



Minnesota Crookston Women's Basketball Treks to MSU Moorhead and Northern State

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By: **Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Communication**



THE MINNESOTA CROOKSTON women's basketball team is looking to rebound after a tough start to the conference season Monday as they fell 72-50 at Lysaker Gymnasium to Bemidji State University. The Golden Eagles will look to rebound as they head to No. 22 Minnesota State University Moorhead Fri., Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m., and Northern State University Sat., Dec. 7 at 3:30 p.m. The Golden Eagles are 5-25 against the Dragons since [Mike Roysland](#) took over head coach for Minnesota Crookston in 2006. Their last win at Nemzek Fieldhouse, and their last win in the series came Dec. 8, 2017 with a 69-65 win over the Dragons. Minnesota Crookston is 4-24 since 2006 against Northern State. The Golden Eagles defeated the Wolves at home Dec. 8, 2018 with a 61-54 victory. Northern State has captured 11 of the last 12 meetings between the two squads.

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ERSKINE CONNECTION. Minnesota Crookston and MSU Moorhead both have a connection to Erskine, Minn., as [Mike Roysland](#) coach boy's basketball at Win-E-Mac High School while MSU Moorhead Head Coach Karla Nelson is an Erskine, Minn., native having scored 1,052 points in her career at Erskine High School. Erskine is also the hometown of Minnesota Crookston Athletic Director [Stephanie Helgeson](#) and Golden Eagle Assistant Coach [Nate Mahlen](#).

DEAR ABBY. Minnesota Crookston junior [Abby Guidinger](#) is coming off 10 points Monday against Bemidji State. She went 4-of-7 from the field versus the Beavers. Guidinger did a good job of distributing the ball to her teammates, as well. Guidinger comes into the weekend notching 5.4 points and 3.4 rebounds per game. Guidinger is looking to find more consistency as she tallied 8.4 points and 3.1 rebounds per game last season prior to suffering a season-ending injury.

POST GAME. Minnesota Crookston sophomore [Kylin Post](#) brings a different kind of "post game" to the Golden Eagles as the 5-7 point guard has been playing strong in recent games. Post, the lead scorer for the Golden Eagles, is notching 13 points per game and 2.5 assists per tilt in her last two games, both starts for the native of Corcoran, Minn. Post should prove to be key for the Golden Eagles moving forward on the season.

FINDING THE THREE BALL. Minnesota Crookston is looking to find their shots against Bemidji State Monday, going just 1-of-14 for 7.1 percent. Minnesota Crookston shot 35.3 percent from three-point land during the 2018-19 season. They are currently hitting at a 24.4 percent clip coming into the

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weekend.

· **OWNING THE GLASS.** Minnesota Crookston has owned the rebounding edge in four of five games this season. The Golden Eagles come into Friday notching 39.4 rebounds, while allowing 33.6 rebounds to their foes. Bemidji State was the only team to out-rebound Minnesota Crookston, as they had 42 rebounds to 31 for the Golden Eagles. Minnesota Crookston has been led by [Bren Fox](#) with 9.0 rebounds per game, while [Julia Peplinski](#) comes in with 6.0 boards per tilt.

· **JULIA.** [Julia Peplinski](#), a 5-10 sophomore from Hustisford, Wis., has been strong off the bench for Minnesota Crookston. Peplinski is notching 9.0 points and 6.0 rebounds per game. Peplinski's best game came with a double-double against Northwest Missouri State University with 13 points and 10 rebounds. She had 11 points and eight boards in a win over Chaminade. Peplinski came off the bench for Minnesota Crookston Monday with eight points and four boards.

· **FIND THE THREE BALL.** Minnesota Crookston women's basketball teams have been notorious for their ability to hit the three-pointer. The Golden Eagles struggled in the opening week as they were just 9-of-32 for 28.1 percent, while opponents were 19-of-49 for 38.8 percent from distance. Minnesota Crookston will look for the three and look for hit them at a better success rate this weekend.

· **CALL THE CARPENTER.** Minnesota Crookston freshman guard [Emma Carpenter](#) has been a strong distributor from the point guard position for the Golden Eagles, whether starting or coming off the bench. Carpenter is coming off four assists and just one turnover on Monday versus the Beavers. She matched her season-high for assists, set previously with four against Nebraska Kearney. Look for Carpenter to continue to improve for the Golden Eagles throughout the season.

· **SOMETHING ABOUT MARY.** Redshirt Freshman [Mary Burke](#) missed all but two games last season due to injury. The Mountain Iron-Buhl H.S. product is continuing to come into her own. Burke is notching 6.4 points and 3.4 rebounds per game in her first extended action for Minnesota Crookston. Burke's best game of the season came with 13 points on 5-of-9 from the field against Nebraska Kearney.

· **LIMIT TURNOVERS.** Minnesota Crookston improved in the turnover category Monday against Bemidji State as they trimmed 27 turnovers against Hawai'i Pacific and 21 versus Chaminade to 13 in their conference opener against Minnesota Crookston. The Golden Eagles will continue to try not to force things, as they are averaging 10.4 assists to 19.0 turnovers per game coming into Friday.

· **YOUNG ROSTER.** The Golden Eagles have a young roster this season, as of their top 10 players for minutes per game, only three players are juniors of seniors, while seven players are underclassmen as they are only sophomores or freshmen. The Golden Eagles have started three freshman, one senior, and three sophomores at different points through the first five games.

· **DEEP BENCH.** One of the key factors for Minnesota Crookston this season will be their deep bench. The Golden Eagles have 11 players averaging over 10 minutes per game, and [Kylea Praska](#), who averaged just under 10 minutes per tilt. Minnesota Crookston is looking to continue to fine tune their rotation and find consistency heading into the weekend.

MSU MOORHEAD. Minnesota State University Moorhead enters the weekend with a 6-2 mark and a No. 22 national ranking. The Dragons are coming off three games at the Oahu Thanksgiving Classic in Honolulu, Hawai'i. MSU Moorhead earned a win over University of Hawai'i at Hilo and two tough losses against nationally-ranked Cal State-San Marcos and UC-San Diego. The Dragons are averaging 69.0 points per game and allowing 53.1 points per tilt. MSU Moorhead is shooting 42.5 percent and 36.3 percent from beyond the arc. MSU Moorhead is controlling the glass by the tune of 48.0 to 30.6 on the season.

A HINTZ OF TALENT. The Dragons are led inside by 6-2 senior Megan Hintz. She comes into the week averaging 17.8 points and 8.8 rebounds per game. Hintz has been very efficient with a 61.0 percent shooting percentage coming into the weekend. Hintz scored 29 points in a win over Rogers State Nov. 9. She had 24 points in a loss Nov. 29 to UC San Diego. Hintz will be the key player to limit for the Golden Eagle defense.

TRANSFER TIME. MSU Moorhead has been aided by North Dakota State University transfer Sarah Jacobson, who had started all 59 games the previous two seasons for the Bison. As a sophomore, she averaged 10.1 points per game for NDSU. Jacobson is notching 10.5 points per game for the Dragons. She is also notching 6.9 points and 3.1 assists per game. Jacobson is shooting 40.0 percent from beyond the arc. She has also been strong defensively with 16 steals on the season.

IMPACT FRESHMAN. Katie Tornstrom, a native of Caledonia, Minn., has made a major impact as a freshman for the Dragons. She is notching 8.1 points per game and shooting 41.2 percent from beyond the arc.

NORTHERN STATE. Northern State comes in with a 4-3 mark and an 0-1 NSIC record. The Wolves are being out-scored on the season 64.9 to 64.3 on the season. Northern State is shooting 45.3 percent from the field and 34.5 percent from beyond the arc. The Wolves are out-rebounding teams 38.4 to 30.1 on the 2019-20 season. Northern State has 12.7 assists to 21.7 turnovers.

UTILITY KNIFE. Brianna Kusler is a player that can do a little bit of everything for Northern State. Kusler comes in averaging 14.0 points, 9.1 rebounds, and 2.4 assists per game. Kusler's best game came with 21 points against Metro State University. She had double-doubles against Black Hills State and MSU Moorhead. Kusler is also crucial from beyond the arc where she is shooting 32.3 percent on the season.

LEAVE IT TO LEXI. Lexi Wadsworth, a 5-11 forward, can bring an inside-outside game. Wadsworth comes in averaging 13.4 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. She has been efficient shooting 58.9 percent from the field and is also strong from beyond the arc, hitting at a 47.1 percent clip. Wadsworth had 19 points against Colorado Christian. She tallied 18 points versus Emporia State and MSU Moorhead.

JESSI ON THE J. Jessi Marti enters the weekend averaging 10.6 points and 3.1 rebounds per game. She is also a strong three-pointer shooter for Northern State, notching 47.1 percent from beyond the arc. Marti has five games with 10 or more points, including a season-high 21 points on 6-of-12 from the field in a win over Black Hills State. Marti hit three 3-pointers in games against Black Hills State and Metro State.

MINNESOTA CROOKSTON GOLDEN EAGLES

Head Coach: [Mike Roysland](#) (Bemidji State)

Career Record: 124-236 (14th Season at Minnesota Crookston)
2015 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

MSU MOORHEAD DRAGONS

Head Coach: Karla Nelson (University of North Dakota)

Career Record: 358-197 (20th Season)

NORTHERN STATE WOLVES

Head Coach: Paula Krueger

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Northern State Record: 14-22 (Second Season at Northern State)

Career Record: 147-147 (11th Season as Collegiate Head Coach)

WEEKLY SNAPSHOT

MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

Projected Starters

So. PG 5 [Kylie Post](#) (5-7, Corcoran, Minn.) 6.8 PPG, 2.4 RPG, 2.0 APG
Fr. SG 15 [Matteo Vetsch](#) (5-7, Devils Lake, N.D.) 5.3 PPG, 1.5 RPG
So. 3G 24 [Paige Cornale](#) (5-10, Oak Creek, Wis.) 6.4 PPG, 2.6 RPG
Sr. SF 32 [Paige Weakley](#) (5-9, Kearney, Mo.) 2.4 PPG, 2.4 RPG
So. PF 23 [Bren Fox](#) (6-3, Norwood Young America, Minn.) 10.6 PPG, 9.0 RPG

Top Bench Players

So. F/C 31 [Julia Peplinski](#) (5-10, Hustisford, Wis.) 9.0 PPG, 6.0 RPG
R-Fr. F 22 [Mary Burke](#) (5-11, Virginia, Minn.) 6.4 PPG, 3.4 RPG
Jr. G/F 12 [Abby Guidinger](#) (5-10, Waukesha, Wis.) 5.4 PPG, 3.4 RPG
Jr. G/F 10 [Ashley Freund](#) (5-11, Jordan, Minn.) 4.5 PPG, 1.8 RPG
Fr. G 3 [Alyssa Peterson](#) (5-7, Menahga, Minn.) 2.2 PPG, 1.0 RPG
Fr. G 21 [Emma Carpenter](#) (5-10, Eagan, Minn.) 1.0 PPG, 1.2 RPG, 2.0 APG

MSU MOORHEAD

Projected Starters

So. PG 2 Natalie Steichen (5-5, Dilworth, Minn.) 6.4 PPG, 3.3 RPG, 2.8 APG
Jr. SG 12 Sarah Jacobson (5-8, Fargo, N.D.) 10.5 PPG, 6.9 RPG, 3.1 APG
Jr. 3G 35 Brooklyn Liegel (6-2, Richland Center, Wis.) 4.9 PPG, 1.9 RPG
Sr. SF 51 Megan Hintz (6-2, Rochester, Minn.) 17.8 PPG, 8.8 RPG
Sr. PF 40 Madi Green (6-2, Lake City, Minn.) 7.5 PPG, 6.4 RPG

Top Bench Players

Fr. G 23 Katie Tornstrom (5-10, Caledonia, Minn.) 8.1 PPG, 2.3 RPG
So. C 30 Peyton Boom (6-0, Barnesville, Minn.) 4.5 PPG, 5.8 RPG
So. G 4 Nicole Herbranson (5-9, Rollag, Minn.) 2.7 PPG, 1.3 RPG
Jr. G 10 Lauren Fech (5-8, Wausau, Wis.) 2.3 PPG, 1.9 RPG

NORTHERN STATE

Projected Starters

Jr. PG 10 Shariah Smith (5-1, Fort Dodge, Iowa) 3.6 PPG, 1.9 RPG, 1.7 APG
Sr. SG 32 Brianna Kusler (5-9, Aberdeen, S.D.) 14.0 PPG, 9.1 RPG, 2.4 APG
Sr. 3G 34 Jessi Marti (5-10, Cuba City, Wis.) 10.6 PPG, 3.1 RPG, 2.3 APG
So. SF 4 Lexi Wadsworth (5-11, Hayti, S.D.) 13.4 PPG, 6.6 RPG
Sr. PF 30 Sara Tvedt (6-1, Brookings, S.D.) 4.6 PPG, 3.1 RPG

Top Bench Players

R-Fr. F 22 Kailee Oliverson (6-3, Cardwell, Mont.) 5.1 PPG, 3.4 RPG
R-So. G 23 Haley Rithmiller (5-9, Webster, S.D.) 3.8 PPG, 1.5 RPG
Fr. G 14 Kennedy Harris (5-6, Mandan, N.D.) 3.1 PPG, 1.3 RPG
Jr. F 24 Joie Spier (5-11, Madison, S.D.) 2.9 PPG, 2.0 RPG
Jr. G 12 Kendall Kohler (5-6, Alexandria, Minn.) 1.0 PPG, 1.0 RPG

GAMEDAY

MINNESOTA CROOKSTON at MSU MOORHEAD

DATE: Fri., Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m.

SITE: Moorhead, Minn.

ARENA: Nemzek Fieldhouse

LIVE STATS: <https://www.msumdragons.com/sidearmstats/wbball/summary>

LIVE VIDEO: <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/msum/index.htm>

TV: WDAY XTRA

TWITTER: @UMNCrookstonATH/@UMNCrookstonWBB

MINNESOTA CROOKSTON at NORTHERN STATE

DATE: Sat., Dec. 7, 4 p.m.

SITE: Aberdeen, S.D.

ARENA: Wachs Arena

LIVE STATS: <https://nsuwolves.com/sidearmstats/wbball/summary>

LIVE VIDEO: <https://portal.stretchinternet.com/northern/>

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