



2010-2011 MLC Sports Scrapbook

Provided by New Ulm Sports Central to document season highlights when published by New Ulm Journal and other media.



Staff photo Steve Muscatello
Senior Greg Holzhueter is back to lead the Martin Luther College men's basketball team this year. As a junior, Holzhueter averaged about 16 points per game for the Knights.

MLC has four starters back

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By Andy Danner — Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - The Martin Luther College men's basketball team will be looking to take some strides forward from last season when it returns to the court this year.

The Knights will return four of five starters this year from their 2009-2010 squad that finished with a mark of 7-17 (4-10).

"Our team is going to have more experience than last year's team," coach Jim Unke said. "At times last year we had five freshmen playing all at once. But the experience they gained will pay dividends for us this year."

"Last year was a difficult year, but hopefully we all took something away from it," senior guard Greg Holzhueter said. "The key for this season is to take what we learned last year and translate that into playing competitively and at

a high level every time we step onto the court this season."

Holzhueter will be back leading the Knights' attack again this year after earning First Team All-Upper Midwest Athletic Conference honors the past two seasons. Holzhueter was the leading scorer in the UMAC a season ago averaging just under 16 points per contest. He also led the team in assists (3.0 apg), steals (1.8 spg), and minutes played (31.4 mpg) as well as contributing four rebounds per game.

Holzhueter will be joined by his backcourt partner Nate Bauer for a second consecutive season. Bauer averaged 9.8 points per night last year as a freshman.

Bauer and Holzhueter were a big reason last season why the Knights were second in conference in assist-to-turnover ratio as a team and they will look to continue that trend this year.

"Greg and Nate will run the offense and set the tone for us on defense," Unke said.

Forward Jared Matthies hopes to be a threat again this year for the Knights from beyond the arc after leading the team with 25 3-point baskets last season.

MLC also returns Jake Unke (3.6 ppg), Justin Eternick (5.8 ppg), Joe Lindloff (2.1 ppg), and Scott Heinrich (1.7 ppg).

The Knights will have to deal with the loss of All-Conference Honorable Mention forward Ryan Kolander. Last season Kolander led the Knights in rebounding (5.5 rpg) and was third in scoring (8.4 ppg). Posts Justin and Josh Danell will look to pick up the slack under the basket for MLC after combining for nine points and seven rebounds per game last season.

"We will definitely need Josh and Justin, along with all of our other posts, to play very strong for us this season," Holzhueter commented. "Having an inside presence is crucial for any college basketball team. If you can't rebound and defend in the post, you won't win many games. However I don't think making up for the lost height depends on just a few of the tallest players though. Each and every member of the team has to make a commitment to each other to play stronger, more competitive basketball."



2010-2011 MLC Sports Highlights

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The Knights' roster will feature four new faces this season. Freshman Galen Holzhueter will look to make an immediate impact for MLC at the forward position. Transfer Kaleb Buch will add depth and athleticism at guard for the Knights. Freshman Micah Plocher and sophomore Ryan Schmeling will also look to bolster MLC's lineup.

"We really don't have a weak link on the team," Unke said. "We can play all 13 guys. It will come down to who steps up and I anticipate that it will be different guys from one night to the next. I think we will have a very balanced team this year. My hope is that we will have five or six guys in double figures every game."

MLC finished sixth in conference last season and was picked to finish fifth this year in the pre-season coaches' poll.

"Our success this year depends on our defense, rebounding, and competitive desire," Holzhueter said. "Those three things will determine how many games we win this year. If we commit to being a tough team that gives 100 percent effort every time we step on the court, then we will have a successful season."

"We need to improve our consistency in all aspects of the game," Unke said. "Last year we won some big games near the end of the season and we are looking to build on that."

"I think our biggest team goal for this season should be that we can say after every game that we competed as hard as we could," Holzhueter said.

The Knights will be without the services of Holzhueter for the beginning of the season due to student teaching obligations.

MLC will get its season underway Wednesday when it travels to Forest City, Iowa, to play nonconference opponent Waldorf.

The Knights' home opener will come on December 1 when they host St. John's.