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Cougar football wins multiple records set

Summary:

(September 25, 2003)-The last time those words were uttered after a University of Minnesota-Morris football game was November 14, 1998 when the Cougars defeated Mayville State 25-22 in a thriller at the Metrodome. Ken Crandall was in his first year as at the helm and it was his first win at UMM.

Now fast forward to September 20, 2003. Cougar fans are once again doing the best Harry Cary imitation COUGARS WIN, COUGARS WIN, COUGARS WIN. That's because on Saturday, the University of Minnesota-Morris did indeed win, with a 61-28 win over Principia College in Elsah, Illinois on a beautiful sunny day in southern Illinois.

The win snapped a 46-game losing streak - -an NCAA Division II record - - and it was also historic in the fact that it was the first game and first win in the UMAC conference.

And what a game it was, especially offensively for the Cougars as there were a few records established. More on that later.

The Panthers (1-2, 1-1 UMAC) took the opening kick off and marched 80 yards in 11 plays to take a 7-0 lead. But it was the only lead of the game for Principia.

Minnesota-Morris (1-2, 1-0 UMAC) then outscored the Panthers 34-7 to take a 34-14 lead into the locker room at half time.

The Cougars took their first possession of the game and the offensive line just completely dominated the Principia defense as they marched 59 yards in seven plays, all on the ground and Donnay Green (Jr. Chicago, IL) scored on a one yard run and Mike Walker (Sr. Scottsdale, AZ) added the extra point kick to tie the score at 7-7.

On the drive, Green carried the ball five times for 40 yards.

The UMM defense then helped to set the tone when they held the Panthers to a three and out on their next possession to put the ball back in the hands of the Cougar offense.

The Minnesota-Morris offensive line of Chris Bevers (Jr. Hudson, WI), Geordan Arenal (Sr. Vallejo, CA) Matt Johnson Sr. Lewiston, MN), Jeremy Jimenez (Jr. Berwyn, IL) then went to work, opening up big holes for Green, Vaughn Ginnett (Sr. Oakland, CA) and Ryan Martin (Jr. Walnut Creek, CA).

The Cougars used 11 plays, all on the ground, and used 4:51 to go 59 yards again to take a 14-7 lead early in the second quarter.

Principia came back to tie the game at 14-14 on their next possession, but UMM scored three touchdowns over the final 7:45 of the second quarter to take the lead for good at 34-14.

Ryan Martin scored on a two-yard run John Scholla (Jr. Brooklyn Center, MN) stripped the ball from Owen Jarrette

On the ensuing kick off, picked up the loose ball and scored from 10 yards out and then Martin found Patrick Mahoney (Fr. Morris, MN) in the back of the end zone with: 51 seconds to go before the half for the final touchdown in the first half. On the play, Mahoney made a great leaping catch over the top of a Panther defender and just kept his feet inbounds.

Minnesota-Morris had 291 yards in total offense, 221 of that on the ground in the first 30 minutes.

The Cougars got touchdowns from Donnay Green, a ten-yard run in the third quarter and three in the fourth quarter. The first came on a Ryan Martin to Mike Walker nine yard scoring strike, and then Jordan Roman, a red shirt freshman from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, scored twice, once on a 5 yard run and added a 63 yard sprint for the final score of the game.

Now for the records.

First, Donnay Green set a UMM single game rushing record with 243 yards on 34 carries, also a single game record.

The Cougars nearly had three players rush for at least 100 yards for the first time ever as Jordan Roman added 104 yards on just five carries, and Vaughn Ginnett had 99 yards on 11 carries. Several of Ginnett's carries were punishing runs.

For the game, UMM had 614 yards in total offense for the game, a single game record, with 471 yards on the ground. Further checking will have to be done, but that may also be a single game record. The Cougars averaged 7.7 yards per play in the game.

Defensively for Minnesota-Morris, Travis Destache (So. Mahtomedi, MN) and Luke Farrill (Sr. Hudson WI) had seven tackles each. The defense held Principia to 360 yards total offense, a season low.

The Cougars are back home for Homecoming 2003 this Saturday September 27 when the host Carthage College at Cougar Field. Kick off is at 1:00. Carthage is coming off their first win of the season in a 44-14 win over Benedictine (IL) on Saturday.

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