



MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

ROD STEWART

FOOTBALL

MSU MOORHEAD AUG. 30 MOORHEAD, MINN.	WINDONA STATE OCT. 13 CROOKSTON, MINN.	SMSU OCT. 6 MARSHALL, MINN.
ST. CLOUD STATE SEPT. 8 CROOKSTON, MINN.	MINNESOTA DULUTH OCT. 27 CROOKSTON, MINN.	CONCORDIA-ST. PAUL OCT. 20 ST. PAUL, MINN.
BEMIDJI STATE SEPT. 15 BEMIDJI, MINN.	NORTHERN STATE NOV. 3 ABERDEEN, S.D.	
MINOT STATE SEPT. 22 MINOT, N.D.	UMARY NOV. 10 CROOKSTON, MINN.	
AUGUSTANA SEPT. 29 CROOKSTON, MINN.		

Football | 5/21/2018 4:44:00 PM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Media Relations

Minnesota Crookston Football Releases 2018 Schedule



2018 Schedule

CROOKSTON, Minn. – The University of Minnesota Crookston football program officially released their 2018 schedule Mon., May 21. The Golden Eagles will play an 11-game Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference slate. Minnesota Crookston will host five games with six tilts played on the road.

The format for the NSIC season has changed as the Golden Eagles will play four games against NSIC North opponents, followed by four against NSIC South foes. Minnesota Crookston will finish with three games against NSIC North competition. The previous format across the league was to play four NSIC South opponents followed by seven divisional games versus NSIC North foes.

"I am excited about our football schedule this fall; we will begin the year with a key rivalry game against MSU Moorhead on Thurs., Aug. 30," said Head Coach [Mark Dufner](#). "We will face a high level of competition each week and are looking forward to the opportunity."

Minnesota Crookston will open the season with a rivalry game as the Golden Eagles face MSU Moorhead in the Red River Valley Showdown for the State Farm Traveling Trophy. The game will be a Thursday evening meeting Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Scheels Field at Nemzek Stadium in Moorhead, Minn. The Dragons finished 2017 with a 5-6 mark.

The Golden Eagles will host their home opener at Ed Widseth Field Sat., Sept. 8 against St. Cloud State University at 1 p.m. The Huskies posted a 6-5 record in 2017.

Minnesota Crookston then hits the road for a pair of games. The Golden Eagles will first battle Bemidji State University for another rivalry trophy as they take on the Beavers in the Hub Cap Game Sat., Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. at Chet Anderson Stadium in Bemidji, Minn. Bemidji State went 8-3 on the 2017 season. Minnesota Crookston remains on the road the following weekend as they take on Minot State University Sat., Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. at Herb Parker Stadium in Minot, N.D. Minot State finished with a 3-8 record.

The Golden Eagles return to the friendly confines of Ed Widseth Field Sat., Sept. 29 for their Homecoming game against Augustana University at 1 p.m. Augustana finished 2017 with a 4-7 mark.

Minnesota Crookston takes to the road Sat., Oct. 6 for a 5 p.m. meeting with Southwest Minnesota State University at Mattke Field at Schwan Regional Event Center in Marshall, Minn. The Mustangs went 2-9 last season.

The Golden Eagles host Winona State University Sat., Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. at Ed Widseth Field. The Warriors finished 2017 with a 10-2 record.

Minnesota Crookston then heads for the road Oct. 20 at 12 p.m. at Sea Foam Stadium in Concordia-St. Paul, Minn. The Bulldogs posted a 9-2 mark last season.

The Golden Eagles return to Ed Widseth Field Sat., Oct. 27 at 1 p.m. at Ed Widseth Field. The Bulldogs posted a 9-2 mark last season.

Minnesota Crookston will play their final road tilt Sat., Nov. 3 at 1 p.m. at Swisher Field in Aberdeen, S.D. against Northern State University. The Wolves went 6-5 in 2017.

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The Golden Eagles wrap up the 2018 slate Sat., Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. against University of Mary for Senior Day at Ed Widseth Field. U-Mary posted a 1-10 record. They are under the direction of new coach Craig Bagnell heading into the 2018 season, who was a former quarterback for the Marauders.

Minnesota Crookston is entering their second season under Dufner. The Golden Eagles are looking to improve upon a 0-11 mark on the 2018 season. Minnesota Crookston returns several key pieces. [Rod Stewart](#) (Sr., WR, Fort Worth, Texas) was All-NSIC Second Team as a wide receiver and All-NSIC First Team as a kick returner. Stewart was also named 2017 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-America Honorable Mention as a kick returner. Stewart had 47 catches for 633 yards and five touchdowns as a junior. As a return specialist, he averaged 28.3 yards per return with one touchdown of 94 yards on the season. Defensively, [Will Cross](#) (R-Jr., LB, Turtle Lake, Wis.) leads the way after notching 79 tackles and three tackles for loss last season. Cross returns along with four other leaders from the defense last season in [Ali Alkhatib](#) (R-Sr., LB, Rosemount, Minn.), [Will Cole](#) (Sr., DB, Compton, Calif.) and [Trevor Long, Jr.](#) (R-Jr., DB, Brooklyn Park, Minn.). Cole was an All-NSIC Honorable Mention pick, along with [Stephen Day](#) (R-Sr., K/P, Eveleth, Minn.), who averaged 38.3 yards per punt last season. Offensively, [Kevin Evans](#) (Sr., RB, Groveland, Fla.) also returns after leading the team with 264 yards rushing last season. [Noah Lee](#) (R-Sr., OL, Vadnais Heights, Minn.) looks to anchor an offensive line that returns seven players with starting experience.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#7 Ali Alkhatib

LB / 5' 9" / Junior

#54 Will Cross

LB / 5' 10" / Redshirt Sophomore

#69 Noah Lee

OL / 6' 2" / Redshirt Junior

#1 Rod Stewart

WR / 5' 11" / Junior

#25 Will Cole

DB / 5' 11" / Junior

#37 Stephen Day

K/P / 6' 0" / Redshirt Junior

#40 Trevor Long, Jr.

DB / 5' 10" / Redshirt Sophomore

#22 Kevin Evans

RB / 5' 10" / Junior



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Minnesota Crookston Athletics

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