



Women's Volleyball | 9/1/2016 4:52:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

UMC Volleyball Opens Season at 2016 Ferris State Invitational Friday in Michigan



Schedule

- Sept. 2**
 9:30 a.m. C.T. - Minnesota Crookston vs. Grand Valley State, Court Two
 2:30 p.m. C.T. - Minnesota Crookston vs. Lake Superior State, Court Two
- Sept. 3**
 8:30 a.m. C.T. - Minnesota Crookston vs. Cal State-San Bernardino, Court One
 1:30 p.m. C.T. - Minnesota Crookston vs. West Virginia State, Court Two
- CROOKSTON, Minn.** - The University of Minnesota Crookston volleyball team will open up the season Sept. 2 and 3 with four matches at the 2016 Ferris State Invitational. Matches will be played at the Ewigleben Sports Arena in Big Rapids, Mich.

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Minnesota Crookston is entering their 10th season under Head Coach [Lee Anderson](#). The Golden Eagles return a lot of experience from a team that went 8-20 last season. UMC will look to continue improve as they try to start the 2016 slate on the right foot.

The Golden Eagles return five starters from their 2015 squad. Leading the way for UMC are four-year starter [Sierra Trost](#) (Sr., S, Ham Lake, Minn.) and [Maggie Perrel](#) (R-Jr., OH/RS, New Germany, Minn.). Perrel led the Golden Eagles as an attacker last season with 2.86 kills per set, while Trost averaged 8.41 assists per set last season. In addition, UMC also returns middle hitter [Kelci Green](#) (R-Jr., MH, Anoka, Minn.), [Kaycie Hagen](#) (Jr., DS/S, Savage, Minn.) and [Casey Cashman](#) (Sr., DS/Lib., Ashland, Wis.), all who were starters last season.

Setter
 At the setter position, Trost leads the way for the Golden Eagles. Trost averaged 8.41 assists per set, while also adding 2.48 digs per set. Hagen will serve as Trost's primary back-up, while [Alex Oakes](#) (R-Fr., S, Cloquet, Minn.) will also battle for playing time.

Outside Hitter/Right-Side Hitter
 Perrel leads the returnees at outside hitter, while [Kassi Green](#) (R-Jr., OH/RS, Anoka, Minn.) also returns with a lot of experience. [Kassi Green](#) averaged 1.38 kills and 0.57 blocks per set last season. [Kali Erickson](#) (Sr., OH, Fargo, N.D.) also brings a host of experience after averaging 1.69 kills per set off the bench last season. Also look for [Rachel Freund](#) (R-So., OH, Jordan, Minn.) and [Sabrina Leuer](#) (So., RS, Hamel, Minn.) to compete for playing time. [Emma Melander](#) (R-Fr., OH, Victoria, Minn.) and [Alyssa Thomas](#) (Fr., OH, Marion, Iowa) will provide depth for the Golden Eagles.

Middle Hitter
[Kelci Green](#) returns to led UMC at the middle hitter position. Green led UMC with 1.13 blocks per set last season. She also tallied 1.79 kills per set as a sophomore. [Alyssa Muelken](#) (Jr., MH, Savage, Minn.), [Callie Schapekahn](#) (So., MH, Eagan, Minn.) and [Kaitlin Sikkink](#) (R-Fr., MH, Saint Charles, Minn.) will also battle for time in the middle.

Defensive Specialist/Libero
 Leading the defense will be Cashman and Hagen. Cashman averaged 3.23 digs per set last season, while Hagen averaged 2.14 digs per set. Also competing for time in the back row will be [Becca Vandenhoevel](#) (Jr., Lib., Cannon Falls, Minn.), who battled injuries last season, and [Ali Schueler](#) (R-Fr., Lib., Howards Grove, Wis.), who redshirted.

The Golden Eagles will open up the season at Fri., Sept. 2 at 9:30 a.m. C.T. against Grand Valley State University at the Ewigleben Sports Arena. The Lakers from Allendale, Mich., went 20-12 last season and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. Grand Valley State is led by Staci Brower, a middle hitter who averaged 2.71 kills and 1.11 blocks per set last season. At setter the Lakers return both of their key players with Katie Olson and Taylor Stewart. Olson averaged 6.64 assists and 3.02 digs per set, while Stewart averaged 5.31 assists per set last season.

Minnesota Crookston will continue tournament play at 2:30 p.m. C.T. against Lake Superior State. The Lakers from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., went 0-25 last season. Lake Superior State is led by second-year Head Coach Mallory Larranaga. The Lakers are led by outside hitter Jena Tulgetske, who averaged 1.43 kills per set last season. Defensively, Lake Superior State is led by Justice Kjolhede, who averaged 3.53 digs per set last season.

Sat., Sept. 3, the Golden Eagles will open up play against California State University, San Bernardino at 8:30 a.m. C.T. The Coyotes went 28-6 last season, advancing to the third round of the NCAA Tournament. The Coyotes lost several key players but still have several returning to play. 5-8 outside hitter Lauren Nicholson leads the way after averaging 3.24 kills and 2.74 digs per set last season. At setter, Jayann DeHoog leads the Coyotes after averaging 11.39 assists per set. They also return Malika O'Brien in the middle, who averaged 3.43 kills and 1.21 blocks per set last season.

The second game of the day will pit UMC against West Virginia State University at 1:30 p.m. C.T. The Yellow Jackets went 8-18 last season. West Virginia State is led by Jennifer Bulger, who has taken over as the interim head coach.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

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|---|--|
| #1 Casey Cashman DS/Lib. / 5' 5" / Senior | #3 Kali Erickson OH / 5' 9" / Senior |
| #9 Rachel Freund OH / 5' 11" / Redshirt Sophomore | #11 Kassi Green RS/OH / 5' 9" / Redshirt Junior |
| #7 Kelci Green MH / 5' 9" / Redshirt Junior | #18 Kaycie Hagen S/DS / 5' 8" / Junior |
| #17 Sabrina Leuer RS / 5' 11" / Sophomore | #20 Emma Melander OH / 5' 9" / Redshirt Freshman |
| #12 Alyssa Muelken MH / 5' 11" / Junior | #2 Alex Oakes S / 5' 9" / Redshirt Freshman |

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