

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

2-27-2006

UMM will add men's soccer

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "UMM will add men's soccer" (2006). *Campus News Archive*. 1743.
https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/1743

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

UMM will add men's soccer

Summary: UMM will add men's soccer to its intercollegiate athletics program beginning Fall 2006. According to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sandra Olson-Loy, the decision is a response to increased interest in soccer among Minnesota youth.

(February 27, 2006)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will add men's soccer to its intercollegiate athletics program beginning Fall 2006, announced Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sandy Olson-Loy. According to Olson-Loy, the decision is a response to increased interest in soccer among Minnesota youth. The new men's soccer program will also create a new partnership with the Morris Cougars' award winning women's soccer program.

"Youth and high school soccer programs are thriving across Minnesota and the Midwest," noted Olson-Loy. "With this high interest, we want to expand our UMM soccer tradition for men who wish to have a collegiate varsity soccer experience." Over 8,000 students compete on Minnesota high school boys' soccer teams. UMM will be the only public university offering NCAA Division III soccer in Minnesota.

UMM has an excellent collegiate competitive soccer facility, one of the best in the conference and in the region. The new Cougar men's soccer program will compete in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC), a newly forming NCAA Division III conference. Men's and women's soccer teams coordinate travel to weekend UMAC conference competitions UMM will now have a men's team against which other UMAC men's soccer teams can compete.

UMM's award-winning soccer coach Christian DeVries will take on men's soccer coaching. New talent will be brought in to lead the women's program. "I am excited about the opportunity to start my second intercollegiate varsity sport at UMM, this time in men's soccer," said Coach DeVries. "The success of the women's program over the last eight years has laid the ground-work for developing a conference contender for men's soccer in the years to come."

Under founding Head Coach DeVries, the UMM's women's soccer team has earned the NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) Team Academic Award for exemplary performance in the classroom each year. They are equally successful on the soccer field. Last season, the Cougars won their second straight post-season conference tournament championship and had five players named to the 2005 all-conference team as well as boasting the player of the year. In 2005, they posted the fourth straight winning season for the Cougar soccer program.

Anticipating the transition ahead, DeVries stated, "As difficult as it is to leave as coach of the women's team, I know that they will continue to be a dominate force in the UMAC and beyond, I will be their biggest supporter."

Athletic Director Mark Fohl said, "We know that students who want to play college sports choose the best university where they can compete in their sport. We look forward to more talented high school soccer players finding a great education and a great soccer experience at UMM." Nearly half of UMM students played a varsity sport in high school one-third were team captains. Over half of UMM's student athletes earn UMM's top academic scholarships. About one of every five students one meets at UMM is a Cougar athlete and most are Cougar fans - - eighty percent of UMM

graduates attend Cougar athletic competitions.

UMM offers nine intercollegiate sports for women and seven for men. Over the past three years, UMM has fielded championship teams in football, soccer, and volleyball and individual champions in men's golf and women's track. Men's basketball and tennis have earned post-season tournament championships. Among the strongest scholars on campus, UMM athletes consistently achieve academic all-conference honors.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.