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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction will begin next week on St. Cloud State College's new two-million-dollar physical education building, according to Howard Walton, director of physical resources.

Conlin Construction Company of St. Cloud was apparent low bidder as general contractor for the building when bids were opened Thursday (Aug. 15) in St. Paul. The Conlin figure was \$1,386,000.

Other apparent low bidders were: electrical — Cold Spring Electric Company, \$139,881; plumbing — Knapp Plumbing and Heating, St. Cloud, \$135,840; ventilating — McDowall Company, St. Cloud, \$128,424; heating — Knapp Plumbing and Heating, St. Cloud, \$104,740, and bleachers — Haldeman and Homme, Inc., St. Paul, \$93,022.

Earth-moving equipment will go to work at the site as soon as contracts are signed, Walton said. The split-level, brick and concrete structure will cover a city block at the southwest edge of the campus. The construction area is bordered by Tenth and Eleventh streets south and Third and Fourth avenues south.

Houses remaining on the block will be demolished or removed intact by the general contractor in order to speed up construction. Workmen hope to complete footings before frost.

If construction stays on schedule, the building will be completed in time for the end of the 1964-65 basketball season. The building's main gymnasium will seat 8,000, compared with the 1,100 seating capacity of Eastman Hall, the

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college's present physical education building. Eastman Hall was constructed in 1929 for an enrollment of 900. Some 4,300 students are expected at the college this fall.

The south end of the building will house a swimming pool which meets Olympic specifications, an adjacent diving pool and bleachers seating 500. Other facilities will include a training room, first aid room, lockers, team rooms, offices, staff conference room, lounge, general office, seminar room and four classrooms.

The main portion of the building will contain two handball courts, storage rooms, two classrooms, gymnastics room, wrestling room, dance studio, main gymnasium with pull-out bleachers and two small gyms.

Two other buildings will be under construction at the college before winter, Walton said. They are a 200-bed addition to Hill Hall, women's residence hall, and a maintenance and service building. More new construction is scheduled next year in an effort to keep pace with enrollment increases. The college expects 8,000 students by 1970 if enough facilities can be provided.