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Pie-in-the-face fun set for Cougar game

Summary: Randi Peterson, head coach of the women's basketball team, has devised a contest that gives new meaning to the basketball term, "bucket," as in "making a basket." Peterson says the contest also ushers in a "new era of winning" for Cougar basketball.

(January 20, 2006)-Randi Peterson, head coach of the women's basketball team at the University of Minnesota Morris, has devised a contest that gives new meaning to the basketball term, "bucket," as in "making a basket." The contest's goal is not necessarily directed toward a conference championship (although both UMM's women's and men's teams are numbers one and two, respectively, in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference), but rather, said Peterson, "to see who gets a pie (or two or three) smeared in their face at half time" during the UMM vs. Presentation College men's basketball game on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman and UMM Professor of Geology James Cotter will be the willing "victims," depending on which of the two receives the most monetary contributions in buckets which have been placed throughout the campus. The campus community is invited to deposit spare change, along with their name, in their choice of bucket. Each contribution garners the donor another shot at smearing either Schuman or Cotter with a pie. The person with the most money in their bucket gets a proverbial "piece of the pie" in the face. Proceeds will benefit the women's basketball program at UMM.

Amid the fun, however, said Peterson, the contest, which represents a form of winning, also echoes a "new era of winning" for Cougar basketball. "Long past are the days when basketball blowouts, one-sided games and bottom-of-the-conference Cougars step out on the court," said Peterson. "This new era of men's and women's basketball at UMM brings excitement, a fast pace and lots of scoring and winning! "

The Cougar men's and women's basketball teams are putting up over 70 points per game and have started 3-1 and 4-0, respectively, in the conference.

Said Peterson: "This is a time for people to put on their winter coats and hats and head back outside to fill the gym for some good old-fashioned hoops."

Serious basketball competition begins Tuesday with the 5:30 p.m. women's game in the UMM P.E. Center gymnasium. The men's basketball competition follows at 7:30 p.m. in the same location. Pie-in-the-face fun will take place during half time of the men's game.

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