

DULUTH --- The UMD Bulldogs open the 1966-67 basketball season at Bemidji State Thursday (Dec. 1), move down to Mankato State Saturday (Dec. 3) then meet St. John's in the home opener Monday (Dec. 5).

The first game of the season in the Physical Education building gymnasium begins at 8 p.m. It will be the only Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference contest for the Bulldogs before January 1.

"These early non-conference games and the one with St. John's are vitally important," said Coach Norm Olson. "If our vets hold up---fine! If they don't, we've got some promising freshmen eager for their chance."

Olson's cagers spend most of December on the road, including a trip to Edinburg, Texas for Pan America's annual holiday tournament Dec. 28, 29, 30. Olson expects to have a good line on his personnel by the time the team comes home.

"We feel we have some fine players," said Olson. "Our veterans of last year, including the freshmen, are a year wiser. With that additional experience and a solid crop of freshmen, we feel we've a much stronger club."

Senior guard Jim Gornick is team captain. Olson will select the remainder of his starting lineup from among guards Greg Thone and Scott Gernander, forwards Gary Rheingans, Bob Carey and Marty Borowicz and center Jeff Ellenson.

The UMD Junior Varsity will scrimmage the Duluth Air Base quintet beginning at 5:45 p.m. prior to the St. John's game.