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UMM Basketball to Orange City

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UMM News Service
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For Release:
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MORRIS -- The University of Minnesota, Morris basketball team will travel to Orange City, Iowa, on Friday, December 27 to take part in the Holiday Tournament held at Northwestern College on the 27th and 28th.

Bethel College, another member of the Pioneer College Conference, will also compete in the tournament. The fourth team in the tournament is Central College of Pella, Iowa.

Bethel meets Central in the opening game and UMM and Northwestern tangle in the second game. This game between the UMM Cougars and the Red Raiders from Northwestern will be a grudge match.

The Cougars edged Northwestern 80 to 77 in a game played at UMM on December 5. It was a game that was close all the way and could have been won by either team. Northwestern's leading scorer in the game was Darrell Kruen, the former star of Minnesota's State high school champions from Edgerton, Minn.

Coach Jim Gremmels said that he thought he would have the entire squad in top shape for the first time since the St. John's game on December 2. In the last four games the Cougars have played, they have had someone either out of action or playing under handicap.

Dennis Clausen missed the Bethel game, which UMM won 83 to 76, and did not play all of the Northwestern game. In the recent road trip to Dakota Wesleyan, Verlyn Olson, one of the

Cougars leading scorers, saw only limited action. Alden Hofstedt, starting center, was fighting a case of the flu during the trip and played very little.

Three members of the squad are averaging ten points or better a game. Dennis Clausen leads with 95 points in 6 games for a 15.8 average, Verlyn Olson has 83 points in 6 games for 13.8 average and Virgil Smith has 88 points in 7 games for a 12.6 average. John Raw has 63 points in 7 games for a 9 point average.

The Cougars have scored 493 points to 593 for their opponents. This gives them a 70.4 point average to 84.7 average for the opposition. From the free throw line the Cougars are hitting at a 64.5% clip.