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Cougar Basketball's First Four Games of the Season

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UMM News Service
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Morris, Minnesota

For Release:
Wednesday, December 4, 1963

MORRIS--The Cougar basketball team at the University of Minnesota, Morris has played four games in its first week of the 1963-64 season. They opened the season on Tuesday, November 26, against North Dakota State School of Science (at Wahpeton) with an 88 to 62 defeat. On Friday, November 29, they played host to Dakota Wesleyan University and on Monday and Tuesday, December 2 and 3, they were host to St. John's University and traveled to Bethel College in St. Paul.

The University of Minnesota, Morris, now in its fourth year, has had a basketball team each year. Coach Jim Gremmels said before the season began that he thought this could be the first Cougar squad in those four years. Part of his optimism is based on nine returning letter and numeral winners from last year's squad and "the finest group of freshmen at UMM, except for size".

The first game pointed out that much work still needs to be done before the Cougars will reach their potential. A lack of rebounding and a loose defense appear to be the most serious weaknesses in the play. These were points which had appeared in two pre-season scrimmages with Fergus Falls Junior College and Willmar Community College.

The Cougars will be using two platoons, at least for the first part of the season. "We have good depth at every position," Gremmels said. There are at least three members of the squad of equal ability for each position. Gremmels also indicated that the Cougars will fast break at every opportunity.

Many of the teams the Cougars will face this season are strong, small college basketball powers in their state. Included among these are Northwestern (Ia.), Valley City (N.D.) and St. Cloud (Minn.). Another of these was Dakota Wesleyan University (S.D.), whom the Cougars played last Friday night.

(more)

The Pioneer College Conference race should also be an exciting one to follow. Pre-season guesstimates favor Northland College for the title, with Bethel, UMM and Northwestern also holding a good chance to win the title.

The Cougars have a 20 game schedule this season, plus competition in a holiday tournament. The full schedule is as follows:

- Nov. 26 -- N.D. State School of Science - There
- Nov. 29 -- Dakota Wesleyan University - Home
- Dec 2 -- St. John's University - Home
- *Dec. 3 -- Bethel College - There
- Dec. 5 -- Northwestern College of Iowa - Home
- Dec. 14 -- Dakota Wesleyan University - There
- Dec. 16 -- Buena Vista College - There
- Dec. 27-28 -- Holiday Tournament at Northwestern College of Iowa

- Jan. 2 -- St. John's University - There
- Jan. 6 -- Valley City State - Home
- *Jan. 10 -- Northland College - There
- *Jan. 11 -- Northland College - There
- Jan. 14 -- Augustana College - There
- *Jan. 18 -- Bethel College - Home
- *Jan. 24 -- Northwestern College (Mpls.) - There
- Jan. 25 -- Jamestown College - Home

- Feb. 1 -- Ellendale State - There
- Feb. 3 -- N.D. State School of Science - Home
- Feb. 10 -- Ellendale State - Home
- *Feb. 15 -- Northwestern College (Mpls.) - Home
- Feb. 22 -- St. Cloud State - Home

* Pioneer College Conference Games

Members of this year's squad include: Dennis Clausen, junior from Morris, Derl Clausen, junior from Morris, John Raw, sophomore from Benson, Verlyn Olson, junior from Benson, John Erickson, junior from Clinton, Alden Hofstedt, junior from Wheaton, Lowell Mogck, St. Cloud, Virgil Smith, freshman from Howard Lake, Don Sherman, senior from Clinton, Curt Billehus, junior from Starbuck, Stu Starner, junior from Hoffman, Dave French, freshman from Mpls., Jim Drealan, freshman from Fulda, Lee Borass, freshman from Appleton, Bob Brenden, freshman from Starbuck and Vernon McClung, freshman from Montevideo.