



Men's Basketball | 10/16/2015 11:12:00 AM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

UMC Men's Basketball Tips Off 2015-16 Season With First Practice



[2015-16 ROSTER](#)

[2015-16 SCHEDULE](#)



CROOKSTON, Minn.- The University of Minnesota Crookston men's basketball team officially opened up practice Thursday afternoon at Lysaker Gymnasium signifying the official beginning of the second season for Head Coach [Dan Weisse](#) as he looks to build a new culture and continue to put together the building blocks for the UMC men's basketball program.

The 2015-16 season will see an almost brand new roster for the Golden Eagles as only two players returning for Minnesota Crookston played last season with returning starter [Derrick Redd, Jr.](#) (Sr., G, Menifee, Calif.) back in the fold, along with key reserve [Jim Warmack](#) (So., F/C, East Grand Forks, Minn.). The Golden Eagles also return two players who redshirted the 2014-15 season with [Gable Smith](#) (R-Fr., F, Lodi, Wis.) and [A.J. Walton](#) (R-Fr., G, Oak Hills, Calif.) looking to make an impact for the Golden Eagles.

The rest of the roster is brand new for UMC as 10 new players were part of a strong first recruiting class for Weisse and his staff. The group included four players ranked among the Top 45 players in Minnesota including 24th-ranked [Kobe Critchley](#) (Fr., G, Roseville, Minn.), 34th-ranked [Chase Knickerbocker](#) (Fr., G/F, Annandale, Minn.), 35th-ranked [Nate Lorenz](#) (F, 6-7 210, Breckenridge, Minn.) and 42nd-ranked [Connor Gamble](#) (Fr., G, Stillwater, Minn.). The Golden Eagles also have local high school recruits [Aaron Hollcraft](#) (Fr., G, Crookston, Minn.) and [Darin Viken](#) (Fr., G, Fosston, Minn.) who make for a great base for the future for Golden Eagle basketball.

In addition to the high school recruits, UMC also has four junior college newcomers who will look to compete for positions for the Golden Eagles. [C.J. Polk](#) (So., G, Milwaukee, Wis.), will have three years to play for UMC. [Riley Rice](#) (Jr., F, Mullen, Neb.), [Xavier Hall](#) (Fr., G, Woodbury, Minn.) and [Ben Grygiel](#) (Jr., F, Rockford, Ill.) will have two years for Coach Weisse's program.

Coaching Staff

Weisse leads the way for the Golden Eagles after helping lead UMC to a 7-20 mark in his first season. The five conference wins was the best the team has had since the 2000-01 season. Weisse is very familiar with the NSIC after three years as an assistant at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He is a product of the Bo Ryan coaching tree after playing under Ryan at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he was actually Ryan's first-ever recruit.

Weisse is joined by fellow Wisconsin-native [Bryan Beamish](#), who was elevated to the lead assistant coach position after serving in the second assistant role last season after a year as a graduate assistant at University of Miami. Beamish is joined as an assistant by newcomer [Blaise Davis](#), who spent the last two years at Dakota County Technical College after playing at Carleton College. Both members of the staff are very familiar with the Midwest region in recruiting and understand Coach Weisse's coaching and recruiting philosophies.

The Golden Eagles will officially get under way in their schedule Nov. 1 as they head down to face the University of Minnesota for an exhibition. UMC will also face College of St. Scholastica and Jamestown College in exhibitions before getting the regular season under way Nov. 13 at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. The NSIC slate for UMC will open up Nov. 28 at home against Bemidji State University.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

The University of Minnesota Crookston is a NCAA Division II university located in the Red River Valley of Northwest Minnesota. UMC sponsors 11 intercollegiate athletic teams with membership in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate conference (NSIC) and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The NSIC is a 16-team conference with schools situated in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

-30-

[Print Friendly Version](#)

PLAYERS MENTIONED

#10 Derrick Redd, Jr. G / 6' 0" / Redshirt Junior	#44 Gable Smith G/F / 6' 7" / Freshman
#54 Jim Warmack F/C / 6' 7" / Freshman	#12 A.J. Walton G / 6' 4" / Redshirt Freshman
#1 Connor Gamble G / 6' 0" / Freshman	#2 C.J. Polk G / 6' 0" / Sophomore
#13 Kobe Critchley G / 6' 0" / Freshman	#32 Ben Grygiel F / 6' 5" / Junior
#22 Aaron Hollcraft G / 5' 11" / Freshman	#20 Darin Viken G / 6' 2" / Freshman

Related Stories

- 03.20.23 Minnesota Crookston Basketball Teams Have Six Named to NSIC Winter All-Academic Teams
- 02.18.23 Allman Scores Career-High 17 in Loss to St. Cloud State
- 02.16.23 Giant Second Half Helps UMD Pull Away from Golden Eagles on Thursday
- 02.15.23 Golden Eagles Hit the Hard Wood Two Final Times This Weekend at Home Against UMD, on Road at SCSU
- 02.11.23 Three-Point Makes Propel Wolves to Win over Golden Eagles

Related Videos

- 03.13.23 Post-Game vs. D'Youville and Illinois-Springfield
- 02.26.23 Post-Game Reaction vs. Michigan State: Jackson Fuller and Jared Aamold
- 02.26.23 Post-Game Reaction vs. Michigan State - Steve Johnson
- 02.10.23 Mike Roysland Post-Game vs. MSU Moorhead
- 02.06.23 2022-23 Minnesota Crookston Hockey Hype Video