

DULUTH--Defending champion UMD, undefeated in 43 conference games since 1954, opens defense of its Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference hockey title Wednesday against invading Macalester. The Macs tangle with the Bulldogs at 8 p.m. in the Duluth Curling Club.

The UMD icemen with three victories in five games will be favored to chalk up their fourth straight league title. Making up the victory total are a pair of victories over the Fort William Hurricane Juniors and a 3-2 upset over NCAA champion North Dakota. The Sioux handed the Duluthians one of their losses with the other coming at the hands of the Warroad Lakers.

There will be five MIAC games in a two week span for the Bulldogs. Following the Mac invasion they travel to Concordia Saturday (Jan. 9), host St. John's Monday (Jan.11) and St. Thomas Saturday (Jan.16) and visit Augsburg Thursday (Jan.14).

The first major threat to the defenders will come from St. Thomas, the perennial runnerup.

Coach Ralph Romano, in his first season at the helm of the Bulldogs, views the record to date with mixed feelings.

"There weren't many who thought we would go into our conference opener with three victories against the type opposition we've had," said Romano, "but our performance in losing 7-1 to Warroad has me a little worried."

The Lakers scored five third period goals while rapping the UMDites last Wednesday.

"We just folded up under pressure," Romano continued, "there was no sign of weariness although we had practiced erratically during the exam and holiday period."

Although disappointed, Romano indicated that he planned little change in personnel.

The return of 1958-59 <sup>captain</sup> Larry Cronkhite, after an unsuccessful bid to earn an Olympic berth, will result in the shuffling of one attaching unit. Cronkhite will join Bob Bymark, Grand Rapids and Bernie Cousineau, Fort Frances.

SCORING

	Games	G	A	Pts.	Pen.	Min.
Ron Pretlac	5	2	7	9	9	26
Don Judnick	5	3	2	5	3	9
Grant Standbrook	5	1	4	5	3	6
Dale Noreen	5	3	1	4	5	13
Bob Smith	5	2	1	3	1	5
Ron Johnson	5	3	0	3	1	2
Mike O'Handley	3	2	1	3	0	0
Jerry Abelsen	5	0	2	2	1	2
Jack Williams	5	1	1	2	0	0
Orest Wojcichowsky	5	0	1	1	6	15
Bob Lund	2	1	0	1	0	0
Bernie Cousineau	5	0	0	0	2	4
Bob Bymark	5	0	0	0	1	2
Max Ramsland	4	0	0	0	4	8
Bill Lanardon	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ed Sutton	5	0	0	0	0	0
Al Peterson	2	0	0	0	0	0

GOALTENDING

	Games	GA	Avg.	Stops	Avg.
Mike Haley	3 1/3	15	4.5	104	31.5
Jerry Wherley	1 2/3	9	6.6	51	30.