



Baseball | 4/4/2019 4:01:00 PM | Hunter Plante, Assistant Director of Marketing/Communications, Olivia Puttin, Media Relations Intern

Golden Eagles Set for Series with Upper Iowa; Games Moved Up to Friday-Saturday

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Crookston, Minn.—The University of Minnesota Crookston baseball team will look to bounce back this weekend at home against Upper Iowa, after getting swept by the University of Sioux Falls on Wednesday afternoon.

The Golden Eagles will look to bounce back and keep pace in the competitive NSIC, as they welcome in Upper Iowa. The Peacocks are currently 7-13 overall and 4-11 in conference play.

Upper Iowa at Minnesota Crookston
Location: Crookston, Minn.
UMC Baseball Field
Friday, April 5 – 3 PM
Saturday April 6 – 12:22 PM
Live Stats - <https://goldeneaglesports.com/ideamstats/baseball/summary>
Live Video - <https://portalstretchinternet.com/crk/#/liveEventsTab>

Minnesota Crookston Preview
Projected Starting Lineup
 Jr. LF [Eric Swenson](#), .290, 23 runs, 8 2B, 8 RBIs
 Jr. CF [Landyn Swenson](#), .279, 14 runs, 3 2B, 10 RBIs
 Sr. 1B [Zach Rustad](#), .359, 22 runs, 2 3B, 3 3B, 5 HR, 22 RBIs
 Sr. C [Zach Rustad](#), .273, 15 runs, 5 2B, 2 3B, 1 HR, 14 RBIs
 Sr. RF [Zach Rustad](#), .260, 15 runs, 7 2B, 2 3B, 5 HR, 25 RBIs
 R-So. DH [Zach Rustad](#), .375, 6 runs, 5 RBIs
 Jr. 3B [Scott Finberg](#), .225, 13 runs, 4 2B, 5 HR, 18 RBIs
 Jr. 2B [Zach Rustad](#), .156, 11 runs, 3 HR, 9 RBIs
 R-So. SS [Griffin Fussy](#), .273, 9 runs, 1 3B, 7 RBIs

Top Starters
 Jr. RHP [Jayden Grover](#), 5-2, 3.52 ERA, 50.2 IP, 16 K, 17 BB
 Sr. LHP [Nate Albrecht](#), 2-2, 5.02 ERA, 28.2 IP, 20 K, 8 BB
 Sr. LHP [Zach Rustad](#), 3-4, 5.86 ERA, 35.1 IP, 24 K, 18 BB

Top Relievers
 R-So. LHP [Dalton Grose](#), 1-0, 2.66 ERA, 20.1 IP, 6 saves, 25 K, 11 BB
 Fr. RHP [Connor Richardson](#), 1-0, 2.08 ERA, 17.1 IP, 2 K, 4 BB

The Golden Eagles struggled to get anything going on Wednesday afternoon against the Cougars of Sioux Falls. The Golden Eagles managed to score just three runs in two games, down from their 5.8 runs per game on the season. The Golden Eagles will look to rebound this weekend against an Upper Iowa team that has allowed 7.8 runs per game and is 12th in the conference with a team ERA of 6.88. [Zach Rustad](#) (Sr., 1B, East Grand Forks, Minn.), the preseason player of the year, will look to carry the load offensively. Hjelte is hitting .329 with three triples, six homeruns and 22 RBI's on the season. His 22 RBI's is second on the team, behind [Zach Rustad](#) (So., OF, Grand Forks, N.D.), who has 25. The Golden Eagles have gotten good production from the top two hitters in the lineup. [Eric Swenson](#) (Fr., UT, Thunder Bay, Ontario) and [Landyn Swenson](#) (Fr., OF, Devils Lake, N.D.) have combined to score 37 runs on the season, with Jorgenson leading the team with 23. [Scott Finberg](#) (Fr., 3B, Stillwater, Minn.) and [Ben Thoma](#) (So., C/SS, Clearbrook, Minn.) will also look to produce offensively this weekend.

Defensively, the Golden Eagles will look to rebound from Wednesday, where they had 11 errors has a team. Six of the errors came in game one, while game two saw the Golden Eagles commit five errors. The Golden Eagles have committed the fourth most errors in the conference with 43 on the season.

On the mound, the Golden Eagles will rely on starters [Zach Rustad](#) (Sr., LHP, Blaine, Minn.), [Jayden Grover](#) (Fr., RHP, Cooperstown, N.D.) and [Nate Albrecht](#) (Sr., LHP, Wahpeton, N.D.) to fight the ship against the Peacocks this season. Grover has been the Golden Eagles most consistent starter this season, with a 3-2 record and a 3.52 ERA in six starts. Grover has 30.2 innings pitched on the season as well. Rustad, who has won NSIC player of the week earlier in the season, will look to rebound after a rough outing against Sioux Falls.

Out of the bullpen, the Golden Eagles will continue to look to their duo of [Connor Richardson](#) (Fr., RHP, Grand Forks, N.D.) and [Dalton Grose](#) (R-So, LHP, Waterville, Minn.) to continue to be dominant. In 20 games and 37.2 innings pitched between the two underclassmen, they have allowed just 10 runs and have struck out 27 batters. The Golden Eagles will look for that same dominance against Upper Iowa this weekend.

Upper Iowa
Projected Starting Lineup
 Sr., RF 2 Tony Salato .382, 17 R, 9 RBI
 Sr., LF 30 Zac Cain .427, 24 R, 9 RBI, 2 HR, 13 RBI
 Sr., CF 3 Emmett Kulick .456, 9 R, 3 HR, 10 RBI
 So., 1B 29 AJ Friedrich .370, 15 R, 3 HR, 16 RBI
 Sr., SS 15 Klay Braughton .279, 7 R, 1 HR, 7 RBI
 Jr., DH 22 Hogan Penny .263, 7 R, 4 RBI
 Fr., 2B 20 Steve Dienerich .224, 9 R, 3 2B, 3 RBI
 Sr., C 23 Cole Siesemink .250, 6 R, 3 2B, 6 RBI
 Jr., 3B 26 Jack Thode .173, 1 3B, 3 RBI

Top Starters
 Jr., RHP 11 Duncan Snider 1-2, 2.67 ERA, 27.0 IP, 38 SO, 15 BB
 R-So., 3B Alexander Morales 2-3, 7.30 ERA, 24.2 IP, 18 SO, 13 BB
 Fr., RHP 16 Blake Thiese 1-0, 3.86 ERA, 20.0 IP, 9 SO

Top Relievers
 Jr., RHP 26 Greg Class 3.86 ERA, 4.2 IP, 3 SO, 3 BB
 Jr., RHP 35 Clayton Lieb 4.50 ERA, 10.0 IP, 8 SO, 6 BB
 Sr., RHP 19 Parker Kray 1-0, 5.62 ERA, 8.0 IP, 9 SO, 5 BB

Trekking north all the way from Fayette, Iowa to face the Minnesota Crookston Golden Eagles are the Upper Iowa Peacocks. They are 7-13 overall and 4-11 in the NSIC. The Peacocks are batting .301 with 119 runs scored. They are fourth overall in the NSIC for batting average. This weekend, they look to clinch a sweep to improve their record and move up from their 17th ranked spot in the conference.

Senior first baseman and RHP, Zac Cain, is batting .453 with 22 runs. On the 2019 season, Cain has had 13 RBIs and 10 extra base hits, two of those were homeruns. His play has helped the Peacocks offensively. Tony Salato, senior catcher and infielder, is batting .397 with 10 runs. He has also had 10 extra base hits and eight RBIs. Leading Upper Iowa with 15 RBIs is sophomore first baseman, AJ Friedrich. In his second year, Friedrich has had a great start to his young career. He is batting .385 with 13 runs and has had three homeruns.

The Upper Iowa pitching staff has a 6.94 ERA so far this season. They have had 126 strikeouts, 38 of which are from junior Duncan Snider. In 27 innings, he has pitched an ERA of 2.67 and has a 1-2 record. Blake Thiese also has had a solid season as well. The freshman has an ERA of 3.86 with nine strikeouts and a record of 1-0.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

- | | |
|--|---|
| #30 Nate Albrecht
LHP / 6' 1" / Redshirt Sophomore / L | #31 Travis Conoryea
C / 5' 7" / Redshirt Freshman / L |
| #9 Griffin Fussy
SS / 5' 11" / Redshirt Freshman / L | #36 Dalton Grose
LHP / 6' 3" / Redshirt Freshman / L |
| #35 Jayden Grover
RHP / 6' 3" / Sophomore / R | #33 Reed Hjelte
1B / 6' 2" / Junior / R |
| #29 Ben Thoma
UT / 5' 10" / Freshman / R | #24 Zach Rustad
LHP / 5' 10" / Junior / L |
| #1 Landyn Swenson
OF / 5' 10" / Junior / R | #6 Bryce Jorgenson
UT / 6' 0" / Junior / R |

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