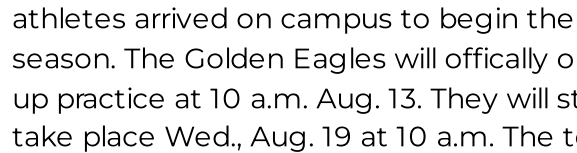




Football | 8/12/2015 11:43:00 AM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

UMC Football Set for Fall Camp



CROOKSTON, Minn.- The University of Minnesota Crookston football team officially reported for Fall practice Aug. 11 as 88 student-athletes arrived on campus to begin the 2015 season. The Golden Eagles will officially open up practice at 10 a.m. Aug. 13. They will start two-a-days Tues., Aug. 18. The first scrimmage will take place Wed., Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. The team will also scrimmage at 6 p.m. Aug. 26, leading into their first game of the season Sat., Sept. 5 at Wayne State College (Neb.).

MIKE FRITZE INTERVIEW

2015 ROSTER

Staff

The 2015 season marks the third season for [Mike Fritze](#) as head football coach. Fritze returns a mostly-seasoned staff as Offensive and Defensive Coordinators [Robby Case](#) and [Mark Dufner](#) both return. Also back in the fray are Defensive Line Coach and Recruiting Coordinator [Levi Bullerman](#) and Cornerback Coach [Sean Knox](#).

New for the 2015 season are quarterbacks/wide receivers coach [Taylor Summers](#), who worked with the team during Spring ball and is familiar with the conference after three years as a graduate assistant at Bemidji State University. Also joining the staff is [Dave Volk](#), the running backs/tight ends coach, who is also familiar with the league after two years as a graduate assistant at Wayne State. [Tom Miller](#) also joins the staff as safeties coach after spending last season at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Quarterbacks

Leading the charge at quarterback will be [Troyon Hearn](#)s (So., QB, Bloomington, Minn.). Hearn ended the season as the starter behind center for the Golden Eagles. Hearn is a threat both as a runner and passer, throwing for 652 yards and five touchdowns, while running for over 100 with two touchdowns in his freshman campaign. Also battling to see the field will be [Nathan Cole](#) (R-So., QB, Aliso Viejo, Calif.), who redshirted last year due to injury. As a freshman, Cole passed for over 100 yards as the back-up quarterback. In addition to Cole, [Tommy Singer](#) (R-Fr., QB, Apple Valley, Minn.) will also battle for playing time at the position after redshirting last year. Singer was Fritze's starting quarterback when he was Head Coach at Apple Valley High School. The Golden Eagles also have [Taylor Spier](#) (Fr., QB, Buffalo, Minn.), who will more than likely redshirt.

Running Backs

[Dre Person](#) (R-Jr., Detroit, Mich.) is the most experienced running back in the group, along with fullback [Michael Williams](#) (R-Sr., Miami, Fla.). Person rushed for 299 yards on 75 carries, leading all running backs last season. Williams didn't have any carries last year, but appeared in nine games. Also expected to contribute are junior college transfers [Harold Halcumb III](#) (Jr., Oakland, Calif.) and [Marguis Dobbs](#) (Jr., RB, Trafford, Ala.). Halcumb rushed for over 700 yards at Contra Costa Community College last season, while Dobbs rushed for just under 200 yards and had over 300 yards receiving as a sophomore at North Dakota State College of Science. At fullback, [Matt Hunt](#) (R-Fr., New Brighton, Minn.) should be a contributor after redshirting last season. Hunt rushed for over 1,000 yards for Mounds View H.S. in 2013. [Shane Curtis](#) (Fr., RB, Stewartville, Minn.) also has a chance to play, while Marzell Mitchell, III (Sr., RB, West Palm Beach, Fla.) will provide depth and [Chris Devine](#) (Fr., RB, East Grand Forks, Minn.) will more than likely redshirt.

Tight End

The Golden Eagles will use various formations, but the only tight end not set to redshirt is West Texas A&M transfer [Spencer Stephens](#) (R-Jr., Orange, Calif.). [Devante Nutall](#) (Jr., TE, Plymouth, Minn.) and [Richard Cobble](#) (Fr., TE, Bemidji, Minn.) will most likely redshirt, while [DeShawn Diggs](#) (Fr., TE, Haslet, Texas) will for sure redshirt due to injury.

Wide Receiver

Leading the charge at wide receiver is sophomore [Adam Connette](#) (So., WR, Corona, Calif.), who was UMC's NSIC Player to Watch for the season. Connette had 51 receptions for 628 yards and five touchdowns last season. Also entering Fall camps with the top unit will be LaMar Daniels (Sr., WR, Toledo, Ohio) and [Triston Richert](#) (R-Fr., Oakdale, Minn.). Daniels and Richert each redshirted last year. Prior to last season, Daniels was a defensive end but was moved to the offensive side of the ball as he is one of the best athletes on the team. Richert did well in Spring and should be a key contributor as a redshirt freshman. [Constant Jackson](#) (Sr., WR, Jacksonville, Fla.) and [Tommy Smith III](#) (Sr., WR, Naranja, Fla.) will also be key contributors. Jackson had four catches for 84 yards as a junior, while Smith makes the move from running back to wide receiver. Smith had 16 rushes for 44 yards and 14 receptions for 92 yards last season for the Golden Eagles. [Byan Hutton](#) (Jr., WR, Thief River Falls, Minn.) should see time at wide receiver. [Josh Zitzmann](#) (Jr., WR, Farmington, Minn.) and [Rodney Stewart](#) (Fr., WR, Fort Worth, Texas) are two newcomers who have a good chance to see the field. Zitzmann had over 600 yards receiving and 10 touchdowns as a sophomore at Rochester Community and Technical College, while Stewart had just under 400 yards receiving last season in high school. Providing depth at the position will be [Dante Jones](#) (Jr., WR, Landover, Md.), [Connor Kunkel](#) (Jr., WR, Kenneth, Minn.), [Stanley Harvey](#) (R-Jr., WR, Long Prairie, Minn.), J.W. Froelich (R-Fr., WR Selfridge, N.D.), [Brandon Taylor](#) (Jr., WR, Pomona, Calif.) and [Jeremy Johnson](#) (Jr., WR, Fort Lauderdale, Minn.). Freshmen [Vincent Scheffer](#) (Fr., Melbourne, Australia), [Lincoln Toppe](#) (Fr., WR, Aiea, Hawaii) and [Deatrice Isenberg](#) (Fr., WR, Bloomington, Minn.) will most likely redshirt but still have a chance to earn playing time in camp.

Offensive Line

The Golden Eagles return three players on the offensive line who saw time as starters last season. [Tyman Hayashi](#) (Jr., OL, Kalihi, Hawaii) has been a two-year contributor and will make the move to center to fill the void of Sam Smith, who graduated. [Drew McDurmin](#) (Jr., OL, Aiea, Hawaii) returns as a starter at guard, while [J.T. Moran](#) (So., OL, North Richland Hills, Texas) earned starts at tackle last season. Also returning from last season is redshirt freshman [Noah Lee](#) (R-Fr., OL, Vadnais Heights, Minn.) who will compete for a starting job. The Golden Eagles have several newcomers who will battle for playing time. [Duke Smith](#) (Fr., OL, Roanoke, Texas) and [Eric Rodriguez](#) (Jr., OL, Woodlake, Calif.) are the most likely to see time, while [Kalby Castilla](#) (Fr., OL, Aiea, Hawaii), [Logan Moreau](#) (Fr., OL, Maple, Wis.), [Adam Heder](#) (Fr., OL, Bloomington, Minn.), [Brian Snyder](#) (Fr., Warroad, Minn.) and [Sam Davis](#) (Fr., OL, Richardson, Texas) should all compete for back-up roles for the Golden Eagles.

Defensive Line

The leader on the defensive line is returning All-NSIC Honorable Mention pick [Drew Selvestra](#) (Sr., DL, Eagan, Minn.) who had a breakout season at defensive end in 2014. Selvestra started all 11 games and had 88 tackles on the season. Selvestra had 8.5 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks. Also returning is [A.J. Wallace](#) (Sr., DL, New Richmond, Wis.) who started at defensive tackle last season for UMC. Wallace had 51 tackles with 2.5 tackles for loss and three sacks. Wallace could also see time at defensive end. [Jake Christopherson](#) (R-So., DL, Sturgeon Lake, Minn.) and [Anthony Peterson](#) (R-Jr., DL, Swanville, Minn.) return after seeing considerable playing time last season. Christopherson had 14 tackles on the year, while Peterson had 15. [Tory Slater](#) (R-Fr., DL, Barnum, Minn.) is expected to be a contributor after redshirting last season. Also expected to see time will be newcomers [Isaiah Armstrong](#) (Jr., DL, Fairfield, Calif.), [Abram Cook II](#) (Fr., DL, Surprise, Ariz.) and redshirt [Casey Kraska](#) (R-So., DL, Stephen, Minn.) should also see time for the Golden Eagles. Armstrong and Kraska as defensive ends and Cook at defensive tackle. The Golden Eagles have several other players who will battle in camp but could also redshirt with [Garrett Mead](#) (Fr., DL, Santee, Calif.), [Austin Howard](#) (Jr., DL, New Albany, Miss.), [Brent Reed Jr.](#) (Fr., DL, Arlington, Texas), [Colton Adams](#) (Fr., DL, Proctor, Minn.), [Trey Foster](#) (Fr., DL, Fort Worth, Texas) and [Zach Greenberg](#) (Fr., DL, Winnipeg, Manitoba).

Linebacker

Leading the way at linebacker will be local product [Brody Davidson](#) (Sr., LB, Crookston, Minn.). Davidson had to redshirt after having an appendectomy last August. As a junior, Davidson tallied 70 tackles with seven tackles for loss and three sacks. Battling for the second linebacker spot in UMC's 4-2-5 system will be [Chuck Lofquist](#) (R-Fr., LB, South St. Paul, Minn.), [Cito Horton](#) (R-Jr., LB, Stamford, Conn.) and [Conner Finnestad](#) (Fr., LB, Chula Vista, Calif.). Lofquist and Horton both redshirted last season. Lofquist made the move to linebacker in the Spring and will look to help UMC replace All-NSIC First Team pick Greg Lofquist, his brother. Chuck moves into Greg's old number 41 for the season and will also try help fill the void.

Providing depth at linebacker will be [Major Rogers](#) (Jr., LB, Sterling, Va.), [Austin Strukel](#) (R-Jr., Virginia, Minn.) and [Tyler Hayashi](#) (Sr., LB, Kalihi, Hawaii). [Will Cross](#) (Fr., LB, Turtle Lake, Wis.), [Chris Polk](#) (Fr., LB, Milwaukee, Wis.) and [Sully Breckheimer](#) (Fr., Luverne, N.D.) are scheduled to redshirt but could contribute.

Defensive Back

Senior [Lethzee Calderon](#) (Sr., DB, Eagan, Minn.) leads all returnees at the position. Calderon saw time at cornerback and safety as a junior, but should start at corner. He tallied 48 tackles with six pass break-ups in 2014. Also coming into the Fall with the top unit at corner will be redshirt [Dion Wallisch](#) (R-Fr., DB, Oakdale, Minn.), [Kenneth McChristian](#) (Jr., DB, Bloomington, Minn.) and [DeAngelo Funches](#) (Fr., DB, St. Paul, Minn.) could both see playing time at corner.

At safety, [Jake Newman](#) (So., DB, White Bear Lake, Minn.) showed signs of greatness late in his freshman season. Newman finished the year with 36 tackles and two interceptions. [Ali Al-Khatib](#) (R-Fr., DB, Rosemount, Minn.) finished the Spring as the number one strong safety. [Terry Ford II](#) (So., DB, West Covina, Calif.), Marvin Miller, Jr. (R-Sr., DB, Royal Palm Beach, Fla.) and [Sam McBride](#) (Jr., DB, Chicago, Ill.) will also battle for time at safety.

Providing depth in the secondary will be [Anthony Talford](#) (Jr., DB, Fresno, Calif.), [Jason Adeniyi](#) (Sr., DB, Miami, Fla.) and [Tanner Walsh](#) (R-Jr., DB, Gaylord, Minn.). [Blake Coffman](#) (Fr., DB, Wheaton, Minn.), Malik Witherspoon (Fr., DB, Miami Gardens, Fla.), [William Cole](#) (Fr., DB, Compton, Calif.), [Aeric Berner](#) (Fr., DB, Aniwa, Wis.) and [Trevor Long Jr.](#) (Fr., DB, Brooklyn Park, Minn.) will more than likely redshirt but still have a chance to earn playing time through performance in Fall camp.

Special Teams

[Michael Maw](#) (Jr., K, White Bear Lake, Minn.) leads all returners on special teams. Maw had a strong sophomore season, going 7-of-10 on field goals with a long 43 on the season. On kickoffs, he averaged 52.2 yards per kick with two touch backs. [Stephen Day](#) (R-Fr., K/P, Eveleth, Minn.) will have a chance to contribute at kicker and punter. UMC also has several other players who have punted at previous schools including [Vincent Scheffer](#) (Fr., WR, Melbourne, Australia) and [Kenneth McChristian](#) (Jr., DB, Bloomington, Minn.).

At short and long snapper, [A.J. Wallace](#) (Sr., DL, New Richmond, Wis.) and [Zach Greenberg](#) (Fr., DL/LS, Winnipeg, Manitoba) will lead the way.

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

The University of Minnesota Crookston is a NCAA Division II university located in the Red River Valley of Northwest Minnesota. UMC sponsors 11 intercollegiate athletic teams with membership in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate conference (NSIC) and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The NSIC is a 16-team conference with schools situated in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾	
#32 Bubba Adeniyi DB / 5' 7" / Senior	#7 Ali Alkhatib DB / 5' 9" / Redshirt Freshman
#3 Lethzee Calderon DB / 5' 11" / Redshirt Senior	#67 Jake Christopherson DL / 6' 1" / Redshirt Sophomore
#15 Nathan Cole QB / 6' 4" / Redshirt Sophomore	#11 Adam Connette WR / 5' 10" / Sophomore
#22 Brody Davidson LB / 5' 11" / Redshirt Senior	#90 Stephen Day K/P / 6' 1" / Redshirt Freshman
#85 Stan Harvey WR / 6' 2" / Redshirt Junior	#70 Tyman Hayashi OL / 6' 0" / Junior

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