

News Release

Free-Throws Cost Golden Eagle Men

By Mitch Bakken on Saturday, January 3, 2009

(Marshall, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) Men's Basketball team took on the Mustangs of Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) tonight in NSIC action. Turnovers and lopsided free-throw attempts took the wind out of the Golden Eagle's late game charge as SMSU held on to the 75-68 victory.

The Golden Eagles opened the game with an early six point lead. Both teams played the exact same first half with the difference being SMSU's six free-throw points as the Mustangs took a 39-33 lead into the half. The second half, and game was decided in the second half at the charity stripe as SMSU converted on 13 of 16 opportunities at the line. In the game, SMSU went to the line 23 times to UMC's four.

The Golden Eagles were led by Akeem Cubie (G, 6-5, 180, SO, Minneapolis, Minn.) who had a sensational night on the floor. Cubie scored 24 points to lead all scorers and come within one point of tying his career high. He was 11-18 from the field and 2-5 from long range while grabbing seven rebounds. Derik Hawkey (G, 6-2, 190, FR, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.) knocked down 12 points for UMC and dished a game tying five assists. Bruce Felts (F, 6-10, 220, SR, Bemidji, Minn.) continues to play well as a starter. Felts scored 10 points on 4-5 shooting and blocked a career high four shots in the game. As a team, the Golden Eagles outrebounded the Mustangs 39-29. It is only the second time this season SMSU has been outrebounded in a game. UMC also outplayed SMSU down low, outscoring the Mustangs 36-24 in the paint.

The Mustang's pressure defense forced the Golden Eagles into 15 turnovers. SMSU converted on the mistakes making 22 points off of those turnovers. Ross DeMasi led the Mustangs with 16 points and eight rebounds. He was followed by Jon DeRock's 15 points and Ryan Krome's 14 points and five assists.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is 2-11 overall and 0-6 in NSIC play. SMSU advances to 10-4 overall and 3-2 in the NSIC. The Golden Eagles return to Lysaker Gymnasium on January 9 and 10 as they host Wayne State and Augustana College. Tip-off on both nights is scheduled for 8 p.m.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at: www.goldeneaglesports.com.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is a NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). Golden Eagle Hockey is a member of the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association (MCHA). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

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