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UMM Cougars' Basketball Open

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UMM News Service
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University of Minnesota, Morris
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Semi-Area
and Hometown Papers.

MORRIS--Two platoons will be used by UMM Coach Jim Gremmels when the Cougars open their 1963-64 basketball schedule. With a little more than three weeks remaining before his first game, Coach Gremmels said he would "fast break and use a pressing defense."

"There are ten or eleven boys who have shown balance thus far. They like to run and that is what we plan to do all season," Gremmel said.

Gremmels has nine returning lettermen and numeral winners. In addition, there are ten freshmen hoping to win a place on this year's squad. Gremmels called them "the best group of freshmen we have had at UMM, except for size."

The Cougars have had one full-game scrimmage and each of the players on the first two squads scored in double figures. "We should have consistent balance this year," Gremmels said.

The Cougars first game is against North Dakota State School of Science at Wahpeton on November 26. The first home game is November 29 against Dakota Wesleyan University. "This is one of the toughest small college basketball teams in South Dakota," Gremmels said.

The Cougars meet many strong small college basketball teams. On January 6 they host Valley City (N.D.), one of the best in North Dakota. The final home game of the season is against St. Cloud State, always one of the top basketball teams in Minnesota, and another Minnesota basketball power - St. John's.

The Cougars have 19 games scheduled for the 1963-64 season and will also compete in the Holiday Tournament at Northwestern

(more)

College (Iowa). "We should win more than we lose," Gremmels said.

The first two platoons include: Team "A" -- Dennis and Derl Clausen, Morris, at guards; John Erickson, Clinton, at center; John Raw and Verlyn Olson, Benson, at forwards.

Team "B" -- Curt Billehus, Starbuck, and Jim Drealan, Fulda, at guards; Alden Hofstadt, Wheaton, at center; Lowell Mogck, Benson, and Virgil Smith, Howard Lake, at forwards.

Gremmels indicated that Dave French, Minneapolis (Washburn) is close to breaking in on one of these squads. Stu Starner, Hoffman, and Don Sherman, Clinton, reported to practice on Monday, November 4. They have been members of the Cougar football squad which finished its season on Saturday, November 2, with a 20 to 7 victory over Ellendale State (N.D.).

The other six members of the squad are Lee Borass, Appleton, Dave Weisner, New Ulm, Bob Brenden, Starbuck; Dick Realdsen Morris, Vernon McClung, Montevideo and Charles Breit, Fulda. These six are freshmen, as well as Virgil Smith, Dave French, Jim Drealan, and Curt Billehus. The others named above were letter or numeral winners last year.