The Doane College mens basketball team will take on a new endeavor from Aug. 30-Sept. 3 when they hit the road to visit all 93 counties in the state of Nebraska. The mission of the 93 County Tour Across Nebraska is to bring awareness of the NAIA Champions of Character program, promote Doane Basketball, generate a team-building atmosphere and create a fun and competitive environment.

Beginning after classes on Aug. 30, the Tiger players and coaches will load into four vans to begin their tour. Two vans will head east with the other two going towards the southeast part of the state. Coach Jim Weeks said that the plan is to arrive in a selected town in each county and play a 15-minute game between the two vans that are comprised of an orange squad and a black squad. The games will be contested at the local school if it can be arranged or another location such as a city park or a community building.

Once a pair of vans reaches a predetermined location, the teams will participate in shooting drills followed by a 5-on-5 game. The coaches will be tracking score as well as shooting percentage and wins/losses to create a competitive atmosphere. A cumulative total score for each orange team and each black team will be combined to determine the overall winner once the teams return to Crete.

"It is our hope to get as many people involved in our activity as possible: players, coaches, family members, schools and communities," said assistant coach Drake Beranek who has been key behind organizing the event. "We have a saying on our staff, 'See the NEED, Fill the NEED', so if anyone feels the need to help, we would appreciate it."

Ways for communities to help in the endeavor would be to provide meals, snacks, drinks or even a place to sleep. Anyone interested in helping can contact Coach Beranek by e-mail (drake.beranek@doane.edu). The squads hope to grill out each night while having cold cuts, fruit, chips/granola for lunch and fruit, yogurt and doughnuts for breakfast.

The Doane mens basketball team has approximately 40 players on the squad this year. If a player is from a town on the stop, the goal is to have that player in their hometown.

Drew Harris, 2011 Wauneta-Palisade graduate, will be playing during the tour.

The team will be in Wauneta Saturday, Sept. 1, at 8:45 a.m. MT/9:45 CT and Grant at 9:55 a.m. MT.

The teams will meet together in Benkelman on August 31, Norfolk on Sept. 2 and Crete on Sept. 3.