



Football | 7/9/2018 2:46:00 PM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Media Relations

Minnesota Crookston Football Announces Staff Changes



CROOKSTON, Minn. – The University of Minnesota Crookston football program announced staff changes heading into the 2018 season. [Tom Miller](#), who has been on staff for the past three seasons, has been promoted to defensive coordinator for the Golden Eagles. Miller will also retain his title as assistant head coach and will coach a position group that has been yet to be determined. Minnesota Crookston also announced the hiring of [Sam Gooding](#) as recruiting coordinator and offensive line coach. Gooding served as offensive line coach in a temporary position during the spring and has been promoted to full-time.

Miller spent three seasons as safeties coach for the Golden Eagles. Miller's first three seasons were highlighted by safeties Lethzee Calderon (2015) and [Will Cole](#) (2017) earning All-NSIC North Honorable Mention honors. Calderon led the team in tackles as a senior in 2015 with 75. That season, [Jake Newman](#) also had a strong year with 58 tackles and three interceptions. In 2016, three of his players helped lead the team in tackles with [Will Cole](#), [Trevor Long, Jr.](#) and [Jake Newman](#) all notching over 40 tackles on the season. Newman notched two interceptions on the season, for second on the team in picks. In 2017, Cole was second on the team with 85 tackles. He also led the team with three interceptions. In addition, Long, Jr. notched 74 tackles with two fumble recoveries on the season.

Miller also served as recruiting coordinator for Minnesota Crookston in 2017. He helped the Golden Eagles sign 37 players on signing day, including a very talented group from the state of Minnesota with 22 in-state signees. He also put an emphasis on area signees, helping Minnesota Crookston create a strong footprint in Northern Minnesota and Northeast North Dakota. The Golden Eagles were also able to bring in a haul of 17 student-athletes from the Twin Cities metro area and Central Minnesota.

Miller came to Minnesota Crookston after one season at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he worked as the team's linebacker coach and video coordinator. In his one season he helped a player to a First Team All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) pick and had another earn honorable mention. Prior to arriving at Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Miller served as the Head Football Scout for NCSA Athletic Recruiting where he helped to provide student-athletes and families expert advice about the collegiate recruiting process.

Prior to his experience at NCSA, Miller was an assistant coach for one season at Concordia University-Chicago, where he worked with the team's wide receivers and kickers and punters. Miller also served as a student assistant coach at Ripon College.


As a player, Miller competed for Loras College and Ripon, He also helped to found the Ripon College Rugby Football club. He earned his bachelor's degree from Ripon in 2008 in exercise science with an emphasis in sport management. Miller is currently working as a graduate assistant in sports administration from Concordia University-Irvine.


"Tom has done a great job coaching his players and has a wealth of knowledge on the defensive side of the ball as a coordinator."

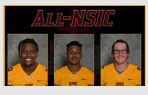
Gooding comes to the Golden Eagles from Dakota State University where he spent one season as running backs coach. He helped Ashanti Payne and Max Simmons reach over 400 yards on the season.


Gooding previously was an assistant coach for two seasons at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D., where he was on the same staff as current Minnesota Crookston offensive coordinator [Jared Hottle](#). In 2015,


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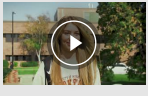
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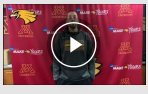
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he oversaw tight ends and coached one all-conference tight end and helped the offense set school records in both scoring and total yards. In 2016, he served as offensive line coach and special teams coordinator. He coached three all-conference linemen and an all-conference kicker and punter.

Prior to his position at Dakota State, Gooding was a student assistant and recruiting assistant at Division I University of Illinois.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in 2015, while earning a master's degree from Dakota State in 2016.

"Sam did a nice job working with the offensive line last spring," Dufner said. "He brings a lot of energy to practice every day. Sam will do a great job coaching the offensive line and serving as our recruiting coordinator."

The Golden Eagles are currently looking to finish their staff heading into the 2018 season. Minnesota Crookston returns a core of 50 players heading into the season. Minnesota Crookston returns three players who earned All-NSIC honors in 2017. [Rod Stewart](#) (Sr., WR, Fort Worth, Texas) was an All-NSIC North First Team pick as a kick returner and an All-NSIC North Second Team selection as a wide receiver. Cole was an All-NSIC North Honorable Mention pick, as was [Stephen Day](#) (R-Sr., K/P, Eveleth, Minn.). The Golden Eagles open up the season Thurs., Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in Moorhead, Minn.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#25 Will Cole

DB / 6' 0" / Senior

#40 Trevor Long, Jr.

DB / 6' 0" / Redshirt Junior

#1 Rod Stewart

WR / 5' 11" / Senior

#37 Stephen Day

K/P / 6' 1" / Redshirt Senior

#47 Jake Newman

K / 6' 1" / Redshirt Senior



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

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