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Homecoming Game

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MORRIS--The UMM Cougars scored early in the first and third period on Saturday and hung on for a 14 to 13 Homecoming victory over Sioux Falls College. And they had to "hang on" in the second half to hold the Braves to two touchdowns.

The high temperature and humidity, which was prevalent Saturday, brought near exhaustion to both teams, but the Braves platooning gave them an edge in the second half of play. Trailing 14 to 0, the Braves scored late in the third period and early in the fourth period.

"We got a break," University of Minnesota, Morris Coach Dick Bogstad said after the game. He was referring to the missed conversion attempt by Charlie Roberts of Sioux Falls College. Trailing 14 to 13 Roberts topped the ball and it barely lifted across the line of scrimmage, falling short of a tie ball game.

Warren Eger scored the Cougars first touchdown on a 16 yard run after a pitch out from quarterback Stu Starner. During their first touchdown march the Cougars used this play four times. The march took the Cougars 71 yards in 12 plays.

The touchdown march came on the Cougars first opportunity with the ball. The Cougars had held the Braves on their first series of plays after returning the opening kickoff to the 25 yard line.

Neither team could move the ball after the Cougars had scored their first TD and both teams were forced to punt twice. Late in the third quarter the Cougars moved down to the Sioux Falls 10 yard line, but were held on downs and the Braves took over the football. For the first time in the game, the Braves moved the ball. In the final

two minutes they moved to the UHM 40 and picked up four first downs.

Jerry Grant gave the Cougars a 13 to 0 lead on the opening kickoff of the second half, racing 92 yards down the sidelines for a touchdown. The Cougars gave him good blocking and he ran untouched for the score. Danny Malherk continued his steady point-after-touchdown kicking and boosted the lead to a commanding 14 to 0.

H's first attempt after this touchdown was blocked, but the Braves were guilty of an offside infraction. On the second attempt the ball split the uprights and the Cougars had their 14 points. Only at the end of the game did the Cougars realize how important that conversion had been.

The Braves dominated play in the second half until there were 4:50 remaining in the game. They marched 63 yards following the Cougars kickoff for their first score and the next time they had the ball marched 66 yards to score. It was on this TD that the conversion attempt failed.

The Cougars marched to mid-field after the Braves kickoff and it looked as though they might move the ball in for another score. Starnes, quarterback, was thrown for a 12 yard loss and the Cougars couldn't make up the yardage and were forced to punt.

The punt rolled dead on the 17 yard line and the Braves again started to move the ball. But on the 2nd and 8 situation the Cougar defense stiffened and suddenly the Braves' offensive machine was stopped. From their own 32, the faked a punt and tried to run for a first down but the Cougar defense threw the ball carrier for a two yard loss.

The Cougars now had to control the ball with only 4:50 remaining in the game. They picked up two first downs, but were forced to punt with 1:40 remaining. The Cougar defense was able to break

up the pass patterns which the Braves tried and once more the Braves were forced to punt. Starner simply fell on the ball in the next three plays and the 45 seconds on the clock ~~click~~ clicked away.

The statistics for the game favored Sioux Falls College in most departments. In first downs the Cougars had 11 to 16 for the Braves; total yardage favored the Braves 264 to 176. The Cougars completed 5 of 15 pass attempts and the Braves tried four, completing none.

Steve Miller, the Braves hard-running freshman fullback, scored their first TD and Don Decker the second. Miller carried the ball almost every other time during the second half.

Next week the Cougars will meet the Beavers from the State Teachers College at Minot, N. D. Head Coach Vance Elgie's Beavers were tabbed by many in preseason prediction to be a leading contender for the NDIC title. Last Saturday the Beavers dumped Wahpeton 28 to 7; and are now 2-1-1 for the season. The Cougars are 3-1

The game next Saturday will be the Cougars third consecutive home game. Starting time is 8 p.m.