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Football Americano in Italy

Summary: The UMM Cougars, along with others who want to make the trip, will travel abroad for the first time in Spring 2007. The experience will focus on student athletes and another culture in addition to football, said Cougar Head Coach Ken Crandall.

(May 24, 2006)-The University of Minnesota, Morris football team will travel abroad for the first time in Spring 2007. Cougar Head Football Coach Ken Crandall is coordinating the trip through Global Football. The team, along with others who want to make the trip, will to travel to Italy where the players will have two practices and one game against a club team.

Global Football, a division of Global Sports Group, Inc. is owned and operated by Patrick Steenberge, former quarterback and two-season letter winner under Coach Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame. The Global Sports Group is a sports special events and international travel organization providing the opportunity for young amateur athletes from different countries to compete against one another, while experiencing and learning firsthand about each other's cultures.

"Instead of just focusing on football, the trip will focus on student athletes and another culture," said Crandall. "An important aspect of UMM is to allow as many students the opportunity to travel abroad as possible, and this trip opens up different avenues they may not experience otherwise."

The 11-day trip will include travel to Milan, Venice and Florence, each for a two- day stay. The trip will end with three days in Rome. Highlights of the trip will include visits to St. Mark's Square, the Coliseum, Vatican City and the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

The trip, estimated to be \$4,000 for those who opt to include a UMM May session, will be roughly \$3,300 per person. Travelers will pay for the trip individually. A minimum of 36 people must attend, but Crandall expects that at least 40-45 people will make the trip. If all goes well, Crandall hopes this inaugural trip will establish a Cougar football tradition and be taken every three or four years.

"We want everyone to know — students, staff, alumni, families of students — that this trip is open to everyone who wants to go," said Crandall.

For more information, contact Coach Crandall at 320-589-6432.

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