



Minnesota Crookston's Late Comeback Falls Short 24-16 on Homecoming Against Minot State

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CROOKSTON, Minn. – The University of Minnesota Crookston had a late comeback fall short in a 24-16 loss to Minot State University on a beautiful Homecoming Sat., Sept. 28 at Ed Widsoth Field. The Golden Eagles scored nine points in the fourth quarter, but a fourth quarter turnover in the red zone and failed opportunities to capitalize on field position in the first half led the Beavers to the win.

The Golden Eagles had their best offensive performance of the year as they had 435 yards compared to 401 for Minot State. The Golden Eagles had a great day through the air as they tallied 271 yards on the day, to go with 164 yards on the ground.

Minnesota Crookston falls to 0-4 despite continuing to play hard and show improvement throughout the season. Minot State improves to 2-2 led as they used 17 unanswered points in the second and third quarters to pick up the victory. The Beavers avenge a 29-21 loss to the Golden Eagles last season in Minot, N.D. The Golden Eagles are searching for their first win at home since a 2015 win over Minot State.

Minnesota Crookston was set back by penalties as they had 13 penalties for 85 yards.

The Golden Eagles were led by [Jalen Scott](#) (Sr., QB, Houston, Texas), who went 10-of-16 for 154 yards with two touchdowns. Minnesota Crookston utilized two quarterbacks, as [Ethan Robbins](#) (So., QB, Muskegon, Mich., was 6-of-12 for 117 yards with an interception.

Robbins paced Minnesota Crookston on the ground with 10 carries for 62 yards. Scott added 54 yards and eight carries. [Wesley S. Chastek](#) (Jr., Fr., WR, Scottsdale, Ariz.) added three carries for 18 yards, while [Shannon Smith](#) (Sr., WR, Pacoima, Calif.) finished with four carries for 17 yards.

Through the air, [Jacob Mudd](#) (Sr., WR, Gardena, Calif.) made several acrobatic catches on the day on his way to six receptions for 119 yards. Mudd had 17 catches for 284 yards and four touchdowns on the year, as he continues to have a great senior season. Mudd has the first 100-yard receiving game since Sept. 8, 2018 when [Drew Crookston](#) (Sr., WR, Andover, Minn.) surpassed 100 yards in a game. This is the second time this season Mudd had two touchdown grabs.

[Nathan Coy](#) (R-So., WR, Sun Prairie, Wis.) chipped in with five catches for 98 yards, while Croebner finished with four catches for 39 yards.

Defensively, [Tyson White](#) (Fr., DB, McFarland, Wis.) and [Zachary Leon Jr.](#) (R-Sr., LB, Brooklyn Park, Minn.) paced Minnesota Crookston with eight tackles and a half tackle for loss. [Austin Erdmann](#) (R-Fr., DL, Little Falls, Minn.) chipped in with seven tackles and added a forced fumble. [Joe Warner](#) (Sr., DL, St. Louis Park, Minn.) had 15 tackles for loss and a half sack. [Austin Steele](#) (R-So., LB, La Crosse, Wis.) chipped in with five tackles, a sack, a forced fumble, and a fumble recovery. Warner also added a fumble recovery.

Minot State was led by Ben Bolinske was 13-of-17 from the field for 165 yards and a touchdown pass. On the ground, freshman Ali Mohamed led the way with 15 carries for 104 yards and a touchdown. Isaiah Hall added 19 carries for 80 yards and a touchdown. Bolinske ran six times for 31 yards.

Through the air, Lavante Bushnell paced the Beavers with four catches for 59 yards. Cory Carignan added one catch for 38 yards, while Lane Torgerson had four grabs for 34 yards.

Minnesota Crookston's special teams had some strong points on the day. [Alex Faltz](#) (Fr., RB/P, Spring Grove, Minn.) punted once for 40 yards. [Nathan McRoberts](#) (R-Fr., P, Kabotogama, Minn.) had two punts for 39 yards, pinning the Beavers with their backs against the wall twice. [Zachary McLemore](#) (So., K, Lucas, Texas) went 1-of-1 with a 29-yard field goal.

Minot State got started quick as they took the first drive 74 yards on eight plays to go ahead 7-0. The Beavers went in on a six-yard pass from Bolinske to Devon Owens. The drive was led by a 31-yard pass from Bolinske to Bushnell on third-and-seven.

The Golden Eagles quickly countered as Scott found his former junior college teammate Mudd for a 46-yard strike just over a minute later to knot the game up 7-7.

Minnesota Crookston got the ball back after a huge third down stop as Steele had a strip sack, with the fumble recovered by Warner to set the Golden Eagles up at the 39-yard line for Minot State.

The Golden Eagles got down to the Minot State 30, before two straight penalties pushed Minnesota Crookston back 15 yards. Two more penalties for 10 yards late in the drive put the Golden Eagles back to the Beaver 48, and they failed to convert. The Golden Eagles were able to pin Minot State deep as McRoberts used a 42-yard punt to put the Beavers back at their own six-yard line.

After a defensive stop, the Golden Eagles had great field position again as they got the ball at their own 41. Minnesota Crookston moved the ball into Beaver territory, but were forced to punt. McRoberts had a heavy rush against him, but again got off a strong punt as he pinned the Beavers back at their own seven.

The Golden Eagles used strong defense again, as a sack by Warner and [Will Croaj](#) (R-Sr., LB, Turtle Lake, Wis.) moved Minot State back to their own four and forced a punt.

Minnesota Crookston again had great field position at the Minot State 48. The Golden Eagles got the ball down to the Minot State seven-yard line but were forced to attempt a field goal. A bad snap forced holder [Zachary Waldmann](#) (R-Jr., WR, Andover, Minn.) to try to make a play, but he was moved back to the Minot State 15 as the Golden Eagles failed to get points out of the drive.

The Beavers responded as they went 60 yards on nine plays, ending with a 42-yard field by Jose Luis Moreno to push Minot State to a 10-7 advantage.

The Golden Eagles again got into Beaver territory utilizing a 38-yard run by Robbins down to the Minot State 37. Minnesota Crookston had a string of plays that went for losses, ending in a dropped snap by McRoberts on the punt and resulted in a loss of downs.

The Beavers took advantage of the strong field position as they went 51 yards on eight plays ending with a one-yard touchdown rush by Hall to extend the lead to 17-7.

The 17-7 tally would be the score going into the break.

After stopping the Golden Eagles on their first drive, Minot State took their first drive 87 yards to pay dirt culminating with a 10-yard touchdown run by Mohamed to extend the lead to 24-7.

Minnesota Crookston looked to respond as they took the ball down to the Minot State 17 led by a 15-yard Scott pass to converted tackle [Jed Lawson](#) (Sr., OL/TE, Soo Hill, Mich.), and a 29-yard rush by Scott. The Golden Eagles were set back on an unsportsmanlike conduct call after gaining a first down. Minnesota Crookston was unable to convert on a fourth down, giving the ball back to Minot State.

The Golden Eagle defense came away with a huge defensive stop deep in their territory at the open of the fourth quarter. [Jonathan Faltz](#) (R-Fr., DB, Brooklyn Park, Minn.) had a tackle for loss on a Hall rush to give Minnesota Crookston the ball back.

The Golden Eagles marched down the field led by a 43-yard strike from Robbins to Coy. Minnesota Crookston got three points out of the drive as McLemore hit a 31-yard attempt to cut the deficit to 24-10.

The Golden Eagles got another defensive stop, forcing a Minot State punt.

Minnesota Crookston again marched down the field down to the Beaver one-yard line guided by a 19-yard pass from Robbins to Croebner, and a 13-yard pass from Robbins to Coy. The Golden Eagles were pushed back to the six on an illegal shift on first and goal. On the next play, Robbins had his pass intercepted in the end zone by Kyrlean Miller-Lew.

Minnesota Crookston got the ball back as Erdmann got a strip on a Hall rush, with Steele recovering at the Golden Eagle nine-yard line.

The Golden Eagles went down the field, as they made a last ditch effort to cut into the 24-16 lead. Minnesota Crookston moved down to their own three-yard line as Scott found Mudd on a great catch. On the next play, Scott faked the spike and found Mudd in the end zone for a three-yard touchdown to cut the deficit to 24-16, after a missed extra point.

Minnesota Crookston's McLemore attempted an onside kick, but his kickoff went out of the bounds allowing Minot State to run out the clock and hold on to the 24-16 victory despite the late effort.

The Golden Eagles hit the road Oct. 5 to face Wayne State College at 1 p.m., in Wayne, Neb.

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