

GOPHER GAZETTE

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



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOLDEN GOPHERS (6-0)

VS.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
(3-2) CAVALIERS



12/2/2008



YOUR 2008-2009 GOLDEN GOPHERS:

No.	Name	Position	Year	Height	Weight	High School (Previous school)
0	Al Nolen	G	So.	6-1	180	Minneapolis Henry
1	Paul Carter	F	So.	6-8	195	Little Rock, Ark. (Missouri St.- West Plains)
3	Kevin Payton	G/F	RJr.	6-5	215	Camden, N.J. (Camden)
4	Travis Busch	G/F	Jr.	6-4	220	Mounds View, MN
5	Devoe Joseph	G	Fr.	6-3	170	Ajax, Ontario, Canada (Pickering)
11	Jonathan Williams	C	5Sr.	6-9	250	St. Cloud, MN (Notre Dame Prep)
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	Jr.	6-0	195	Chandler, Ariz. (Winchendon Prep)
22	Devron Bostick	G	Jr.	6-5	210	Racine, Wis. (Southern Illinois C.C.)
24	Blake Hofferber	G	So.	6-4	200	Hopkins, MN
33	Jamal Abu-Shamala	G/F	Sr.	6-5	210	Shakopee, MN
34	Damian Johnson	F	RJr.	6-7	195	Thibodaux, La.
45	Colton Iverson	F/C	Fr.	6-10	235	Yankton, S.D.
50	Ralph Sampson, III	F/C	Fr.	6-11	220	Duluth, Ga. (Northview)

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

ROADTRIP TO CAT COUNTRY

Join the Barnyard as it hits the road for Evanston, Ill. The 2009 Barnyard Roadtrip is January 17 and 18. We will depart on Saturday, the 17th, and cheer on the Gophers on Sunday, the 18th, against the Northwestern Wildcats at 1 p.m., and return that night. Sign up at The Barnyard table at the University Avenue entrance. Seating is limited – complete your application now!

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!

FAN OF THE GAME

vs. North Dakota State – Jacob Erickson

Barnyard: Who is your favorite Gopher?

JE: Blake Hofferber

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

JE: Listening to the music and watching the teams warm-up

Barnyard: What is a random fact about you?

JE: I played in the Little League World Series.

Barnyard: What game are you most looking forward to this year?

JB: Wisconsin.

GOPHER UPDATE

Nov. 29 – Gophers 90, North Dakota State 76

Minnesota is off to its best start since the 1999-2000 season with a 6-0 start after disposing of North Dakota State on Saturday. Senior Jamal Abu-Shamala ignited the offense with nine points in the game's first three minutes as the Gophers held a 14-1 lead early. Abu-Shamala finished with 20 points, followed by Lawrence Westbrook with 17. Ralph Sampson III and Damian Johnson finished with 12 and 11 points, respectively, as the Gophers shot 61.5 percent and finished with their highest point total of the season. Minnesota led 38-28 at halftime, and after allowing the Bison to trim the lead to 45-38 with 16 minutes left, went on a 14-4 run to put the game away.

Today's opponent – University of Virginia Cavaliers

Minnesota hosts Virginia as part of the Big Ten-ACC Challenge. The Cavaliers lost 73-70 at Syracuse last Friday, and are on a two-game losing skid. Virginia is led by freshman guard Sylven Landesberg (20.8 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 54.4% shooting). The Cavaliers list six players 6-foot-9 or taller, highlighted by 7-foot freshman center Assane Sene, 6-foot-11 senior Tunji Soroye, and 6-foot-11 freshman John Brandenburg. Virginia leads the overall series 4-1 with Minnesota's lone win coming in 1999 at Williams Arena. This is the 10th year of the Big Ten-ACC Challenge. The Big Ten has never won the "Commissioner Cup." The ACC won eight of 11 games last season in the challenge.

Roster: 2 Mustapha Farrakhan (G, So.), 4 Calvin Baker (G, Jr.), 5 Assane Sene (C, Fr.), 12 Jamil Tucker (F, Jr.), 13 Sammy Zeglinski (G, RFr.), 15 Sylven Landesberg (G, Fr.), 21 Tunji Soroye (C, Sr.), 22 Will Sherrill (F, So.), 23 Jeff Jones (G, So.), 24 Mamadi Diane (F, Sr.), 25 John Brandenburg (C, Fr.), 32 Mike Scott (F, So.), 45 Solomon Tat (F, Jr.), 55 Jerome Meyinsse (F, Jr.). **Head coach:** Dave Leitao.

Next Up – The Gophers host Cornell on Saturday at 1 p.m.

BARNYARD SPOTLIGHT: BLAKE HOFFARBER

From Diapers to Dunks:

On March 19, 2005, Blake Hofferber was just another face in the crowd, a run-of-the-mill sophomore at Hopkins High School in the southwest metro. One day later, Hofferber's face, and backside, became famous. Hofferber became an ESPN and YouTube cult hero on March 20, 2005, when he made an improbable shot to propel Hopkins to the 2005 Minnesota Boys Basketball 4A Championship. Trailing by two points with 2.5 seconds remaining in overtime, Hofferber jumped for a court-long pass but fell down after colliding with two other players. A teammate gained – and quickly lost – control of the ball as it deflected to Hofferber at about the same time he hit the floor on his butt. His 18-foot shot from the baseline found the bottom of the net, tying the game at 58. Hopkins would win 71-60 in double overtime, as Hofferber led all scorers with 25 points. Hofferber's shot later won an ESPY for Top Play of the Year, beating out Tiger Woods' birdie chip at the Masters. Blake was also featured on the NBC Today Show in New York City where he repeated the shot again on national television.

The Barnyard Quiz:

1) Why did you choose the Gophers?

Because I'm a home state kid and love the atmosphere.

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

To play in "The Barn" when it is sold out & loud

3) How do you get ready before a game?

I get dressed and relax by myself

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

I'm in the Carlson School of Management

5) Who is your favorite former Gopher?

Bobby Jackson because he was a game changer

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

Have the point guard drive to the basket for the score or to get fouled. If he gets stopped I'd have shooters in the corners

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

"You can have whatever you like" by T.I.

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

As a player that would do anything to win the game