22

Rushes-yards 41-160 34-117

Passing 171 421

Comp-Att-Int 10-28-2 28-44-0

Punts-avg. 6-39.7 6-32.2

Return yards 77 71

Fumbles-lost 2-2 1-1

Penalties-yards 7-43 6-64

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS


PASSING—Dickinson State, Holland 10-26-2—171, Cooper 0-2-0—0. Rocky Mountain, Peters 28-44-0—421.


RAPID CITY, S.D. — Andy Smith kicked a 20-yard field goal to secure an overtime win for South Dakota Mines over Montana Tech Saturday night at O’Harra Stadium.

Tech SD Mines

First Downs 25 23

Rushes-yards 49-163 37-30

Passing Yards 228 209

Today yards 391 239

Passes 17-36-1 24-42-0

Punts-ave 5-42.6 6-36.5
Fumbles 3-0 1-1
Pen-Yards 6-58 10-61

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS


RECEIVING—Tech, Lewis 7-99, McIntyre 4-69, Brenneman 2-35, Komac 1-17. SD Mines, Dale 8-34, Ostheimer 6-64, Berger 4-57, Barth 4-31.