

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HOOPS AND HIGHER LEARNING

As more and more boys and girls participate in basketball on a year-round basis in Minnesota, the quality of play has risen. On a regular basis, Minnesota high school players are being recruited to play collegiate basketball at all levels. Annually, the Timberwolves host 3-4 college games at Target Center. We value the relationships we have made with colleges throughout the Upper Midwest and will highlight one of these outstanding men's programs each month.

This month's featured college:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, CROOKSTON

Location: Crookston, Minnesota
Founded: 1966 as a 2-year; 1994 as a 4 year
Enrollment: 1,200 full-time students
Nickname: Golden Eagles
Colors: Maroon & Gold



A History of Basketball Comes to Life at the University of Minnesota, Crookston

By Mitch Bakken and Matt Scheerer

Basketball in Northwestern Minnesota is often described as "the glue that binds" the rural communities together. The success of basketball in the Red River Valley continued to grow and prosper through the generations. Nowhere is this more evident than in the rich history of men's basketball at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

Competitive basketball programs have been around for nearly 100 years and recently the University of Minnesota, Crookston and Chancellor Charles H. Casey, D.V.M. reaffirmed U of M, Crookston's commitment to the NSIC, Division II athletics and the Golden Eagle's competitive success. The University's renewed commitment to athletics combined with the rich history of the program has helped ensure success in the NSIC and at the NCAA Division II level.

In 1993, the college became what is now the present day University of Minnesota, Crookston. The University joined the NAIA Division II ranks and was a member of the North Dakota Collegiate Athletic Conference (NDCAC). Success followed shortly thereafter as



The 2007-08 University of Minnesota, Crookston Golden Eagles

Malcolm White earned first-team All-American honors following the 1996-97 season. The following season Tom Andrades repeated the honor and gained recognition as an All-American for the Golden Eagles. The university made the jump to NCAA Division II during the 1999-00 school year and joined the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC).

Since joining the NCAA Division II ranks, the University of Minnesota, Crookston has developed champions in the classroom and on the hard court. Adam Sullivan earned NSIC All-Conference Honorable

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NSIC Newcomer of the Year honors following the 2003-04 season.

At the conclusion of the 2006-07 season, freshman Bryce Cummings brought the recognition back to Golden Eagle basketball when he was named NSIC Co-Newcomer of the Year. From 1999 to 2003, NSIC fans could not mention Golden Eagle Men's Basketball without talking about Joe Hasz, one of the most decorated men's basketball players in University of Minnesota, Crookston history. Hasz is the all-time Golden Eagle leading scorer with 1,939 career points. He earned NSIC All-Conference First Team honors in 2001-02 and 2002-03. During the 2000-01 season, Hasz set and holds the NSIC season record in points scored with 420. Following his four year career at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, Hasz earned recognition as NSIC's all-time leading scorer with 1,389 conference points, an honor that he still holds.

Formerly known as the Northwest School of Agriculture, the U of M, Crookston assembled its first varsity and junior squads in 1912. The school became the University of Minnesota Technical Institute and had significant achievement through the junior college rankings. The 1985-86 basketball team in particular was first runner-up in the regional basketball tournament and were one game away from the national tournament. Subsequently, the team was enshrined in the University of Minnesota,

The 1912 Northwest School of Agriculture squad — the first team in school history



Bryce Cumming was the 2007 NSIC Co-Newcomer of the Year and leads the Golden Eagles in scoring this year.

Crookston Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. Three former players were inducted into the Hall of Fame as well. Distinguished Hall of Fame members include Lloyd Mayes ('68-'70), Pablo Ronderos ('71-'73) and Steel Senske ('88-'90).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston basketball is a NCAA Division II institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). For more information, visit the Golden Eagles Athletics website at: www.goldeneaglesports.com.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations. Invent yourself at the University of Minnesota, Crookston — become a leader, innovate through technology and research and secure the career you want. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.