'U' pitcher holds off Twins — for awhile

By Nolan Zavoral Staff Writer

University of Minnesota left-hander Mark Hunziker got his first start since high school at the Metrodome Monday night. It was in the Gophers' debut exhibition against the Twins.

Was Hunziker worried? Yes, but not about facing the wrecking crew of Kirby Puckett and Co.

"All the superstitions I used to have, I forgot most of them," the former pitcher for St. Agnes High School in St. Paul said before the game. "I used to have a certain place to warm

up, and a certain amount of time I'd warm up. Now I have to do it all different."

Hunziker, who played two years of outfield before being made into a short reliever this season, did fine without the superstitions in the Gophers' 12-5 loss before a crowd of 1,498.

Hunziker pitched 4½ innings, one or two more than he's accustomed to, helping Gopher coach John Anderson hoard his starters for the Iowa series this weekend.

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