

GOPHER GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF: THE BARNYARD, 1925 UNIVERSITY AVE. SE, TUBBYTOWN, USA



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOLDEN GOPHERS (12-1)

VS.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
(13-3) NITTANY LIONS



1/11/2008



YOUR 2008-2009 GOLDEN GOPHERS:

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	Weight	Notable season statistics
0	Al Nolen	G	So.	6-1	180	8.3 ppg, 4 rpg, 6 apg, 2.1 spg, 67% FT, 29% 3PFG
1	Paul Carter	F	So.	6-8	195	4 ppg, 3 rpg, 1 apg, 1 bpg, 13 mpg, 78% FT
3	Kevin Payton	G/F	RJr.	6-5	215	4.4 mpg, 1 rpg
4	Travis Busch	G/F	Jr.	6-4	220	6 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 53% FG, 70% FT, 14 mpg, 55% 3PFG
5	Devoe Joseph	G	Fr.	6-3	170	4 ppg, 2 rpg, 1.7 apg, 50% FT, 35% 3PFG, 15 mpg
11	Jonathan Williams	C	5Sr.	6-9	250	1.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 55% FG, 7 mpg
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	Jr.	6-0	195	13 ppg, 1 spg, 43% FG, 83% FT, 36% 3PFG, 83% FT
22	Devron Bostick	G	Jr.	6-5	210	3.8 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 1 apg, 49% FG, 63% FT, 11 mpg
24	Blake Hoffarber	G	So.	6-4	200	9 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 46% FG, 77% FT, 40% 3PFG, 24 mpg
33	Jamal Abu-Shamala	G/F	Sr.	6-5	210	5 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 50% FG, 73% FT, 36% 3PFG, 15 mpg
34	Damian Johnson	F	RJr.	6-7	195	10 ppg, 4 rpg, 3 apg, 54% FG, 54% FT, 27 mpg
45	Colton Iverson	F/C	Fr.	6-10	235	6.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2 bpg, 60% FG, 59% FT, 19 mpg
50	Ralph Sampson III	F/C	Fr.	6-11	220	6.3 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 51% FG, 73% FT, 17.5 mpg

Head Coach: Tubby Smith. Assistant coaches: Ron Jirsa, Vince Taylor, Saul Smith.

A GIFT FROM SANTA TOM

Today's Gopher Gazette is supplemented by a special document from Tom Pierce, aka Santa Tom. Tom's grandfather E.B. Pierce was the U of M's first alumni secretary, and has passed down the first documentation of University-approved songs to his grandson. Today, Tom has given this gift out to The Barnyard, proving that it's never too late for a Christmas gift.

The Golden Dunkers

We would like to thank the Golden Dunkers – the booster club for the men's basketball team – for their support of the Golden Gophers and The Barnyard!



Check in with our website www.umnbarnyard.com for the latest news on the team! Check out The Barnyard photo gallery, catch up on past Gazettes, and vote on our weekly polls. Keep The Barnyard rocking after the final horn!

BIG TEN CONFERENCE The Barnyard's Big Ten Roundup BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Current Standings

	Conf.	Overall
Michigan St.	3-0	12-2
Wisconsin	3-0	12-3
Minnesota	2-1	14-1
Penn State	2-1	13-3
Michigan	2-1	12-3
Illinois	1-1	13-2
Ohio State	1-2	10-3
Iowa	1-2	11-5
Purdue	0-2	11-4
Indiana	0-2	5-9
Northwestern	0-3	8-5

Results & Schedule

Tuesday
Michigan St. 67, Ohio St. 58
Penn St. 67, Purdue 64

Wednesday
Michigan 72, Indiana 66, OT
Wisconsin 74, Northwestern 45

Thursday
Gophers 52, Iowa 49

Friday
* Houston Baptist at Ohio St., late

Saturday
* Kansas at Michigan St., late
* Indiana at Illinois, late
* These games were not yet played by press time.

Who's Up: Wisconsin

Bucky's riding high with wins over Michigan, Penn St., and Northwestern to start the Big Ten schedule 3-0. Up next: At Purdue and home against Minnesota on Thursday.

Who's Down: Northwestern

The Wildcats sit alone in the conference basement at 0-3, following a 29-point road loss at Wisconsin. Up next: Purdue, Minnesota and Michigan State.

Game of the Week: Minnesota at Wisconsin

Two of the top teams face-off in Madison on Thursday, where Minnesota looks to snap a 12 game losing streak at Madison.

FAN OF THE GAME

vs. Ohio State – Ben Johnson

Barnyard: Who is your favorite Gopher?

BJ: Big Albert Nolen

Barnyard: How do you get so pumped up before every game?

BJ: I stroke the feathers of my chicken suit

Barnyard: What is a random fact about you?

BJ: I am irresistible to the opposite sex

Barnyard: What are you most looking forward to this season?

BJ: The tourney.



GOPHER UPDATE

Jan. 8 – No. 19 Minnesota 52, Iowa 49

Following a 68-59 home win over Ohio State on Jan. 3, Minnesota upped its Big Ten record to 2-1 with a road victory at Iowa City. Minnesota trailed by as many as 13 points in the first half, and struggled to a 26-20 halftime deficit. But the Gophers went on an 11-5 run after the break, and Minnesota grabbed its first lead with just over nine minutes to go, and held on, thanks in part to clutch free throw shooting by Lawrence Westbrook. He hit on all four attempts in the closing minute and led the Gophers with 10 points. Travis Busch also added 10 points, and Al Nolen chipped in with eight points, four rebounds and three assists. The Gophers finished the game shooting 34% from the field, including 23% from behind the arc (5-of-22), in handing Iowa its first home loss of the season.

Today's opponent – Penn State University Nittany Lions

The Nittany Lions have started out the Big Ten season going 2-1, with a 61-57 home win over Northwestern, and a 67-64 home win over Purdue last Tuesday. Their lone loss is a 65-61 defeat at Wisconsin. The Nittany Lions scored a signature road win on Dec. 3 when they defeated Georgia Tech 85-83. Penn State is led by Talor Battle (19 ppg, 6 rpg, 5 apg), Stanley Pringle (15 ppg) and Jamelle Cornley (14 ppg, 7 rpg). Last season, the Gophers took a 76-73 win at Penn State on Jan. 12, and won 75-68 at Williams Arena on Feb. 24. Last season, Penn State started 10-4 and finished 15-16. Minnesota leads the series 15-3, with Penn State's last win coming Jan. 7, 2004 at State College.

Roster: 2 Jamelle Cornley (Sr, 6-5, F), 10 Chris Babb (Fr, 6-5, G), 11 Stanley (Pringle (Sr, 6-1, G), 12 Talor Battle (So, 5-11, G), 13 Will Leiner (Sr, 6-1, G), 14 Adam Highberger (So, 6-2, G), 15 David Jackson (So, 6-6, Fr), 22 Andrew Jones (So, 6-9, F), 24 Cammeron Woodyard (Fr, 6-5, G), 25 Jeff Brooks (So, 6-8, Fr), 33 Danny Morrissey (Sr, 6-3, G), 41 Steve Kirkpatrick (So, 6-5, F), 42 Billy Oliver (Fr, 6-8, F), 54 Andrew Ott (So, 6-10, F). **Head coach:** Ed DeChellis.

Next Up – The Gophers hit the road at Wisconsin (Jan. 15) and Northwestern (Jan. 18).

BARNYARD SPOTLIGHT: DAMIAN JOHNSON

From Diapers to Dunks:

Damian Johnson was a dominant force at Thibodaux (Louisiana) High School, racking up an impressive resume of awards and accolades while leading his team to a runner-up finish in the state tournament his senior season. In the quarterfinals, Johnson led all scorers with 26 points in a 77-61 win over Woodlawn. Thibodaux coach Barry Filce said Johnson heated up when the game mattered most: "Damian is coming off his two biggest games of the year. The Johnson you saw tonight is the kid who's going to Minnesota. He showed you why he'll be playing in the Big Ten." Johnson came up big in the semifinals, tallying 21 points and five blocked shots at Thibodaux defeated East St. John 70-62. Following averages of 17 points, nine rebounds, and five blocks per game his senior season, Johnson was named Class 5A All-state and the All-Bayou Region Player of the Year.

The Barnyard Quiz:

1) Why did you choose the Gophers?

I enjoy the city, the campus and people of Minneapolis

2) What's been your biggest thrill as a Gopher?

Beating Indiana at the Big Ten tourney

3) How do you get ready before a game?

Take a pregame nap to relax myself

4) What's a little known fact about you?

I feel like a Rockstar

5) Who is your favorite former Gopher? Why?

Adam Boone – because he was my former roommate and he had his priorities together

6) The Gophers are down 1 with :05 left & Coach Smith is locked in the bathroom – what play do you run?

I don't know but I know I would feel confident enough to take the shot

7) After winning the 2009 NCAA's, what song do you dance to at the welcome home celebration?

Young Jeezy – either 'Crazy World' or 'Amazin'

8) When your career as a Gopher is over, what would you like to be remembered for?

I want to be remembered as a champion

ON THIS DAY IN GOPHERS HISTORY

Jan. 11, 1997 – No. 11 Minnesota 70, No. 16 Michigan 64

The home win over Michigan came on the heels of a come-from-behind victory against No. 15 Indiana just days before. In that game, Bobby Jackson led the Gophers with 26 points. What did he do for an encore? Just another stellar day at Williams Arena, with 20 points, 11 rebounds, three assists, two steals and no turnovers. "If Bobby Jackson is not the player of the week, they should just do away with the award," coach Clem Haskins said following the recent display by Jackson. At 15-1 overall, 4-0 in the Big Ten and riding 10-game winning streak, Minnesota had a hard time in earning the win at home. The Gophers led 34-28 at halftime thanks to a 17-5 run to close out the first half. Minnesota worked that lead to 11 points with just over 11 minutes remaining in the game, when Michigan's frontcourt led by Robert Traylor went to work. The Wolverines drew to within a basket with under two minutes remaining, but Traylor was knocked out of the game with 1:30 remaining after fouling out. Jackson responded scoring the next four points, and Michigan never got closer than the game's final margin.

This edition of the Gopher Gazette brought to you by Luke Meyer, Communications Chair of the Barnyard Board