



Men's Basketball | 1/23/2015 12:10:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

Get To Know Your Golden Eagles: Kevin Larson



This week, in "Get to Know Your Golden Eagles", we sat down with UMC senior [Kevin Larson](#) from New Ulm, Minn. We talked to Kevin about the growth he has seen in the program, reuniting with Assistant Coach [Mike Annese](#) and having his sister Kristi Larson as a fellow student-athlete at UMC.

You were recruited by Coach Jeff Oseth but are playing your final season under Head Coach Dan Weisse. What are some of the biggest adjustments you have seen in the program so far?

"I think the program has seen a real attitude change. I feel like last year we were satisfied with competing and being close in games because the program has lost a lot in previous years. This year Coach Weisse has brought in the attitude that we want to win games. The program doesn't have moral victories, we want results. We lost to St. Cloud State by six or seven last weekend and Coach wasn't satisfied. We all have to be better."

You had previously worked with Assistant Coach Mike Annese during your time at Iowa Lakes Community College. How was it being able to reunite with Coach Annese at UMC?

"It was really cool. I worked a lot individually with Coach Annese at Iowa Lakes. He has probably had more to do with my game changing in college than anyone else. He has really taught me a lot and we can relate on a point guard level. It was cool finding out that he was going to come here. I was probably the first one to text him when I found out he was going to interview here."

What is the biggest thing that Coach Annese has brought to your game during your time together?

"He has brought a lot of toughness to my game. Coach Annese tells me he was a tough guy at Colorado State when he played and that is what I try to bring to my game is the effort and toughness. He always challenges me to get on the floor and dive for the ball and be better on defense."

You also have the unique opportunity to have your sister, Kristi Larson, as a fellow student-athlete, with her joining the softball program at UMC. How has that been having a family member on campus along with you?

"It has been interesting going to college with your sister. She went to my junior college at Iowa Lakes, as well, so we have always gone to college together. It is another to have in the crowd and a familiar face around school!"

I know Kristi did her best impression of you as her Halloween costume during a volleyball game this year. What did you think of her interpretation?

"She dressed up as me for Halloween. That was interesting. She did a good job."

The seven seniors have very different backgrounds in terms of where you came from or how long you guys have been here, but how have you guys come together during your time at UMC?

"The bonds are pretty tight. This is a pretty tight-knit group. We have been through a lot together. We were winning game at the beginning of last season and then [Ashton Harrell](#) got hurt, so we had to come together as a team and build. With new coaches coming in this year, we had to come together again. It has been a good experience with all of these guys."

You guys have achieved success early on this season with six wins, something this program hasn't seen much of, but I know you aren't satisfied with that. What are the goals of the team as you wrap up the 2014-15 season?

"I think a goal that has been common in our locker room is that we want to host an NSIC playoff game here. We want a southern team to have to come up here and play us. We are right in the hunt for the three or four seed right now. Anything can happen here on our home court."

What do you want to do after you get your degree from the University of Minnesota Crookston?

"I am not really sure right now. I would like to do something with marketing. I am trying to get an internship with the Minnesota Twins this summer. I have also talked about coaching basketball when I am done here."

What is your favorite TV show?

"Criminal Minds."

What is your favorite moment from the season so far?

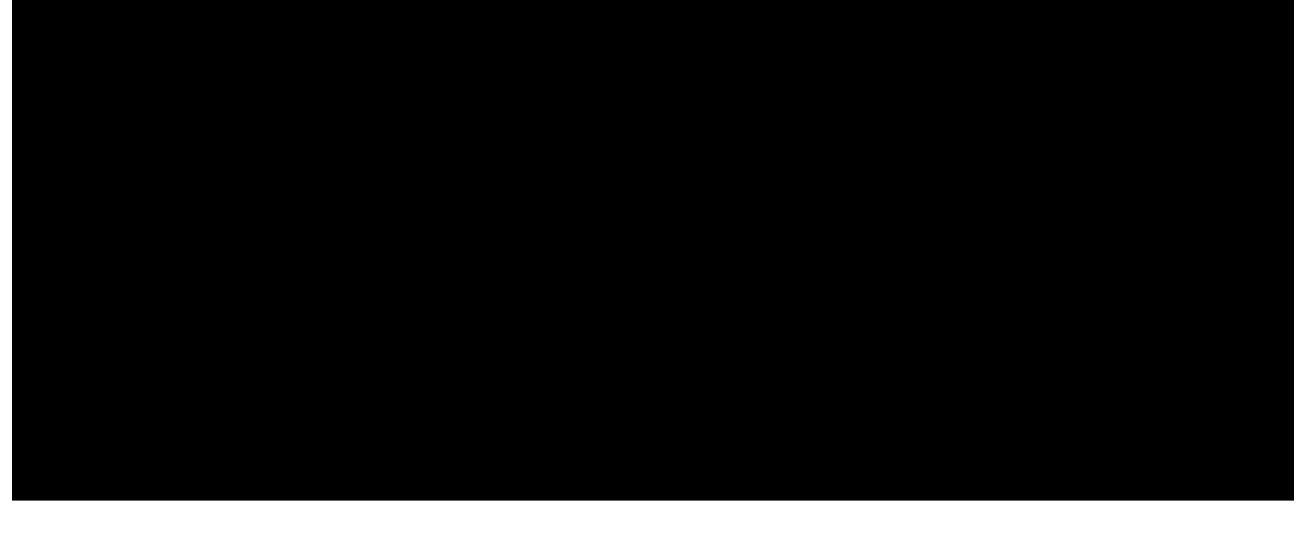
"I thought the Seattle trip was pretty unique. It was my first long trip I have been on with a basketball program. We bonded on so many levels, traveling together and spending so much time together. We saw some sites around Seattle together, memories that we made together that will never go away."

Who is the funniest guy on the team?

"I have heard that [Lucas Reller](#) has gotten a lot of votes and I would have to agree. I think Lucas is the funniest guy on the team. You never know what he is going to say next, him and [Tomas Parker](#) both. Lucas has an interesting humor, sometimes you don't get it at first but then you think about it and then understand what he was saying. Tomas hits the obvious one's home pretty good."

What are you most excited about as you watch the growth of this program moving forward?

"I think they are doing a good job. They have really had a culture change and I think that is something the community can really rally around. I think the basketball team can be very successful in the future."



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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#12 Ashton Harrell G / 6' 2" / Senior	#14 Kevin Larson G / 6' 2" / Senior
#50 Tomas Parker F/C / 6' 8" / Senior	#2 Lucas Reller G / 6' 0" / Senior

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