

OCT 12   FINAL	OCT 19   FINAL	OCT 26   FINAL	NOV 2   FINAL
Football	Football	Football	Football
vs University of Sioux Falls (S.D.)	at Upper Iowa University	vs Minnesota State University - Mankato	at University of Minnesota Duluth
14	52	24	81

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BOX SCORE

44 • MSU Moorhead 10, 10  
20 Minnesota Crookston 0-1, 0-1

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T
MSU Moorhead	14	7	9	14	44
Minnesota Crookston	0	6	0	14	20

Game Recap: Football | 9/6/2019 12:09:00 AM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Communication

## Early Turnovers Stymie Strong Overall Effort for Minnesota Crookston in 44-20 Loss to MSU Moorhead



**CROOKSTON, Minn.** — The University of Minnesota Crookston football team had their best offensive performance in an NSIC opening game since 2015 and their best defensive output in the first tilt of the NSIC slate since 2011. However, two first quarter turnovers would plague the Golden Eagles as Minnesota State University Moorhead got out to a 21-0 lead. Minnesota Crookston would trail just 21-6 at the half despite the big opening frame for the Dragons, but MSU Moorhead was able to stave off a peppy Golden Eagle team in front of a large crowd at Ed Widseth Field in Crookston, Minn. The game was also the opener for Midco Sports Network's "NSIC Thursday Night Game of the Week" series.

The Golden Eagles fall to 0-1 despite a strong effort in which they never gave in and continued to show improvement throughout the game. MSU Moorhead moves to 0-1 on the year. The Dragons have won the last six in the series as they took home the State Farm Traveling Trophy with the win in the Red River Valley Showdown. The last win for Minnesota Crookston over MSU Moorhead came in 2013 at Ed Widseth Field.

Minnesota Crookston's defense had a strong overall outing, as they held the Dragons to 352 yards of offense. The Golden Eagles were able to tally eight tackles for loss, and one true sack and two safes that caused fumbles. Minnesota Crookston was led by their linebackers as [Will Cross](#) (Sr., LB, Turtle Lake, Wis.) returned after a full year of not playing in a game. Cross was knocked out of last year's season opener against the Dragons. He finished with 13 tackles and a tackle for loss. [Austin Steele](#) (R-So., LB, La Crosse, Wis.) also had a phenomenal game with 11 tackles and 13 tackles for loss. [Jae Muzzey](#) (Sr., DL, St. Louis Park, Minn.) added six tackles and a sack.

Offensively, the Golden Eagles had 271 yards of offense with 170 through the air and 101 on the ground. Minnesota Crookston utilized two quarterbacks on the evening. [Justin Scott](#) (Sr., QB, Houston, Texas) got the start and went 3-of-7 with 57 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Scott ran for 23 yards on 11 carries. [Austin Robinson](#) (Sr., QB, Muskegon, Mich.) came off the bench and went 7-of-9 for 113 yards with two touchdowns. Robinson added 47 yards on the ground on nine carries. Minnesota Crookston's wide receivers also had a strong night. [Jonathan Mudd](#) (Sr., WR, Gardena, Calif.) had six catches for 80 yards and two touchdown catches. Mudd had the first two touchdowns night from a wide receiver since [Adam Connette](#) and [Rod Stewart](#) both had two touchdown grabs in an evening in 2017. [Jonathan Coy](#) (R-So., WR, Sun Prairie, Wis.) returned to the field after a redshirt year and had a productive day with three catches for 49 yards.

[Wyatt K. Sheddick III](#) (R-Fr., WR, Scottsdale, Ariz.) showcased his speed all night long both as a receiver and a kick returner. Sheddick took the opening kickoff 47 yards and later on took a short reception to the house as he out-ran the Dragon defense for a 41-yard touchdown catch. He averaged 27.8 yards per kickoff return for Minnesota Crookston.

[Dante Lopez](#) (R-So., RB, Spearfish, S.D.) was the most productive running back for the Golden Eagles, as he had four carries for 20 yards for an average of 5.0 yards per carry.

MSU Moorhead was led on the night by quarterback Jakup Sinani, who was 29-of-39 for 255 yards with two touchdown passes. On the ground, Denver Colgrove had 11 rushes for 56 yards with one touchdown. Ty Joachim, a Minnesota Crookston transfer, got in during the fourth quarter and added 42 yards on 10 touches with a touchdown run.

Crady Breesnahan led the Dragons in receiving yards and touches with 10 grabs for 94 yards. Herman Cray added six catches for 52 yards and a touchdown out of the backfield.

Defensively, Carson Zarak led the way with six tackles and a fumble return for a touchdown. Darius Woods-Steichen finished with five tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and a sack.

Minnesota Crookston looked to start off the night strong as Sheddick took the opening kickoff 47 yards to put the Golden Eagles at their own 48 to start the game. However, Woods-Steichen would get a strip sack of Scott and Zarak took the ball 42 yards to pay dirt to give the Dragons a quick 7-0 lead.

The Dragons would convert a 10-play, 75-yard drive later in the first quarter culminating in a three-yard touchdown run for Sinani to push the lead to 14-0.

The Golden Eagles would look to move the ball on the next drive. Minnesota Crookston seemingly converted a fourth down on a four-yard run by [Alex Foltz](#) (Fr., RB, Spring Grove, Minn.), but a big hit on Foltz by Shad Veeba forced him to cough it up and end the drive for Minnesota Crookston.

The Dragons got points off the turnover as Sinani found Trent Marquart for a four-yard touchdown strike to move the lead to 21-0 early in the second stanza.

The Golden Eagles had a great defensive series later in the second quarter. Minnesota Crookston would look to have a turnover on first down as [Dante Lopez](#) (R-So., RB, Sacramento, Calif.) came on a blind side corner blitz and punished Sinani with a big hit forcing the fumble. However, Minnesota Crookston would be unable to scoop up the ball for what could have been a touchdown. The Golden Eagles did a force a punt though and sent the offense up to succeed.

Scott fed off the momentum from the defense as on first down he rushed 25 yards down to the Dragon 22-yard line. Two plays later, Scott found his junior college teammate Mudd for a 20-yard touchdown pass. A failed fake field goal kept the score at 21-6.

Both defenses held strong the rest of the second quarter as MSU Moorhead went into the break ahead 21-6.

The Dragons came out of the break strong as they went 57 yards on 10 plays. The Golden Eagles were able to hold MSU Moorhead to three after getting a big third down stop and forcing a 16-yard field goal from Hobet Diaz to move the score to 24-6.

MSU Moorhead widened their lead out to 30-6 later in the stanza when Colgrove went in on a five-yard touchdown run.

Minnesota Crookston responded early in the fourth quarter. Robinson moved the team into Dragon territory as he found Coy on back-to-back strikes of 14 yards and 19 yards. On the next play, Robinson found a wide open Sheddick, who used his speed to run past the Dragon defender 41 yards to the end zone. The touchdown strike cut the lead to 30-12 after a failed extra point.

MSU Moorhead moved the lead to 37-12 in the fourth quarter when Sinani found Gray out of the backfield for an 11-yard touchdown pass.

A Deontre Wade interception on the next play from scrimmage set the Dragons up for a quick score. Joachim went in from two yards out to move the lead to 44-12.

The Golden Eagles did not give in as Robinson quickly moved Minnesota Crookston down the field with a 16-yard pass to Coy and a 16-yard rush. He would find Mudd in the end zone to cut the deficit to 44-18. A Sheddick rush on the two-point conversion proved true as the deficit shrank to 44-20.

The score would remain at 44-20 as the final second ticked off the clock as the Dragons took home the State Farm Traveling Trophy.

Minnesota Crookston will look to build off the positives from a strong effort as they hit the road to face St. Cloud State University Sat., Sept. 14 for a 6 p.m. kickoff in St. Cloud, Minn.

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### COACH DUFNER INTERVIEW

#### HIGHLIGHTS

#### TRISTAN ROBBINS INTERVIEW

#### PHOTO GALLERY

**Next Game:**  
 St. Cloud State University  
 9/14/2019 | 6 p.m.  
 1260 KROX AM/105.7 FM

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### Team Statistics

	MSUM	UMC
Total Yards	352	271
Pass Yards	255	170
Rushing Yards	97	101
Penalty Yards	2-15	3-25
1st Downs	25	13
3rd Downs	8-16	3-10
4th Downs	1-1	0-1
TOP	37:02	22:58

#### 1ST QUARTER

15:58 - MSUM - Zarak, Carson 42 yd fumble recovery (Diaz, Hobet kick)	7	0
06:19 - MSUM - Sinani, Jakup 3 yd run (Diaz, Hobet kick), 10 plays, 73 yards, TOP 5:09	14	0

#### 2ND QUARTER

13:28 - MSUM - Marquart, Trent 4 yd pass from Sinani, Jakup (Diaz, Hobet kick) 10 plays, 49 yards, TOP 5:58	21	0
08:21 - UMC - Mudd, Jonattan 20 yd pass from Scott, J (Neuman, J pass failed) 8 plays, 47 yards, TOP 1:06	21	6

#### 3RD QUARTER

12:07 - MSUM - Diaz, Hobet 56 yd field goal 10 plays, 57 yards, TOP 2:49	24	6
08:05 - MSUM - Colgrove, D. 5 yd run (Chenardist, S. rush failed), 11 plays, 70 yards, TOP 5:04	30	6

#### 4TH QUARTER

14:13 - UMC - Sheddick, W. 41 yd pass from Robbins, T. (Robbins, T. pass failed) 3 plays, 76 yards, TOP 0:27	30	12
04:29 - MSUM - Gray, Herman 11 yd pass from Sinani, Jakup (Diaz, Hobet kick) 10 plays, 52 yards, TOP 0:14	37	12
03:27 - MSUM - Joachim, Ty 2 yd run (Diaz, Hobet kick), 3 plays, 12 yards, TOP 0:34	44	12
01:19 - UMC - Mudd, Jonattan 4 yd pass from Robbins, T. (Sheddick, W. rush) 8 plays, 67 yards, TOP 2:11	44	20

### Game Leaders

Passing Leaders

	<b>#5 Scott, J.</b>	CMP 3	TD 1
		YDS 57	INT 1
	<b>#4 Robbins, T.</b>	CMP 7	TD 2
		YDS 113	INT 0

### Players Mentioned

- #11 Adam Connette**  
WR / 5'9" / Senior
- #02 Nathan Coy**  
WR / 5'10" / Freshman
- #54 Will Cross**  
LB / 5'11" / Redshirt Junior
- #28 Boyce Harr**  
RB / 5'9" / Redshirt Freshman
- #20 Austin Steele**  
LB / 5'10" / Redshirt Freshman
- #1 Rod Stewart**  
WR / 5'11" / Senior
- #11 Jonattan Mudd**  
WR / 6' 0" / Junior
- #16 Tristan Robbins**  
QB / 5'11" / Freshman
- #68 Joe Warner**  
DL / 6' 1" / Junior
- #5 Jalyn Scott**  
QB / 6' 3" / Junior



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