

GOPHER GAZETTE

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



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOLDEN GOPHERS (17-3)

VS.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
(17-3) FIGHTING ILLINI



1/29/2009



YOUR 2008-2009 GOLDEN GOPHERS:

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	Weight	Notable season statistics
0	Al Nolen	G	So.	6-1	180	8.4ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.2 apg, 2.2 spg, 70% FT, 34% 3PFG
1	Paul Carter	F	So.	6-8	195	5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1 apg, 15 mpg, 38% FG, 70% 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	4.5 ppg, 2 rpg, 52% FG, 67% FT, 12 mpg, 55% 3PFG
5	Devoe Joseph	G	Fr.	6-3	170	4 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 1.7 apg, 43% FT, 39% 3PFG, 15 mpg
11	Jonathan Williams	C	5Sr.	6-9	250	1.1 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 50% FG, 6.4 mpg
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	Jr.	6-0	195	14 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 1.6 apg, 45% FG, 87% FT, 39% 3PFG
22	Devron Bostick	G	Jr.	6-5	210	4.4 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 1 apg, 50% FG, 73% FT, 40% 3PFG
24	Blake Hoffarber	G	So.	6-4	200	7.3 ppg, 3 rpg, 42% FG, 65% FT, 36% 3PFG, 23 mpg
33	Jamal Abu-Shamala	G/F	Sr.	6-5	210	4.7 ppg, 2 rpg, 50% FG, 71% FT, 34% 3PFG, 14 mpg
34	Damian Johnson	F	RJr.	6-7	195	10 ppg, 4 rpg, 2 apg, 52% FG, 61% FT, 26% 3PFG
45	Colton Iverson	F/C	Fr.	6-10	235	5.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 61% FG, 54% FT, 17.4 mpg
50	Ralph Sampson III	F/C	Fr.	6-11	220	6.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 52% FG, 82% FT, 19.3 mpg

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

THE BARNYARD POLL

Q: What Gopher Basketball moment was more exciting?

- A. The Gophers come-from-behind win to beat Wisconsin at the Kohl Center on Jan. 15.
- B. Blake Hoffarber's shot to beat Indiana in the 2008 Big Ten Tournament.

Log on to www.umnbarnyard.com to vote and view the results!

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.	6-1	16-3
Illinois	5-2	17-3
Purdue	5-2	16-4
Minnesota	5-3	17-3
Penn State	5-3	16-5
Ohio State	4-4	14-5
Michigan	4-5	14-7
Wisconsin	3-5	12-8
Northwestern	3-5	11-7
Iowa	2-5	12-8
Indiana	0-7	5-14

Results & Schedule

Tuesday
Purdue 64, Wisconsin 63

Wednesday
Ohio State 72, Michigan 54
Northwestern 77, Indiana 75

Today
Illinois at Gophers
Michigan State at Iowa, 6 pm

Saturday
Michigan at Purdue, noon
Ohio State at Indiana, 3 pm
Wisconsin at Northwestern, 7 pm

Sunday
Penn State at Michigan St., 11 am
Iowa at Illinois, 1 pm

Who's Up: Purdue

After starting the Big Ten season 0-2, the Boilermakers have rattled off five straight wins to reestablish themselves as a legitimate Big Ten title contender and national power.

Who's Down: Indiana

Wisconsin's recent fortune hasn't changed, but Indiana missed out on its first Big Ten win at Northwestern. When will win No. 1 come?

Game of the Week: Wisconsin at Northwestern

Tonight's game receives consideration, but intrigue lies with Wisconsin this weekend in Evanston. Will Wisconsin be able to halt a 5-game losing streak and turn its season around?

FAN OF THE GAME

vs. Purdue – Dusty Jurek

Barnyard: Who is your favorite Gopher?

DJ: Al Nolen because he can do everything

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

DJ: Drink sparkling grape juice and listen to Zombie Nation

Barnyard: What is a random fact about you?

DJ: The population of my hometown (Silver Lake) is smaller than classes at the U

Barnyard: How did you choose your outfit?

DJ: Joe Dirt is my idol, I wanted to stick out and I am a fan of the 80's mullet



GOPHER UPDATE

Jan. 25 – Minnesota 67, Indiana 63

Two desperate teams squared-off this past Sunday at Assembly Hall looking to snap losing streaks, but the Gophers did just enough to prove victorious at Indiana. While the Hoosiers were looking for their first Big Ten win of the season, the Gophers were also in desperate need of snapping a two-game losing streak. Neither team held significant leads throughout the game. Al Nolen connected on a pair of free throws to force Indiana's Devan Dumes' long three-point attempt with three seconds remaining. Paul Carter's rebound of the miss and made free throw sealed the road win for the Gophers. Damian Johnson led Minnesota with 18 points and six rebounds. Ralph Sampson III added 13 points, eight rebounds and a career-high six blocks. Lawrence Westbrook chipped in with 12 points, and Jamal Abu-Shamala added 10.

Today's opponent – No. 19 Illinois Fighting Illini

The Illini are ranked No. 19 in the AP poll and No. 20 in the ESPN poll. Illinois is 5-2 in the Big Ten, with its latest win at home 64-57 over Wisconsin. The Illini are led by sophomores Demetri McCamey (12.5 ppg, 5.1 apg, 2.8 rpg), Mike Tisdale (11.7 ppg, 4.1 apg) and Mike David (11.1 ppg, 7.3 rpg). Senior guard Chester Frazier leads the Big Ten with 5.5 assists per game. Illinois leads the all-time series 57-104, with three wins coming last year – including a 54-50 win in the semifinals of the Big Ten Tournament. Minnesota has lost 20 straight decisions to Illinois, although the NCAA only recognizes the previous 19 losses due to NCAA infractions. The Gophers went 5-5 against the Illini during the NCAA's vacated years of 1994-1999. The last official Gopher win over the Illini was a 67-65 home win during the 1992-1993 season.

Roster: 1 Trent Meacham (G, 6-2, Sr), 3 Chester Frazier (G, 6-2, Sr), 13 Jeff Jordan (G, 6-1, So), 15 Bubba Chisholm (G, 5-11, Jr), 21 Stan Simpson (C, 6-9, Fr), 23 Dominique Keller (F, 6-7, Jr), 24 Mike Davis (F, 6-9, So), 25 Calvin Brock (G, 6-5, Sr), 30 Bill Cole (F, 6-9, So), 32 Demetri McCamey (G, 6-3, So), 33 Alex Legion (G, 6-5, So), 34 C.J. Jackson (F, 6-8, Jr), 50 Richard Semrau (C, 6-10, So), 54 Mike Tisdale (C, 7-1, So). **Head coach:** Bruce Weber.

Next Up – The Gophers go to Michigan State Wednesday (7:30 pm) and Ohio State on Saturday (7 pm).

BARNYARD SPOTLIGHT: AL NOLEN

From Diapers to Dunks:

Two of the top prep basketball players in Minnesota faced off in mid-February 2006, as the Braham Bombers and Michigan State recruit Isaiah Dahlman traveled to Minneapolis Henry to face junior Al Nolen and the Patriots. With Nolen's commitment to the Gophers before the season began, and Braham's lofty expectations following back-to-back Class 2A Championships, the game was destined to be a battle of the bright young stars. By the end of the game, Dahlman had a better stat line, but Nolen proved victorious in handing the Bombers their second defeat in 80 games with a 70-62 win. Nursing a one-point lead at halftime, Nolen started the second half with a steal and fast-break layup to teammate Tim Saxon. Nolen then followed with a basket of his own, and after a few minutes the Patriots had grabbed a 38-31 lead and never looked back. Nolen finished with 28 points, 12 rebounds, and four steals. Dahlman tallied 31 points for Braham, who went on to win the Class 2A Championship.

The Barnyard Quiz:

1) Why did you choose the Gophers?

Because I grew up in Minneapolis

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

The win against Indiana last year in the Big Ten Tournament

3) How do you get ready before a game?

Listen to music

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

I am king of Madden on Xbox 360 for real

5) Who is your favorite former Gopher? Why?

Bobby Jackson – he was a great player

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

Any play that gets us the win

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

My Dougie

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

A leader

ON THIS DAY IN GOPHERS HISTORY

Jan. 29, 2006 – Minnesota 61, No. 13 Indiana 42

Indiana head coach Mike Davis wasn't alone in asking, "Who the heck is Zach Puchtel?" The question consumed Davis after a lopsided Gophers win over highly touted and No. 13-ranked Indiana at Williams Arena. Davis needn't feel bad – chances are most Gopher fans didn't know much about the Harvard transfer walk-on and surprise starter that day. Puchtel scored six points and grabbed three rebounds, so why all the questions? Because the little-known forward from Hopkins had just shutdown Indiana star Marco Killingsworth. Puchtel's astute defense – battling for position, scrapping and constant pressure – held Killingsworth to two first-half points as the Hoosier offense stalled. "There's no one who we've played this year that's guarded Marco like that," Davis said. Killingsworth finished with 15 points – most of which were scored late in the game when Puchtel was on the bench. Vincent Grier led the offense with 17 points and 10 rebounds and J'son Stamper added 12 points. With the win, Minnesota improved to 10-8, 1-6 in the Big Ten. Davis soon learned about Puchtel. He played football and basketball at Harvard, transferred to play for the Gophers for one season, then returned to Harvard to graduate.

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