

GOPHER GAZETTE

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



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOLDEN GOPHERS (16-2)

VS.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
(14-4) BOILERMAKERS



1/22/2008



YOUR 2008-2009 GOLDEN GOPHERS:

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	Weight	Notable season statistics
0	Al Nolen	G	So.	6-1	180	8.1 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.3 apg, 2.1 spg, 67% FT, 34% 3PFG
1	Paul Carter	F	So.	6-8	195	5.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1 apg, 15 mpg, 41% FG, 71% FT
3	Kevin Payton	G/F	RJr.	6-5	215	4 mpg, 1 rpg, .4 apg
4	Travis Busch	G/F	Jr.	6-4	220	5 ppg, 2 rpg, 53% FG, 67% FT, 13 mpg, 55% 3PFG
5	Devoe Joseph	G	Fr.	6-3	170	4 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 1.8 apg, 43% FT, 39% 3PFG, 15 mpg
11	Jonathan Williams	C	5Sr.	6-9	250	1.1 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 50% FG, 6 mpg
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	Jr.	6-0	195	14 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 1.7 apg, 45% FG, 85% FT, 40% 3PFG
22	Devron Bostick	G	Jr.	6-5	210	4.8 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 1 apg, 52% FG, 73% FT, 44% 3PFG
24	Blake Hoffarber	G	So.	6-4	200	8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 43% FG, 77% FT, 37% 3PFG, 24 mpg
33	Jamal Abu-Shamala	G/F	Sr.	6-5	210	4.7 ppg, 2 rpg, 51% FG, 73% FT, 37% 3PFG, 14 mpg
34	Damian Johnson	F	RJr.	6-7	195	9.6 ppg, 4 rpg, 2.3 apg, 56% FG, 56% FT, 32% 3PFG
45	Colton Iverson	F/C	Fr.	6-10	235	6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 61% FG, 55% FT, 18.2 mpg
50	Ralph Sampson III	F/C	Fr.	6-11	220	6.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 51% FG, 79% FT, 18.4 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.	5-0	15-2
Minnesota	4-2	16-2
Illinois	4-2	16-3
Purdue	3-2	14-4
Wisconsin	3-2	12-5
Penn State	4-3	15-5
Ohio State	3-3	13-4
Michigan	3-4	13-6
Iowa	1-4	11-7
Northwestern	1-4	9-6
Indiana	0-5	5-12

Results & Schedule

Tuesday
Illinois 67, Ohio State 49
Penn State 73, Michigan 58

Wednesday
Northwestern at Michigan St., late
Wisconsin at Iowa, late

Today
Purdue at Gophers

Saturday
Wisconsin at Illinois, 3 pm
Iowa at Penn State, 5 pm
Northwestern at Michigan, 7 pm

Sunday
Gophers at Indiana, 11 am
Michigan St. at Ohio St., 2:45 pm

Who's Up: Michigan State

The Spartans haven't lost since Dec. 3, riding an 11-game winning streak, highlighted with a perfect 5-0 conference mark and wins over Texas and Kansas.

Who's Down: Iowa

The Hawkeyes followed a narrow home defeat to the Gophers by losing at Michigan (64-49) and at Purdue (75-53) to start the Big Ten season 1-4.

Game of the Week: Michigan St at Ohio St.

Two perennial powers will square off in Columbus on Sunday, where the Buckeyes hope to avenge a 67-58 defeat at Lansing on Jan. 6 and hand the Spartans their first Big Ten loss.

FAN OF THE GAME

vs. Penn State – Matt Lekat

Barnyard: Who is your favorite Gopher?

ML: Blake Hofferber. He is a legend and he won an ESPY

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

ML: Listen to Aaron Carter's smash-hit "How I beat Shaq"

Barnyard: What is a random fact about you?

ML: I'm known as the "really into it" guy

Barnyard: How did you choose your outfit?

ML: Because "I'm official"



GOPHER UPDATE

Jan. 18 – Northwestern 74, No. 19 Minnesota 65

Minnesota boarded an emotional rollercoaster for its roadtrip to Wisconsin and Northwestern and realized like any amusement park ride – what goes up must come down. Following a thrilling come-from-behind 78-74 OT win at Wisconsin on Jan. 15, the Gophers headed south and found a more than willing and capable foe in Northwestern on Sunday. The Gophers came out firing on all cylinders against the Wildcats, connecting on 14 of their first 18 shots, and shooting 62.5% to hold a 34-31 halftime lead. But Minnesota's deft outside shooting quickly turned ice-cold in the second half, allowing Northwestern to go on a 20-2 run at one point. The Gophers shot just 34.5% in the second half, and a seven-minute scoreless stretch proved too difficult to overcome in Evanston. Lawrence Westbrook led the Gophers with 18 points and eight rebounds. Damian Johnson added 14 points, and Al Nolen chipped in with ten.

Today's opponent – No. 18 Purdue University Boilermakers

Purdue is ranked No. 18 in the AP and ESPN polls. The Boilermakers are led by sophomores E'Twaun Moore (13.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg), Robbie Hummel (13.8 ppg, 8 rpg) and JaJuan Johnson (12.5 ppg, 6 rpg). Purdue began the Big Ten schedule with a 71-67 overtime loss to Illinois and a 67-64 road loss at Penn State. Since then, Purdue has rebounded with wins over Wisconsin (65-52), Northwestern (63-61) and Iowa (75-53). The Boilermakers lost 87-82 in overtime to Oklahoma on Nov. 28 and 76-60 to Duke on Dec. 12. In their only matchup last season, Purdue defeated the Gophers in West Lafayette, 65-53.

Roster: 3 Chris Kramer (G, 6-3, Jr), 4 Robbie Hummel (F, 6-8, So), 5 Keaton Grant (G, 6-4, Jr), 11 Bobby Riddell (G, 5-9, Sr), 20 Marcus Green (G, 6-6, Sr), 23 Lewis Jackson (G, 5-9, Fr), 24 Ryne Smith (G, 6-3, Fr), 25 JaJuan Johnson (F, 6-10, So), 30 Mark Wohlford (G, 6-0, Jr), 32 John Hart (G, 6-2, Fr), 33 E'Twaun Moore (G, 6-4, So), 44 Nemanja Calasan (F, 6-9, Sr), 55 Chris Reid (F, 6-9, Sr). **Head coach:** Matt Painter.

Next Up – The Gophers go to Indiana on Sunday, then return home to face Illinois next Thursday at 8 p.m.

BARNYARD SPOTLIGHT: TRAVIS BUSCH

From Diapers to Dunks:

Travis Busch hails from the talented 2005 graduation class of Mounds View High School, which includes Gophers quarterback Adam Weber. Busch was a steady performer for the Mustangs, averaging more than 25 ppg as a senior, 20 as a junior, and 15 as a sophomore. Highlighting his illustrious career at Mounds View, Busch holds the all-time career scoring record with 1,771 points. During his senior season, Busch led the Mustangs to the state semifinals with a 20-point, 11-rebound and four-assist performance in a 45-30 win over Eagan. In the semifinals, Busch added 19 points as Mounds View dropped a tightly contested matchup with Eastview 36-33. Subsequently, Eastview advanced to the championship game to face Hopkins, only to lose thanks impart to Blake Hofferber and "the shot." After the season, Busch was named Minnesota's Mr. Basketball, and was tabbed as the Player of the Year by the Associated Press, Star Tribune and Pioneer Press. Busch played in four games at Cal Poly before injuring his foot and missing the rest of the season. He started one game and averaged 6.3 points and 2.3 rebounds. Busch decided to transfer to Minnesota, and last season was part of another infamous shot by Hofferber in the Big Ten Tournament.

The Barnyard Quiz:

1) Why did you choose the Gophers?

I always wanted to be a Minnesota Golden Gopher

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

Throwing the pass to Blake against Indiana last season in the Big Ten Tournament

3) How do you get ready before a game?

I eat and take a nap

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

I am a die-hard Vikings fan

5) Who is your favorite former Gopher? Why?

Kevin McHale – he's my idol

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

I would want to run the same play we ran against Indiana last year

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

Nothing – I don't dance

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

For being a hard-working competitor

ON THIS DAY IN GOPHERS HISTORY

Jan. 22, 1994 – Minnesota 68, Michigan State 66

The home win over Michigan State was a struggle from start-to-finish, with the Gophers regularly on the losing end of the score throughout the game. Minnesota was without leading rebounder Randy Carter, who sat out because of back spasms, and forward Jayson Walton played only 11 minutes coming off of knee surgery. Michigan State capitalized on the thin Minnesota frontcourt, as the Gophers were out-rebounded for only the third time in 17 games. As Minnesota struggled down low, its veteran backcourt, consisting of seniors Arriel McDonald and Townsend Orr, and junior Voshon Lenard took over. With the game tied and seconds remaining, McDonald looked for first-option Lenard, who was double-covered. Instead of forcing the ball to Lenard, the senior point guard pulled-up from 15-feet and sank the game winner with 1.6 seconds remaining. McDonald finished with 16 points, six assists, no turnovers, and a career-high 10 rebounds as the Gophers improved to 13-4 overall, 4-1 in the Big Ten.

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