

# GOPHER GAZETTE

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



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
GOLDEN GOPHERS (20-8)

VS.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
BADGERS (18-10)



3/4/2009



## YOUR 2008-2009 GOLDEN GOPHERS:

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	Weight	Notable season statistics
0	Al Nolen	G	So.	6-1	180	7.2 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.6 apg, 2 spg, 71% FT, 31% 3PFG
1	Paul Carter	F	So.	6-8	195	5.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 16 mpg, 36% FG, 76% FT
3	Kevin Payton	G/F	RJr.	6-5	215	3.7 mpg, .8 rpg, .3 apg
4	Travis Busch	G/F	Jr.	6-4	220	4.2 ppg, 2 rpg, 51% FG, 71% FT, 54% 3PFG, 12 mpg
5	Devoe Joseph	G	Fr.	6-3	170	5.4 ppg, 1.6 apg, 46% FT, 41% 3PFG, 16.4 mpg
11	Jonathan Williams	C	5Sr.	6-9	250	1 ppg, 1.2 rpg, 40% FG, 5.5 mpg
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	Jr.	6-0	195	12 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.6 apg, 42% FG, 86% FT, 36% 3PFG
22	Devron Bostick	G	Jr.	6-5	210	3.6 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 1 apg, 44% FG, 69% FT, 32% 3PFG
24	Blake Hofferber	G	So.	6-4	200	7 ppg, 3 rpg, 42% FG, 72% FT, 36% 3PFG, 22 mpg
33	Jamal Abu-Shamala	G/F	Sr.	6-5	210	4 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 50% FG, 71% FT, 33% 3PFG, 12 mpg
34	Damian Johnson	F	RJr.	6-7	195	9.2 ppg, 4 rpg, 1.7 apg, 48% FG, 67% FT, 20% 3PFG
45	Colton Iverson	F/C	Fr.	6-10	235	5.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 61% FG, 52% FT, 17.9 mpg
50	Ralph Sampson III	F/C	Fr.	6-11	220	6.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 50% FG, 81% FT, 20.5 mpg

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

## SPECIAL BIG TEN OFFER

The Big Ten Conference has announced that a \$25 single-session ticket for current college students is now available for the Big Ten Tournament March 12-15 at the Conoco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Students can order tickets through Ticketmaster, by calling (317) 239-5151, or at the Fieldhouse. The ten game tournament is broken into five sessions, and these tickets will be balcony level. With great basketball action, Indianapolis serves as an ideal Spring Break location! Go Gophers!

## 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](http://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.	14-3	24-5
Purdue	11-5	22-7
Illinois	11-6	23-7
Penn State	9-7	20-9
Wisconsin	9-7	18-10
Ohio State	9-8	19-9
Minnesota	8-8	20-8
Michigan	8-9	18-12
Northwestern	7-9	16-11
Iowa	4-13	14-16
Indiana	1-16	6-23

### Results & Schedule

**Tuesday**  
Michigan State 64, Indiana 59  
Ohio State 60, Iowa 58

**Today**  
Northwestern at Purdue, 5:30 pm  
Wisconsin at Gophers, 7:30 pm

**Thursday**  
Illinois at Penn State, 8 pm

**Saturday**  
Michigan at Gophers, 11 am  
Penn State at Iowa, 1:05 pm

**Sunday**  
Purdue at Michigan State, 11 am  
Northwestern at Ohio State, 4 pm  
Indiana at Wisconsin, 6 pm  
\*\*\* End of regular season \*\*\*

### Who's Up: Michigan State

As easily as the Spartans could have suffered an embarrassing loss to Indiana on Tuesday, the Spartans clinched the Big Ten title with the win.

### Who's Down: Indiana

Indiana did finish its home schedule with a close game, but its 5-10 home record stands as the fewest home wins since the '69-'70 season and tied for worst home winning percentage (33%).

### Bubble watch

Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Penn State and even Northwestern are all on the bubble of gaining an invitation to the Big Dance. Every game left is a resume builder or breaker.

## **FAN OF THE GAME**

**vs. Northwestern – Jenni Christenson**

**Barnyard: Who is your favorite Gopher?**

JC: Travis Busch

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

JC: I listen to “One Shining Moment”

**Barnyard: What is a random fact about you?**

JC: I like to do the “Zombie Nation” dance in the shower

**Barnyard: How did you choose your outfit?**

JC: This is my “good luck” hat



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## **GOPHER UPDATE**

**Feb. 26 – Illinois 52, Minnesota 41**

The Gophers made only eight of their 28 shots in the second half (29%) and didn't score over the game's final 6:21 in dropping a pivotal road game in Champaign. Also plaguing the Gophers was inept ball handling, leading to 20 turnovers. “We shot it very poorly because of their defense,” coach Smith said. “We didn't take care of the ball and that's a real concern and problem for us...They stripped us of quite a few balls tonight and it's amazing how quick their hands are.” Damian Johnson was the lone Gopher in double figures with 18 points. He also had five steals.

**Today's opponent – University of Wisconsin Badgers**

The Gophers early season surge was highlighted by a come-from-behind overtime road win in Madison on Jan. 15. The 78-74 win was Minnesota's first in Madison since the 1991-1992 season. That season also marked the last time the Gophers have swept the Badgers in conference play. In mid-January, Lawrence Westbrook hit a game-tying three-pointer with 2 seconds left in regulation, and finished the game with 29 points. Wisconsin had built a 14-point lead early after halftime, and held a nine-point advantage with 3:24 remaining. The home loss was only the ninth under coach Bo Ryan's eight seasons as head coach. The Badgers are led by Landry (13 ppg, 4.4 rpg), Trevon Hughes (12 ppg, 3 rpg, 3 apg) and Jason Bohannon (10 ppg, 3 rpg). Wisconsin's roster includes four Minnesotans: Jordan Taylor (Bloomington), Jon Leuer (Orono), Jared Berggren (Princeton) and Kevin Gullikson (Stillwater). The Badgers wrap-up Big Ten play with a home game against Indiana on Sunday.

**Roster:** 1 Marcus Landry (Sr, F, 6-7), 2 Wquinton Smith (So, G, 5-10), 3 Trevon Hughes (Jr, G, 6-0), 5 Ryan Evans (Fr, G, 6-6), 11 Jordan Taylor (Fr, G, 6-1), 12 Jason Bohannon (Jr, G, 6-2), 15 Brett Valentyn (So, G, 6-4), 21 Morris Cain (Sr, G, 6-5), 24 Tim Jarmusz (So, F, 6-6), 30 Jon Leuer (So, F, 6-10), 33 Rob Wilson (Fr, G, 6-4), 40 Jared Berggren (Fr, F, 6-10), 43 Kevin Gullikson (Sr, F, 6-7), 44 J.P. Gavinski (So, C, 6-11), 45 Joe Krabbenhoft (Sr, F, 6-7), 50 Ian Markolf (Fr, C, 7-0), 52 Keaton Nankivil (So, F, 6-8). **Head coach:** Bo Ryan.

Next Up – The Gophers host Michigan at 11 am Saturday, then hit the Big Ten Tourney March 12-15.

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## **BARNYARD SPOTLIGHT: RALPH SAMPSON III**

**From Diapers to Dunks:**

Ralph Sampson III may struggle to match the career accolades of his famous father, Ralph Sampson, Jr., but one look at his father's impressive resume reveals a decorated lineage. At 7-foot-4 with an impressive wingspan, the elder Sampson was a three-time college National Player of the Year at the University of Virginia and had a nine-year NBA career that began promisingly but was undone by knee troubles. The younger Sampson has enjoyed early success as well. The III had 18 points for Northview (Ga.) in a Class 5A quarterfinal loss to Norcross on Feb. 29, 2008. Sampson was out-dueled down low by McDonald's All-American Al-Farouq Aminu of Norcross (who is now at Wake Forest) with 29 points. In opening round play of the state tournament, Sampson recorded 14 points, 18 rebounds and 11 blocked shots in a first-round win, then followed that with 15 points, 10 rebounds, seven blocks, four assists and two steals in a 71-61 upset win over Marietta in the second round. In perhaps his most dominant game of the season, Sampson posted a triple-double with 31 points, 20 rebounds and 10 blocks in a December victory. Sampson finished the season averaging 19.6 points, 10.3 rebounds and seven blocked shots per game as the Titans finished 21-9 while making their first ever state tournament appearance.

**The Barnyard Quiz:**

1) Why did you choose the Gophers?

**I wanted to pick a place where I can feel comfortable for the next four years, and Coach Smith**

2) What are you most looking forward to as a Gopher?

**The Big Ten competition and the raised floor**

3) How do you get ready before a game?

**Sleep, eat, listen to music, pray**

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

**I went to two state tournaments with two different schools**

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

**Lil' Wayne – Championship Pop Bottles**

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

**A competitor who had an outstanding career**

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## **ON THIS DAY IN GOPHERS HISTORY**

**March 4, 1995 – Minnesota 82, Northwestern 70**

The Gophers guaranteed themselves of a winning Big Ten record and came one step closer to earning an NCAA Tournament berth with a road win in Evanston. Despite Minnesota's best efforts, Northwestern battled back from a 43-31 halftime deficit to pull within 45-42 with 15 minutes to play. But Minnesota, backed by a superb performance from senior Voshon Lenard, never let Northwestern come within seven points over the game's final five minutes. Four seniors led the way for the Gophers. Lenard scored a season-high 30 points, Jayson Walton added 19 points and 11 rebounds and Chad Kolander scored nine off the bench. Townsend Orr tallied 15 points and six assists before fouling out. The Wildcats stayed close thanks to a Big Ten-record performance by senior guard Kenneth Dion Lee. Lee connected on 10 of 17 three-pointers, breaking the previous record of eight that had been held by four players. Minnesota followed the win with a 72-59 home loss to 14<sup>th</sup>-ranked Purdue and 69-60 road loss at Penn State. At 19-11, 10-8 in the Big Ten, the No. 8 Gophers dropped an NCAA East Regional game in Baltimore to No. 9 Saint Louis University on March 16, 64-61 in overtime.

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