

## News Release

# Golden Eagle Softball Opens 2008 Practice Season

By Mitch Bakken on Saturday, January 5, 2008

(Crookston, Minn.) – The University of Minnesota, Crookston Softball team will start full team practice for the 2008 season on Monday, January 7. The team opens the 2008 season on February, 24 in St. Cloud, Minn. at the SCSU Husky Dome Tournament. The Golden Eagles play Dakota State University at 2:00 p.m. and St. Cloud State University at 4:00 p.m. Overall UMC has 42 games scheduled for the 2008 season.

Head Coach Mitch Bakken enters his fourth season with the Golden Eagles. “We had a very productive fall season. We beat and tied Bemidji State and I think that helped build the confidence we need going into the regular season,” says Bakken. “I have had great leadership from my returners and the newcomers are working to earn starting spots for opening day. They realize this isn't high school or club softball and with four more solid teams entering the conference next season, they are working hard to improve everyday.”

Coach Bakken will be assisted by returning coach Birman Jenkins and newcomer Brock Hanson. Hanson is a native of Crookston, Minn. and played baseball for the Golden Eagles. He will work with outfielders and assist with hitting drills, lifting and conditioning.

The Golden Eagles open Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) play on April 5 against Upper Iowa University at the Wayne State Crossover in Wayne, Neb. First pitch is scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at [www.goldeneaglesports.com](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com).

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