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Football | 10/14/2015 4:13:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

## Golden Eagles Host Northern State Saturday

Oct. 17, 2015 • CROOKSTON, Minn. • Ed Widseth Field • 1 p.m.

Ed Widseth/Aggasiz Bowl Scholarship Game

Video: <http://portal.stretchinternet.com/crk/#liveEventsTab>

Live Stats: <http://www.sidearmstats.com/umcrookston/football/>

Minnesota Crookston Golden Eagles  
Head Coach: [Mike Fritze](#)  
Record at UMC: 2-26 Season at UMC: Third Season

Northern State Wolves  
Head Coach: Tom Dosch  
Record at NSU: 52-51 Season at NSU: Sixth Season

### PLAYERS TO WATCH

**22**  
**LB**  
**BRODY DAVIDSON**  
SR., CROOKSTON, MINN.

**11**  
**WR**  
**ADAM CONNETTE**  
SO., CORONA, CALIF.

### #5StoryLines

- Can the Golden Eagles find a running game against Northern State?
- Will [Adam Connette](#) have another follow-up performance after 11 catches for 100 yards against Bemidji State?
- Will the Golden Eagle defense be able to shut down a strong offense from Northern State?
- Can UMC get in the win column?
- Will [Nathan Cole](#) or [Tra Hearn](#)s be able to have a strong performance at quarterback for the Golden Eagles?

### #Tidbits

- One of the keys for the UMC offense is sustaining drives and continuing to move the football. In the first eight drives of Saturday's game against Bemidji State, UMC had just two first downs with [Tra Hearn](#)s at quarterback as they struggled to move the ball. [Nathan Cole](#) came in on the last drive and led the Golden Eagles to two first downs on the drive as UMC started to move the ball. UMC however found themselves in to a big of a whole down 34-0 at half and would fall 41-7 to their rival from 88 miles down the U.S. Highway 2.

- The Golden Eagle defense has done a better job in recent games of forcing turnovers. The Golden Eagles forced three turnovers at home against Bemidji State last weekend and in their previous home game against No. 1 Minnesota State, UMC forced three turnovers, as well. The Golden Eagles' defense will look to continue to put their offense in good position as they look to win the turnover battle.

- UMC has struggled to stop the run this season as they are giving up 301.2 yards per game on the ground with 23 rushing touchdowns allowed. Bemidji State showed this weakness as they put up 298 yards on the ground led by 155 yards from back-up running back Gena Adams. The Golden Eagles gave up over 300 rushing yards twice this season to No. 1 Minnesota State University and Wayne State College (Neb.). Their best performance in the ground game came against Upper Iowa, limiting the Peacocks to 214 yards. UMC will look to slow down Northern State this weekend.

- UMC has had several true freshmen and redshirt freshmen make an impact this season and continue to improve. On defense, redshirt freshman [Ali Alkhatib](#), a strong safety, is third on the team with 35 tackles with an interception and a forced fumble. Fellow redshirt freshmen [Dion Wallisch](#) and [Chuck Lofquist](#) are also starters. In addition, true freshmen [Bubba Cook](#) and [Walker Finnestad](#) are having major impacts on the game, mostly off the bench.

Offensively, redshirt freshmen [Triston Richert](#) is among the leading receivers on the team, while guard [Noah Lee](#) has been a staple on the offensive line. True freshmen [Rodney Stewart](#) and [Lincoln Tappe](#) have made an impact on the passing game, while true freshmen offensive linemen [Duke Smith](#) and [Kolby Castillo](#) have both earned starts. In the kicking game, long snapper [Zach Greenberg](#), and punter [Stephen Day](#) have been staples.

- UMC continues to search for a more of a running game as they are averaging just 60.8 yards per game. [Dre Person](#) has been the leading rusher for UMC with 62 carries for 205 yards, while [Harold Halcomb III](#) has also shown signs with 50 carries for 130 yards. The Golden Eagles had just 43 yards rushing against the Beavers last weekend.

- Northern State struggled playing against the NSIC South as they went 0-4, but the Wolves have bounced back with wins over MSU Moorhead and Minot State in the NSIC North.

- The Wolves have been more reliant on the pass this year on offense as redshirt freshman Kyle Lavand leads the way. The Northern State offense is split about 60/40 in favor of the pass this season. Lavand is 108-of-177 for 1,073 yards and nine touchdowns this season. He has relied a lot on his tight end Conner Doherty this season. However, last weekend he got back-up Zach Culbreath involved with four receptions for 104 yards and a 68-yard touchdown. Doherty has 341 yards receiving and one touchdown. Zachery Barber and Tyrrell Anderson have also been top targets. In the ground game, Northern State has relied on Nicholas Truen, who has 87 carries for 419 yards and four touchdowns.

- Defensively, the Wolves are giving up 386 yards of offense per game. The Sioux Falls rushing attack exposed some weaknesses earlier this season as they gained 274 yards on the ground against Northern State.

### #CHASINGRECORDS

UMC sophomore wide receiver Adam Connette is already chasing records in his young career. Connette needs just 88 yards to surpass 1,000 yards, becoming just the third player in school history to do so. He currently has 912 receiving yards which ranks fifth all-time. He needs just 18 yards to move past Aaron Wall and 71 to move past former teammate Marcus Cheatham. Carl also holds the record with 1,762 yards receiving from 1996-99. He also is ranked fourth all-time in receptions, needing five to move past Cheatham. He is tied for fifth for most receiving touchdowns.

**912** YARDS RECEIVING IN CAREER

**75** CAREER RECEPTIONS



**11** ADAM CONNETTE

### #CALLTOTHEPEN

Nathan Cole has been the football version of a relief pitcher for the Golden Eagles, coming in and helping the offense move against Bemidji State and Sioux Falls. Cole also has two starts. He has 699 yards passing this year with three touchdown passes. His grasp of the offense has helped the Golden Eagles when they have needed it.

**699** YARDS PASSING ON SEASON

**15** NATHAN COLE

### #FRESHMANPUNTER

In a perfect world UMC wouldn't have to use their punter much, but Stephen Day has had a good debut season, averaging 36.2 yards per punt, which ranks ninth in the league. Day has had a long punt of 64 this season, with seven inside the 20 and six punts over 50 yards. His punting is almost three yards better as an average than punter Tyler Hansen and Javon Hering in 2014. Hansen led the way with 44 punts for an average of 33.4 yards with four inside of the 20 and three punts over 50 yards.

**90** STEPHEN DAY

**36.2** YARDS PER PUNT

### #BIGBUBBA

UMC redshirt freshman defensive tackle Bubba Cook continues to improve week in and week out. Cook had five tackles, one tackle for loss, a forced fumble and one pass break-up against Bemidji State last weekend. The freshman has 22 tackles with 2.5 tackles for loss on the season. Cook should be a big part of UMC's future up front.

**94** BUBBA COOK

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

<b>#7 Ali Alkhatib</b> DB / 5' 9" / Redshirt Freshman	<b>#15 Nathan Cole</b> QB / 6' 4" / Redshirt Sophomore
<b>#11 Adam Connette</b> WR / 5' 10" / Sophomore	<b>#90 Stephen Day</b> K/P / 6' 1" / Redshirt Freshman
<b>#2 Tra Hearn</b> QB / 6' 4" / Sophomore	<b>#69 Noah Lee</b> OL / 6' 3" / Redshirt Freshman
<b>#41 Chuck Lofquist</b> LB / 6' 2" / Redshirt Freshman	<b>#18 Triston Richert</b> WR / 6' 0" / Redshirt Freshman
<b>#20 Dion Wallisch</b> DB / 5' 11" / Redshirt Freshman	<b>#66 Kolby Castillo</b> OL / 6' 1" / Freshman

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