



Men's Basketball | 2/23/2017 1:13:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

## Harrison Cleary Named NSIC Freshman of the Year



**BURNSVILLE, Minn.** – University of Minnesota Crookston guard [Harrison Cleary](#) (Fr., G, Oak Creek, Wis.) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Freshman of the Year as announced by the conference office Thurs., Feb. 23.

Cleary is the first player since Bryce Cummings during the 2006-07 season to win a specialty award through the conference. Cummings was named NSIC Newcomer of the Year that season. Cleary and Cummings are the only two Minnesota Crookston players to have ever earned specialty awards.

"Harrison had a special year," said Head Coach [Dan Weisse](#). "He absolutely earned this honor. I cannot tell you how proud and happy I am for him. This is a great start for Harrison and what he wants to accomplish. He made things happen and did it within the offense. I'm excited for what the future holds for Harrison and our program."

Cleary was also named All-NSIC Second Team, in addition to his Freshman of the Year nod. He is the first player since Adam Sullivan during the 2003-04 season to earn all-conference recognition. Cleary joins Sullivan and Joe Hasz as All-NSIC honorees in the history of the men's basketball program.

The Oak Creek, Wis., native had one of the best seasons in program history for the Minnesota Crookston men's basketball program. Cleary set the school records with 640 points, 231 field goals and 130 free throws, all surpassing records previously set by Joe Hasz, the program's all-time leading scorer and a top five all-time scorer in the NSIC.

In addition to his season record, Cleary also set several game marks as he had a school-record 42 points against Minnesota State University-Mankato Jan. 27, 2017. He also set the school record with 17 field goals that same day. Cleary would finish the season averaging 22.1 points per game (second in the NSIC). In addition, he averaged 3.7 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game. Cleary was twice named NSIC North Division Player of the Week. He shot 47.7 percent from the field, 35.8 percent from beyond the arc and 85.0 percent from the charity stripe. Cleary tallied 30 or more points on five occasions and 20 or more points 17 times on his freshman season.

Cleary forms part of the core moving forward as Minnesota Crookston looks to make a jump in the NSIC standings heading into Head Coach [Dan Weisse's](#) fourth season at the lead of the program. The Golden Eagles came just one win shy of a program-best nine wins this season. They were in a lot of games with 11 contests coming down to the final minute. UMC won two of those games and lost nine as they were close but were unable to get over the hump. Minnesota Crookston is slated to return 10 of 12 players heading into the 2017-18 campaign.

The other individual award honorees in the NSIC went to Aaron Lien of Minnesota State University Moorhead for NSIC Player of the Year, Jordan Hay of Upper Iowa University for NSIC Defensive Player of the Year, Logan Doyle of Northern State University for NSIC Newcomer of the Year and Brad Bigler of Southwest Minnesota State University for NSIC Coach of the Year.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#0 Harrison Cleary  
G / 6' 1" / Freshman

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