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Perrel Returns to Fold After Professor Helps Her Realize UMC Was the School for Her

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The grass isn't always greener on the other side. This is a lesson that UMC redshirt sophomore right-side hitter [Maggie Perrel](#) had to learn the hard way. After joining the team in 2013 and starting 19 matches as a freshman, Perrel made the decision that she wanted to attend a bigger school and maybe college volleyball wasn't for her. It was this decision that led her to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

VIDEO INTERVIEW

"I loved playing volleyball my freshman year and it was so fun and I loved my team," Perrel said. "I just had it in the back of my mind that maybe I just wanted a bigger school or I didn't need to play volleyball anymore. That just wore on me and I just decided to go for it."

However, Perrel quickly discovered that maybe the big school environment wasn't for her. It was an e-mail from Dr. Brian Dingmann, an Associate Professor in the Math, Science and Technology Department, that Perrel thinking that she might want to return to UMC.

"I went to the U of M and I got there and I actually got an e-mail from Dr. (Brian) Dingmann, who was my advisor here," Perrel said. "He asked how I was doing and it really showed how much the staff of UMC loves their students. We just caught up on that occasion but he showed me how much I needed a smaller school and how much I needed my professors to care about me. So I actually gave Coach Anderson a call and he called me back later that day and we talked about it. He gave me the whole semester to think about it to make sure I was 100 percent sold on coming back here. So here I am."

Perrel returned to Crookston during the Spring Semester of 2015 and is now back playing volleyball with the Golden Eagles and has picked up where she left off as a freshman in 2013. She currently leads the team with 3.00 kills per set and has been a key cog in the offensive system for the Golden Eagles.

One other positive note to Perrel taking the year off, was that she will ultimately get to graduate with two of her teammates that she came in with, Kelci and [Kassi Green](#), identical twin sisters who redshirted the 2013 season.

"I am so excited that I get to graduate with Kelci and [Kassi Green](#)," Perrel said. "I think that we can mature together as players and teammates and it gives us more time together. It is going to make our team deeper and just more mature in the long run."

Perrel is also excited at the freedom it allows her in terms of having more time to work on her studies since she has three years to graduate and not just two.

"I was actually really happy that I got a whole extra year," Perrel said. "Not just volleyball wise but academically it allowed me to slow down and allowed me to think of what I needed to do in order to graduate. It just gave me so much more time. For volleyball, it just gives me that much more time to mature as a player. Technically since I did take a year off, I got behind, I wasn't doing the conditioning that I needed to do. So now I have that opportunity to catch up."

The Green twins and Perrel were part of a large class of seven players that came in together. Among that group, all seven are major parts of the Golden Eagle rotation during the 2015 season. While some people were concerned early on about having such a big class, it has paid dividends for the Golden Eagles.

"The class I came in with my freshman year was a pretty big class," Perrel said. "I think that we really have come up out of our shell. We all contribute to the team in our own individual ways. It has really shown how beneficial it was to bring in such a big class. A lot of people were worried because of how big it was and that we had only a few upperclassmen our freshman year. We have all matured and all come together."

With having an experienced junior and redshirt sophomore class, it has helped make up for the void of All-NSIC First Team selection and UMC all-time kills leader Brittany Looker. While UMC might not have one individual who carries the team, the sum of all the parts and the versatility UMC now has as a team has helped make up for it.

"I actually really like it. I loved playing with Brittany Looker," Perrel said. "She was such a great teammate and a great friend, but how it is now is actually very beneficial for our team. We are all held accountable and we all get to contribute. It gives [Sierra Trost](#) so many options and it makes us more of a threat to other teams."

While Perrel's decision to leave UMC, ultimately wasn't the best decision for her. It is all a part of growing up and realizing what truly matters to you and what you are looking for out of a University. In the long run, Perrel's decision to transfer might have been the best thing to happen to her. Allowing her to mature as a player and a student.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#11 Kassi Green RS / 5' 9" / Redshirt Sophomore	#13 Sierra Trost S / 5' 8" / Junior
#14 Maggie Perrel RS / 5' 10" / Redshirt Sophomore	

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