

NEWS from
the **HUSKIES**

St. Cloud State College
St. Cloud, Minnesota



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. CLOUD, Minn., Feb. — St. Cloud State's Eastman Hall is retiring from varsity basketball Saturday (Feb. 20).

That loud cheer you hear comes from long-suffering coaches, players, referees and fans who have been packed, parboiled and deafened inside "cozy Eastman" during its 35 years of service.

In her early days, the second-floor gymnasium was a handsome showplace, but it soon became apparent that seating was inadequate for the ever-increasing hordes of spectators. Officially the building seats 1100, but for crucial games as many as 1500 have stormed the gates, spilling out on the playing floor, blocking exits and hanging from railings.

Lines have started forming as early as three hours before game time. Parents of players have had to stand and radio announcers have had to sit on the floor. College officials have begged visiting teams not to bring along their own fans, a request which understandably raised a few eyebrows.

Visiting coaches have claimed that the intense heat and thunderous roar generated by partisan crowds inside the "St. Cloud sauna" gave the home team a 20-point advantage over opponents. As evidence they pointed to the Huskies' long string of home victories, which stretched to 45 before Mankato snapped it last month. Coach Marlowe "Red" Severson answered the critics by reminding them that St. Cloud has won most of its away games in recent years, too.

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Now he can reply, "Wait'll next season," when the Huskies move into spacious Halenbeck Hall, the college's new physical education building still under construction. With seats for 8000, the building can accommodate more spectators than any gymnasium in the state outside the University of Minnesota's Williams Arena.

To mark the passing of Eastman Hall as a basketball battleground, men who played in the first varsity game in the building will attend the final contest as guests of the college. The date of the first game was Dec. 17, 1930, when St. Cloud lost to St. John's, 22-21. That was a typical score in those days when action stopped for a jump center after each basket.

Among those to be honored Saturday are John Weismann, who was coach, and former players Edward Colletti, Malcolm Doane and Gene Rengel, all of St. Cloud; Cecil Stensrud, Sauk Rapids; Kermit Anderson, New Brighton, and Louis Hansen, Foley. Mrs. Doane, who was a cheerleader, also will attend.

College officials are pleased that the invitations have been accepted, but also a bit worried. How can they possibly save that many seats?