

DULUTH--Defending Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference basketball champion UMD, back on the winning track after a loss to Augsburg, faces title pretenders Concordia (at home Jan. 12) and St. Thomas (away Jan. 16) in league games this week.

A pair of victories is a must for the Bulldogs if they hope to overtake league-leading Hamline, currently 5-0.

Saturday's 82-70 victory over Gustavus Adolphus gives the Duluthians a 2-1 record and re-establishes them as a threat to the Piper's drive toward the title.

The Cobbers, a pre-season choice for a first division berth, have had tough sledding to date with a 1-3 record. Their latest setback came at the hands of the Pipers, 70-64 at Moorhead.

St. Thomas, an early season surprise, currently holds the runnerup spot with a 3-1 record.

A good second half, highlighted by outstanding scoring on the forward line, featured the win over the Gusties.

Center Bill Mattson topped the point getters with 31 tallies, his highest output of the season, and was aided by forwards Tom Adams, 21 and Dave Baker, 17.