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Local

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota

For Immediate Release
Sept. 23, 1963

FAYETTE, IOWA-- The University of Minnesota, Morris Cougars will open their 1963 home gridiron schedule with an even, 1-win, 1-loss, record next Saturday following their 35-7 defeat by the University of Upper Iowa here last Saturday afternoon.

Although not outplayed by as much as the score would indicate, the Cougars were simply no match for the Peacocks. "They were too many and had too much," UHM Coach Dick Borstad said after the game.

A scouting report on the University of Upper Iowa - Buena Vista game a week ago indicated that the Cougars had a good chance to pick up victory number two, but the Peacock squad made a vast improvement during the week. "We have improved nearly 100 percent this week," Coach Ed Wischeld, of Upper Iowa, said before the game.

The Cougars won the toss and elected to receive. It immediately appeared that it would be a good day for them. On the second play of the game, Stu Sterner threw a long pass to halfback Paul Jorgensen for a 55 yard gain and on the next play Jorgensen broke through the line and into the endzone. Danny Melharsk split the uprights for a 7-0 edge for the Cougars.

But from here on the game was almost totally dominated by the Peacocks. They tied the score with 1:32 left in the first quarter on a 3 yard run by quarterback Clarke Campbell; Larry Nemmers kicked the extra point.

In the second quarter the Cougars had the ball for a brief time, moving out to the Upper Iowa 41. Then a fumble gave the Peacocks the ball on their own 35 yard line. They moved to the 29 of the Cougars in two first downs. Here the UHM defense stiffened and it appeared that the Peacocks

would be stopped, but on a fourth and five situation, the Peacocks moved to the Cougar 5 yard line. With 5:28 remaining, Ron Herdliska, a halfback, ploughed the final yard for the second TD of the game for the Peacocks. Larry Semmers added the extra point with his perfect kick.

Again the Cougar offense could not move the ball and with a little over a minute remaining they were forced to punt from their own 20 yard line. The Peacocks marched back and scored their third TD of the game with only :11 seconds remaining in the first half. Semmers kicked his third extra point of the game.

The Cougars opened the second half by kicking off to the University of Upper Iowa. Three plays later Stan Anderson recovered a Peacock fumble on their 39 yard line. The Cougars moved in to the 5 yard line, but fumbled and the Peacocks recovered. They moved out to the 22 yard line for a first down and Ron Herdliska delivered his second TD of the day on a 78 yard run. Semmers made the score 28 to 7.

For the first time in the game, the Cougars stopped the Peacock offense and forced a punting situation. With :35 seconds remaining in the third period, Stu Starner threw a 41 yard pass to John Splitatoser. But in the next series of downs, the Peacocks intercepted a pass and moved the ball back to the mid-field stripe.

They advanced to the 26 yard line of the Cougars, but again the defense tightened up and they were held on downs. The Cougars moved back to the 26 yard line of Upper Iowa, but they, too, were held on downs.

The strong offense of the Peacocks moved the ball to the Cougar

35 and with 5:32 remaining in the game, and then fumbled, the ball rolled into the endzone after being touched by a Cougar and was awarded to the Cougars on their own 20 yard line. The Cougars picked up one first down and were again forced to punt.

Larry Nemmers, the University of Upper Iowa kicking specialist, grabbed the ball on his 35 and raced 65 yards for the 5th and final Peacock TD of the game. He made it a perfect day with his 5th extra point in as many tries.

The Cougars had one more chance to score, but could not move the ball.

The Peacocks picked up a total of 464 yards, 408 by rushing and 56 by passing. The Cougars had 237 yards, 132 by passing and 105 by rushing. They had 22 first downs to 10 for the Cougars, while completing 5 of 11 passes. The Cougars clicked on 7 of 18.

It was the smashing success of the University of Upper Iowa's running game which was the deciding factor in the game. Their team averaged at least 10 points per man heavier and their backfield was able to run through the line almost at will. Only twice were the Cougars able to hold them for downs.

Somewhat surprising to Coach Borstad and his assistant coaches was the inability of the Cougar offense to move the ball after that opening TD. It seemed as though they just couldn't pick up the yardage on a third down situation and were forced to punt.

The Cougars played most of the game on their own side of the field and probably had the ball only half as much as the University of Upper Iowa.

There ~~was~~^{had} been a report that Jimmy Darr, who returned to the lineup on Saturday after missing the opening game because of an injury, had suffered another injury which would keep him out of action. But Monday morning, Coach Borstad said that it didn't appear to be anything serious. "It is probably just a muscle strain," he said.

Denny Malherek also saw considerable action in the game. It was doubtful on Friday when the squad left whether he would be able to play. He had suffered an ankle sprain in practice on Wednesday.

The Cougars will work out this week for their first home game next Saturday when they meet North Dakota (Whapeton) State School of Science in an 8 p.m. game.