

DULUTH—Coach Ralph Romano's hockey Bulldogs, victors over their first three conference opponents, Macalester 17-0, Concordia 9-2, and St. John's 6-3, face their toughest week of conference play with games Thursday against Augsburg at Minneapolis and Saturday against St. Thomas at the Duluth Curling Club.

The Auggies have been the surprise of the MIAC having knocked off the powerful Tommies 6-3 in action last week. Augsburg, trailing 2-1 in the third stanza, upset St. Thomas with its quick five goal outburst.

St. Thomas, although minus three of its top scorers from last season, is still picked by observers to be UMD's top rival in the league.

"I was told the Tommies don't intend to come here to lose," commented UMD's mentor.

Last season UMD was pressed to the final whistle in handing St. Thomas a 4-2 loss. That game, the most exciting league tilt witnessed at the Curling Club, may have its rival in this year's match. St. Thomas boasts three strong forward lines, a veteran defense and a good goalie.

The Bulldogs, being hailed as one of the best teams in UMD's short hockey history, has used its sharp passing style and strong defense to defeat six of its first eight opponents.