

News Release

Northern State Erupts to Shoot 78% in Second Half to Defeat Minnesota Crookston 79-53

By Mitch Bakken on Saturday, January 31, 2009

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) Men's Basketball team came into tonight's contest prepared for back-to-back NSIC victories. The Golden Eagles and the Northern State University (NSU) Wolves played a tightly contested contest through the first 20 minutes of regulation with UMC holding an edge 29-28. NSU entered the final 20 minutes with the golden touch, shooting 78% (18-23) down the stretch to take the 79-53 victory.

The Golden Eagles came out and battled back and forth with NSU. Solid defensive play by the Golden Eagles helped the team gain the upper hand and go up by six points at the 15:18 mark. Northern State fought their way back and regained the lead at the 10:27 mark of the first half. The Wolves were able to go on a 7-0 run and obtained a nine point lead, but the Golden Eagles where able to return the favor and comeback and take the lead with .4 seconds left before the break. Akeem Cubie (G, 6-5, 180, SO, Minneapolis, Minn.) led all players with 11 points. He shot 4-6 from the field and 3-5 from the line. Northern State University came out of the gates in the second half on fire going on an 11-1 run. The Golden Eagles from there went back and forth scoring and where able to pull the game within nine but the Wolves put the game away by going on a 14-0 run, increasing their lead to 19 points. The Wolves never looked back as they shot 78.3% in the second half. Difference makers in the game included 44 points in the paint by NSU to UMC's 16 and 13 second chance points to UMC's four.

Minnesota, Crookston was led by Cubie who scored 17 points. He shot 6-9 from the field and 4-8 from the free-throw line. Matt Pelzer (G, 6-4, 190, SR, St. Cloud, Minn.) finished with 10 points on 3-5 shooting from long range. Derik Hawkey (G, 6-2, 190, FR, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.) led all players with four assists while adding eight points and Bruce Felts (F, 6-10, 220, SR, Bemidji, Minn.) led all players with three blocked shots in the game.

Northern State's Robert Thomas led all players in the contest with 20 points on 9-12 shooting. Kevin Ratzsch added 19 points for the Wolves. He shot 7-9 from the field and 4-4 from the free-throw line. Ratzsch grabbed 11 rebounds on the defensive side for the only double-double of the night. Alex Thomas closed out the top scorers with 11 points.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston improves to 4-15 overall and 2-10 in NSIC play. Northern State improves to 15-5 overall and 8-5 in the NSIC. The Golden Eagles return to Lysaker Gymnasium on February 6 and 7 to host Minnesota State and Southwest Minnesota State. Tip-off 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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