



## Supplemental Archives for 2009-2010 Men's Basketball Season

*As Reported by New Ulm Journal and Others*

### Beating the odds

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NEW ULM With all things considered, the Martin Luther College men's basketball team turned in a fairly successful 2009-2010 campaign.

At first glance, MLC's record of 7-16 (4-10) may not appear impressive but upon further inspection the Knights have taken huge strides this season.

Not much was expected of this year's team after losing three major pieces from their regular season championship team a season ago.

MLC's 12-man roster this season featured eight underclassmen and coach Jim Unke returned only two starters.

Just like Unke predicted, the Knights experienced some growing pains early on as they lost 11 of their first 13 ballgames.

MLC didn't pick up its first conference win until January 23 at Northland College. This marked a period of improvement for the Knights as they went on to win four of their next seven contests.

This included beating playoff bound Presentation and Minnesota-Morris on back-to-back nights two weekends ago.

Although MLC dropped its final two regular season games, the Knights still managed to squeak into the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference tournament as the sixth seed.

The Knights will face the third seed, Bethany Lutheran College, in the first round of the playoffs starting tonight.

"It's a brand new season," Unke said. "The slate is wiped clean and everyone is back to square one. It is one and done from here on out. Your regular season record doesn't matter anymore. It's all about whoever shows up and plays the best that night."

MLC will look to exact revenge on the Vikings after dropping both of their meetings this season.

Last season the Knights beat Bethany twice in the regular season before getting knocked out by the Vikings in the semi-finals. So the Knights will be looking to return the favor and turn the tables on Bethany this time around.

The Knights will be led into the postseason by their junior point guard Greg Holzhueter. Holzhueter led the conference in scoring at 16.2 points per game. He also added 4.2 rpg, 3.0 apg, and 1.8 spg. Holzhueter's 108 made free throws were also tops in conference.

Despite missing time this year due to injury, senior Ryan Kolander had a solid season for the Knights and will be counted on heavily in the tournament.

"Ryan has been a huge asset and attribute to our team over the past four years," Unke said. "He is a guy who defines what hard work is. From the first day he stepped into our gym he has put it all on the line for the team. He has set the bar high for our underclassmen. We are really going to miss him next season."

Kolander averages 8.6 points and 5.4 rebounds per contest for MLC.

Freshman guard Nate Bauer was second on the team in scoring with 9.7 ppg.

Starters Jared Matthies (7.3 ppg) and Justin Danell (6.7) will need to play well if the Knights want to make a deep run in the tournament.

Justin Eternick and Derick Rosenbaum were the biggest contributors off the bench for the Knights averaging 6.0 and 4.3 ppg respectively.

"When we are ready to play we can beat anybody," Unke stated. "And we proved that two weekends ago when we beat Presentation and Morris."

After allowing the second most points to opponents (77.6) during the season, the Knights will have to shore up their defense if they want to have success in the playoffs.

"We are really going to have to concentrate on our team defense," Unke said. "Our defense has to get better otherwise it's going to be a short playoff run."

MLC's contest at Bethany on Tuesday night will be played at 7:30 p.m. An MLC victory would set up a second round match-up at Northwestern Thursday night.