

GOPHER GAZETTE

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



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOLDEN GOPHERS (19-7)

VS.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
WILDCATS (14-10)



2/22/2009



YOUR 2008-2009 GOLDEN GOPHERS:

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	Weight	Notable season statistics
0	Al Nolen	G	So.	6-1	180	7.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.8 apg, 2.1 spg, 71% FT, 32% 3PFG
1	Paul Carter	F	So.	6-8	195	5.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 0.8 apg, 15 mpg, 37% FG, 75% FT
4	Travis Busch	G/F	Jr.	6-4	220	4 ppg, 1.9 rpg, 51% FG, 68% FT, 12 mpg
5	Devoe Joseph	G	Fr.	6-3	170	5.7 ppg, 1.7 apg, 40% FT, 44% 3PFG, 16.5 mpg
11	Jonathan Williams	C	5Sr.	6-9	250	1 ppg, 1.3 rpg, 40% FG, 5.8 mpg
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	Jr.	6-0	195	12.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 42% FG, 86% FT, 35% 3PFG
22	Devron Bostick	G	Jr.	6-5	210	3.5 ppg, 1.3 rpg, .8 apg, 44% FG, 69% FT, 32% 3PFG
24	Blake Hofferber	G	So.	6-4	200	7.2 ppg, 3 rpg, 43% FG, 67% FT, 37% 3PFG, 22 mpg
33	Jamal Abu-Shamala	G/F	Sr.	6-5	210	4.1 ppg, 2 rpg, 49% FG, 71% FT, 33% 3PFG, 13 mpg
34	Damian Johnson	F	RJr.	6-7	195	9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.7 apg, 48% FG, 67% FT, 20% 3PFG
45	Colton Iverson	F/C	Fr.	6-10	235	5.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 61% FG, 52% FT, 17.4 mpg
50	Ralph Sampson III	F/C	Fr.	6-11	220	6.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 50% FG, 82% FT, 20.4 mpg

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

THE BARNYARD POLL

Q: Which new Gopher has been more exciting to watch?

- A. Paul Carter
- B. Devoe Joseph

Previous poll:

Q: What position will the Gophers finish in the Big Ten?

- A. 1-2 - 1 vote
- B. 3-4 - 11 votes
- C. 5-6 - 7 votes
- D. 7-11 - 0 votes

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.	10-3	20-5
Purdue	9-4	20-6
Illinois	9-5	21-6
Penn State	8-6	19-8
Wisconsin	8-6	17-9
Ohio State	7-6	17-7
Minnesota	7-7	19-7
Michigan	7-7	17-10
Northwestern	5-8	14-10
Iowa	3-10	13-13
Indiana	1-12	6-19

Results & Schedule

Thursday	Michigan 74, Minnesota 62 Wisconsin 68, Indiana 51
Saturday	Indiana at Purdue, late
Today	Illinois at Ohio State, noon Wisconsin at Michigan St., 2 pm Michigan at Iowa, 4 pm Northwestern at Minnesota, 6 pm
Tuesday	Penn State at Ohio State, 6 pm
Wednesday	Northwestern at Indiana, 5:30 pm Iowa at Michigan State, 7:30 pm

Who's Up: Wisconsin

The Badgers have quietly reclaimed their season, winning five straight games after losing six in a row, and are now 8-6 in the Big Ten.

Who's Down: Minnesota

The Gophers have lost 4 of their last 5, and 6 of their last 9, falling into a tie for seventh-place in the conference. With 2 of their 3 remaining games at home, can the Gophers rebound?

Game of the Week: Penn State at Ohio State

Ohio State needs to protect its home court if a trip to the big dance is in the cards. But with an upset road win over Illinois and Talor Battle's resurgence, Penn State has an ace in the hole.

FAN OF THE GAME

vs. Indiana – Joseph McFarland

Barnyard: Who is your favorite Gopher?

JM: Damian Johnson because he is the glue to the team

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

JM: I do the chicken dance

Barnyard: What is a random fact about you?

JM: I saw the filming of the Dark Knight

Barnyard: How did you choose your outfit?

JM: Because every barn needs a chicken



GOPHER UPDATE

Feb. 19– Michigan 74, Minnesota 62

Minnesota's current losing skid continued on Thursday, as the Gophers lost for the sixth time in their past nine games. Down 40-25 at halftime, the Gophers repeatedly failed to defend the 3-point line, as the Wolverines took a 58-36 lead. For the game, Michigan shot 13-for-28 from behind the arc and 46 percent from the floor. Devoe Joseph led the team with 14 points off the bench. Lawrence Westbrook added 12 points, and Damian Johnson finished with ten. For the first time in conference play, Paul Carter got the start over Colton Iverson. Carter finished with two points and five rebounds. Zack Novak led Michigan with 18 points, all coming from behind the arc.

Today's opponent – Northwestern University Wildcats

The Wildcats snapped an 11 game losing streak against Ohio State dating back to 1998 with a 72-69 win on Wednesday. Kevin Coble scored 26 points and Craig Moore added 23 to lead Northwestern. John Shurna hit a fall away 3-pointer with 3.3 seconds left to give the Wildcats the win. Moore hit seven 3-pointers in the game. In their first meeting with the Gophers on Jan. 18, Moore hit six 3-pointers and finished with 22 points to lead NU over the Gophers 74-65 in Evanston. Coble finished with 20 points. On the season, Coble leads the team with 16 ppg and 5 rpg. Moore averages 15 ppg and 3 .3 rpg. Michael Thompson is averaging 10 ppg and 4 apg for a Wildcats squad that also has Big Ten wins over Michigan State on the road and Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio State at home.

Roster: 3 Mike Capocci (So, F, 6-6), 5 Jeff Ryan (Jr, G, 6-7), 10 Patrick Houlihan (Sr, F, 6-5), 12 Luka Mirkovic (Fr, F, 6-11), 13 Marlon Day (Sr, F, 6-5), 15 Nick Fruendt (Fr, G, 6-5), 20 Craig Moore (Sr, G, 6-3), 21 Ivan Peljusic (So, F, 6-8), 22 Michael Thompson (So, G, 5-10), 23 Jeremy Nash (Jr, G, 6-4), 24 John Shurna (Fr, F, 6-8), 30 Davide Curletti (Fr, F, 6-9), 32 Sterling Williams (Sr, F, 6-4), 33 Matt Steger (Jr, F, 6-5), 44 Kevin Coble (Jr, F, 6-8), 54 Kyle Rowley (Fr, C, 7-0). **Head coach:** Bill Carmody.

Next Up – The Gophers play at Illinois at 6 pm Thursday, then host Wisconsin at 7:30 pm March 4th.

BARNYARD SPOTLIGHT: JON WILLIAMS

From Diapers to Dunks:

Jon Williams took a different path than most Minnesotans to play for the Gophers, but ultimately decided to play at home. Williams committed to St. John's in the fall of 2002 while attending St. Cloud Apollo. But after Red Storm coach Mike Jarvis resigned, Williams decided to attend the Fitchburg (Mass.) Notre Dame Prep Academy after graduating to work on his academics and he subsequently de-committed from St. John's. Before attending Apollo, Williams attended high schools in Georgia and Florida. Williams was named all-state honorable mention at Apollo in 2003, and averaged eight points and eight rebounds while at Notre Dame Prep. Following a heavy recruiting battle between Penn State and Pitt, Minnesota won out and added Williams for the 2004-2005 season. Unfortunately, Williams suffered a sprained knee during the preseason and was granted a medical redshirt season.

The Barnyard Quiz:

1) Why did you choose the Gophers?

The University of Minnesota is a great college in a major conference

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

Big Ten Tour – "Shot by Blake"

3) How do you get ready before a game?

Listen to music

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

I love to draw!

5) Who is your favorite former Gopher? Why?

Engen Nurumbi – he was the funniest teammate

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

Coach Smith would never be locked in a bathroom with :05 left He would bust out before he lets us draw up a play!

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

Lil' Boosie – Wipe Me Down

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

A respectful man that played hard all the time

ON THIS DAY IN GOPHERS HISTORY

Feb. 22, 1997 – No. 2 Minnesota 67, No. 23 Illinois 66

The Gophers' ninth consecutive victory, and 19th in their last 20 games, was much more than a school record-tying 24th victory of the season. With the home win over the Fighting Illini, Minnesota guaranteed itself at least a share of the 1996-1997 Big Ten title for the first time in 15 years. Unlike similar close finishes during the season, the Gophers had to rely on a host of heroes in the game's final minutes. Bobby Jackson fouled out of the game with 3:30 remaining, and Sam Jacobson was hindered all day by the flu. Jackson's 18-point, six-rebound effort pushed the Gopher lead to six with 8:30 remaining. When he fouled out, the Gophers trailed by one. Minnesota didn't make a field goal after Jackson left, but relied on a steady hand from the free-throw line. After missing six of their first 13 attempts, the Gophers finished the game by making nine of 10, including four straight by Eric Harris and John Thomas to give the Gophers a 65-62 lead with two minutes remaining. Four straight Illini points made the score 66-65 in favor of Illinois, but Thomas responded. The senior co-captain was fouled with 4.7 seconds remaining, and connected on both free throws to give the Gophers the record win. "It's about belief," Thomas said afterwards. "Believing in yourself. Believing in your teammates. Believing in your team." Five days later, Minnesota clinched the title outright, defeating No. 24 Michigan 55-54 in Ann Arbor.