

*The Gold Book II*

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*A History of Women's Athletics  
1985-1995*

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*University of Minnesota*



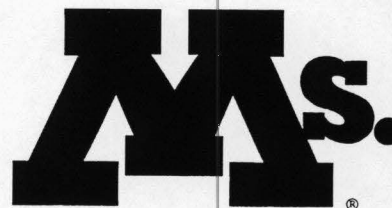
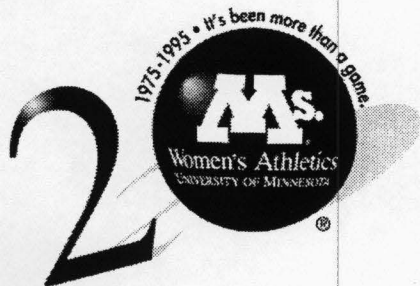
# *The Gold Book II*

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## *A History of Women's Athletics* **1985-1995**

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*University of Minnesota*



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## Credits

The Gold Book II is a publication of the women's athletic department at the University of Minnesota.

Edited by Dianne Boyer and Lisa Nelson

Written by Dianne Boyer, Lisa Nelson, Amy Eberhard, Gerry Vuchetich, Karen Smith, and Bruce Wolfe

Photography by Gerry Vuchetich

*The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, handicap, age, veteran status or sexual orientation.*

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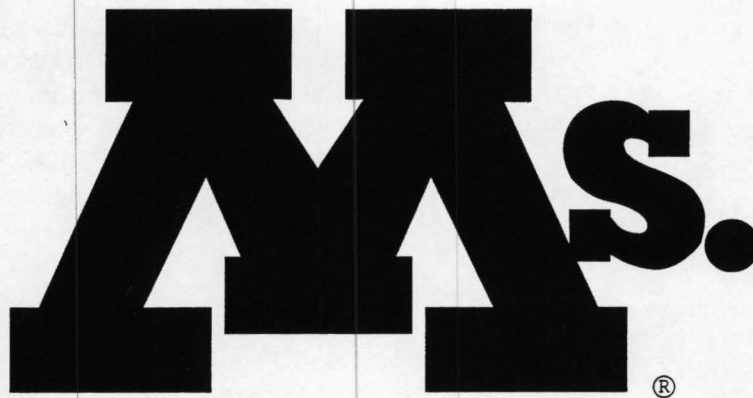
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## Foreward

The Gold Book II has been compiled to celebrate the 20th anniversary — and the second decade — of women's athletics at the University of Minnesota. Obviously, women athletes have been attending the University for a much longer period of time. However, it was not until July of 1975 that a dream was realized and the University established a separate department to house and administrate a women's athletic program.

### The Mission of the Department of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics is:

1. To afford the highly skilled student an opportunity to attain the highest level of development in intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational commitments of the University.
2. To offer varsity programs which will encourage excellence in the performance of students in women's intercollegiate athletics.
3. To increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and value of sports and athletics as they contribute to the enrichment of the life of women.
4. To stimulate the development of quality leadership for women's intercollegiate athletic programs.
5. To encourage and facilitate professional service to intercollegiate athletics for women through participation in and conduction of workshops, clinics, seminars, etc.



# A DECADE OF GROWTH

April 2, 1995. Over 18,000 fans packed Target Center in downtown Minneapolis to watch the NCAA Women's Final Four basketball championship game, punctuating a decade of amazing growth in women's athletics both at the University of Minnesota and across the country.

Women's Final Four weekend was the crowning moment in a seven-year run which saw the Women's Athletic Department host four major national championships, an ambitious stretch through which the department increased its public visibility, upgraded its athletic facilities and offered constantly expanding opportunities for its student-athletes.

Minnesota's "second decade" included the 1993 transformation of Mariucci Arena into the Sports Pavilion, a building dedicated to women's athletics with a refurbished arena and state-of-the-art training and locker facilities, as well as a sparkling new club room. The decade also saw the addition of soccer as a 10th varsity sport in 1993.

But it was on the field, in the arena, and in the classroom that provided the majority of highlights for Gopher women's athletics over the past ten years. We'll break these down into three categories for closer inspection: great teams, superlative individuals and outstanding fan support.

**The Teams:** Minnesota enjoyed several Big Ten Conference champions and NCAA qualifiers during the decade. The softball and gymnastics teams took home three Big Ten crowns apiece, while the golf team added one championship and three runner-up finishes. Swimming and diving finished second in the Big Ten five times, capped by the first NCAA Top Ten finish (10th) in 1992.

The Gopher volleyball team



*The 1995 NCAA Women's Final Four*

had eight 20-win seasons and earned a pair of NCAA tournament bids, advancing to the "Sweet 16" in both 1989 and 1993. The soccer team finished second in the 1994 Big Ten tournament, in only its second year of existence. And the basketball program received its first-ever NCAA bid in 1994, stunning Notre Dame 81-76 at South Bend, Ind., in the tourney's first round.

Minnesota athletes have excelled academically, also. The department's cumulative grade-point average has been above 3.0 in each of the past three years, producing Big Ten academic honors for 169 athletes in that span.

**The Individuals:** The Gophers have produced more than 20 all-American athletes, as well as 16 Academic All-Americans, since 1985.

Volleyball player Andrea Gonzalez became that program's first all-American in 1988, earning second-team honors. Golfer Kate Hughes placed third in the 1989 NCAA Championships and was also a two-time Academic all-American.

Playing third base, Lezlie Weiss broke the conference softball record for hits, finishing her stellar career with 259. Weiss also garnered second-team all-America honors in 1992.

Rachel Lewis was a six-time all-America selection in track and field, finishing second in the shot put at the 1990 NCAA Indoors and second in the discus at the 1990 NCAA Outdoor Championships. Not to be outdone, diver Laurie Nelson was named all-American six times in her specialty, as well as being the only three-time Academic all-America selection in school history.

Undoubtedly, the two most-decorated athletes to compete for Minnesota over the past 10 years are basketball player Carol Ann Shudlick and gymnast Marie Roethlisberger.

Shudlick led the 1993-94 Gophers to their first-ever NCAA appearance, averaging 23.4 points per game. She finished her career as the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,097 points, and was awarded the Wade Trophy, which is given annually to the nation's best senior basketball

player. Shudlick also was named a first-team Kodak All-American, the first player in school history to achieve that honor.

Roethlisberger concluded her senior season in 1990 by winning the NCAA championship on the uneven bars, with a score of 9.875. She also earned the AAI American Award that season as the nation's top senior gymnast. Roethlisberger, a 1984 Olympian, was named as a winner of the NCAA's prestigious Top Six Award in 1991.

**The Fans:** The University of Minnesota has hosted four major NCAA championships in the last seven years, events that have been strongly supported by both the public and the Twin Cities business community.

The 1988 NCAA Volleyball Championships were held at Williams Arena, and a record total of 17,202 fans attended the semifinal and championship matches on December 15 and 17. Minnesota hosted the 1992 NCAA Gymnastics Championships at the Saint Paul Civic Center, as 6,670 fans turned out for the team and all-around competition on April 24th, and 7,722 were in attendance for the individual competition the following evening.

The new University Aquatic Center was the site of 1993's NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, held March 18-20, with sold out crowds totaling 6,754 over the three days. And the seven-year stretch was capped by the basketball women's Final Four, April 1 and 2, 1995, in which a capacity crowd of 18,038 packed Target Center for two straight days. A nationwide television audience tuned in on CBS, as women's basketball continued its surge in popularity.

But it was not just the so-called "marquee events" that drew huge audiences at Minnesota. A raucous crowd of 6,002 turned out in December 1993 as the Gophers hosted the NCAA Mideast volleyball

regional at Williams Arena against Notre Dame. An NCAA region-record 7,591 fans showed up at Williams Arena for the 1990 Central Region gymnastics championships on April 7.

The Sports Pavilion has been a boon to attendance figures, as well. Nearly 3,000 attended the dedication ceremony on December 12, 1993, which was highlighted by Minnesota's victory over Boise State in the championship game of the annual Dial Soap Basketball Classic. The ceremony included music, guest speakers, and the sealing of a time capsule that will be opened in the year 2025.

The Gophers made history February 10, 1995, by selling out the Sports Pavilion (5,526) for their basketball game against Illinois. Minnesota basketball drew an average of 2,921 fans to the Sports Pavilion in 1994-95, more than quadrupling their 655 per-game average at the start of the decade in

1985-86. The Gopher volleyball squad has tripled its home attendance in that span, as well, averaging nearly 2,000 per match in 1994.

These are head-spinning and turnstile-spinning numbers. Flash back to 1975, or even 1985. Selling out an arena the size of Target Center for women's basketball must have seemed like an impossible task. Having an on-campus, 5,600-seat facility in which the women's athletic department receives priority scheduling would have been a pipedream. In 1995, due to a lot of foresight and hard work, it's reality.

Interest in women's athletics in general has increased exponentially across the country. With soccer being added in 1993, and the 1997 deadline for Title IX compliance promising one or two additional varsity offerings, the outlook for Minnesota's third decade could not be brighter.



# FACILITIES

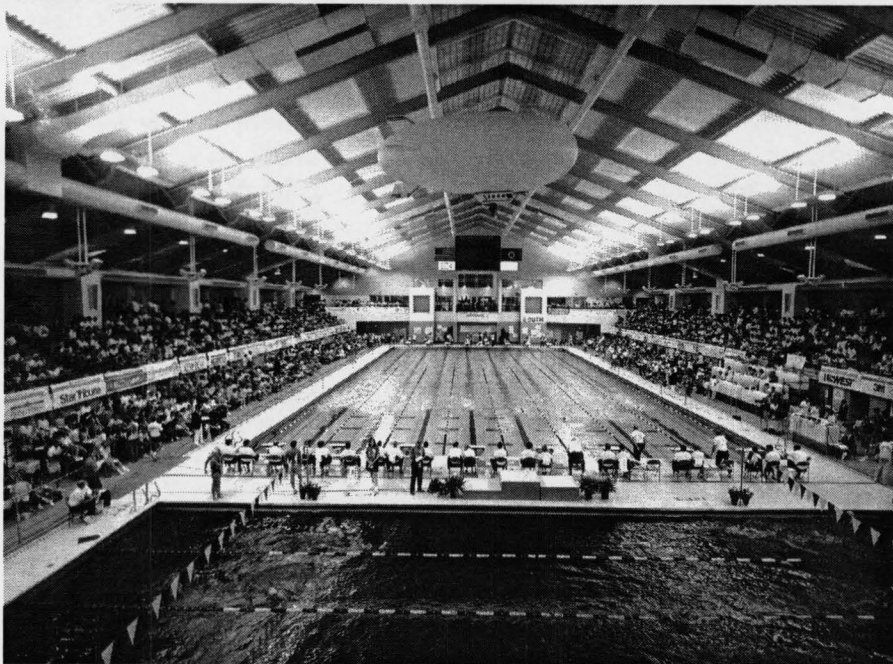
## "NEW" AND UPGRADED FACILITIES HIGHLIGHT DECADE

*"Even more than a competitive 'home of our own' for women's basketball, gymnastics and volleyball, the Sports Pavilion dramatically reflects the importance of women, not only in athletics, but as a vital part of this university and community."* — Chris Voelz, women's athletic director

A host of new and improved athletic facilities have been added to the University of Minnesota, creating athletic facilities that now rank among the nation's best. In July of 1990, the US Olympic Festival was hosted in the Twin Cities and that event resulted in the building of the new University Aquatic Center on campus and the new outdoor Bierman Track and Field Stadium.

The Aquatic Center was initially built inside Memorial Stadium prior to its demolition in July of 1992. Designed as an international-caliber facility, the University Aquatic Center has hosted numerous national and international meets, as well as serving the University and Minnesota swimming community. The facility has a competition pool with a moveable bulkhead for versatility to provide one 8-lane 50 meter pool or two 8-lane 25 yard pools and an adjacent diving well with two 1-meter and two 3-meter spring boards as well as three platforms.

Coaches offices for the women's swimming and diving staff are in the Aquatic Center which is now adjacent to a new Rec Center on campus. The student-athletes have dry land training areas and a weight room in the Aquatic Center. Women's Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Dorothy Lestina Sheppard was a lead benefactor to the Aquatic Center as part of her generosity on



*University Aquatic Center*

behalf of the women's swimming and diving program.

The Bierman Track and Field Stadium is a 400-meter track with ten 48-inch lanes, making it one of the largest tracks in the United States. The complex includes four horizontal jump runways, three pole vault pits, a high jump area, an outside water barrier for the steeplechase, four throwing areas for the discus, two for the javelin and one for the hammer. The stadium seats 4,000 in permanent seats, and with portable additions, up to 12,000 spectators and is located behind the Bierman athletic office building near Dinkytown.

Perhaps the most significant addition for women's sports was the renovation of the old Mariucci ice hockey arena into a new Sports Pavilion with priority in scheduling to women's volleyball, basketball and gymnastics and a 'home' for women's sports displays and memorabilia for all sports. The Sports Pavilion was created along with the building of a new Mariucci ice hockey arena and renovation of the adjacent Williams Arena and the three-pronged \$41

million dollar project did not use any state tax dollars or university dollars. Funding was provided by a \$5.5 million on-campus Sports Facilities Campaign and university bonds which will be retired by revenue generated by men's and women's athletics from ticket surcharges, priority seating, concessions and advertising signage.

Women's Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Kathleen C. Ridder co-chaired the On-Campus Sports Facilities Campaign and her gift resulted in the naming of the entrance lobby to the Sports Pavilion as "Ridder Lobby".

The Sports Pavilion was dedicated after the championship game of the Dial Classic on Dec. 12, 1993, and a time capsule was made of wood from the old bleachers of the arena. An intimate facility with seating for 5,600 fans, the Pavilion features a performance court which can be enlarged for practice, camps and clinics with a wood surface for two full basketball courts, up to three volleyball courts and an ideal gymnastics performance area.

State of the art video monitors, computer equipment for scoring and a customized scoreboard designed specifically to accommodate volleyball, basketball and gymnastics highlight the arena. New construction provided locker areas dedicated to women's basketball and a shared area by volleyball and gymnastics with a team meeting room and coaches conference room. The lower level features new weight rooms, visiting team locker rooms and training and medicine areas. Upstairs a glass-enclosed club room overlooks the performance area and a media/meeting room is available for press conferences.

In addition to these new facilities, Peik Gymnasium was remodeled as a new practice facility for women's gymnastics and the indoor field house was resurfaced for track and field. A new soccer field was created on the St. Paul Campus and spectator seating was increased for softball. Future plans are underway to continue facility improvements for Gopher sports in conjunction with men's athletics and the Department of Kinesiology.



*Bierman Track and Field*



*The Sports Pavilion*



*The Sports Pavilion*



# BUDGET AND ATHLETE SERVICES



*"All of the struggling and pioneering done in the first ten years has set the base of the entire future of our organization. The 10th Anniversary...marks the end of the critical period of quantitative development and marks the beginning of qualitative development."*

—Merrily Dean Baker,  
Women's Athletic Director in 1985

## FUNDING GROWTH INCREASES OPPORTUNITIES

The second decade of the department brought increased funding support for the women's athletic program at the University. The 1984-85 fiscal budget of \$2.3 million represented a startling increase from the \$200,000 budget in 1975, but by 1994-95 the budget had increased again to \$5.4 million dollars. A significant milestone was the addition of soccer in 1994, returning the program to ten sports (field hockey had been dropped in 1981).

Although the number of funding sources has increased for the department, the foundation for the program has remained constant with \$2.7 million in 1994-95 provided by state special funding from the legislature of Minnesota. State funding began in the 1977-79 biennium in response to a special task force recommendation by then President C. Peter Magrath to provide more equitable opportunities for women student-athletes at all of the coordinate campuses of the University of Minnesota.

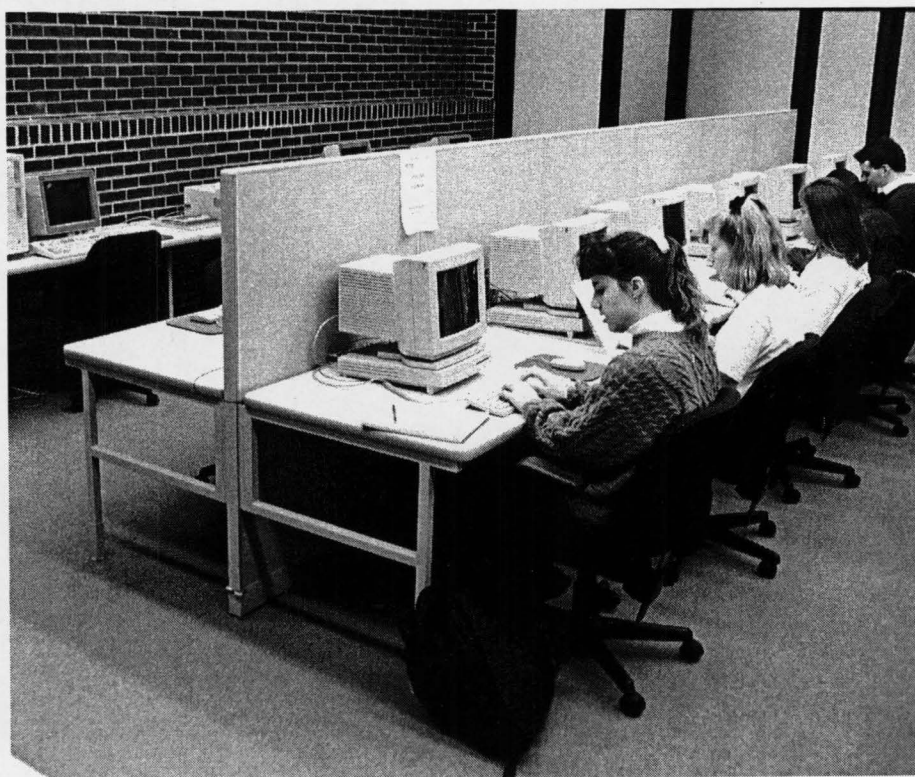
Other sources of income for the department include private fundraising through the Patty Berg Scholarship Fund, gate receipts from events, NCAA distribution, Big Ten radio and television revenues, central administration support from the University, licensing royalties and concessions revenues.

Most expenses for the department are fixed, but scholarship

funding is now available up to the NCAA limit in each sport for grant-in-aids and has grown from \$350,000 in 1984-85 to a little over \$1 million in 1994-95. More money is available for recruiting for potential student-athletes and while the majority still hail from Minnesota, recruiting is national and in some cases international.

## ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

In 1989, athletic director Chris Voelz created a new Student Development unit to enhance the personal growth, performance development, wellness and health of the student-athletes. This program has included a component dedicated to improving athletic performance through sports psychology, vision training, massage regeneration and a component designed to foster the



personal development of the student-athletes as people including career skills, time management, sexual violence training and more.

An advisory group of student-athletes continues to meet regularly with the women's athletic director, and several support groups for athletes have been developed including injured student-athletes so they can team with others who are in rehabilitation, eating issues, international students and an African-American mentor group.

Additional support staff have been added in athletic training with a second assistant in athletic training and a full-time strength and conditioning coach and assistant strength coach in order to improve the support to the student-athletes.

Closer to home, practice

uniforms are now provided for student-athletes and coaches, there has been an increase in weight training and medical/rehabilitation equipment. Meals and lodging is provided during University holiday periods and training tables on game days. Travel is enhanced with more dollars available for meals and flights in order to minimize class days missed.

Academically, the female student-athletes continue to excel with 63 percent finishing with a 3.0 grade point average or higher in 1994-95 marking the 11th consecutive quarter above a 3.0 for all female athletes. In graduation rates, the women student-athletes graduate over 40 percentage points higher than the University population in general. The academic counseling unit

supports the student-athletes as they pursue their academic careers and in addition to counseling support, a computer center and academic learning center with study rooms and tutoring services are available to student-athletes.



# EXTERNAL RELATIONS/ADMINISTRATION

## MARKETING, PROMOTIONS AND PUBLICITY HEIGHTEN AWARENESS

Along with the growth of the department has been increased marketing for women's athletics and the resultant surge in attendance and spectator awareness. Ticket revenue has increased from \$22,498 in 1984-85 to a record \$149,222 in 1994-95. Attendance has soared from an average of 608 at basketball in 1984-85 to 2,110 with the first sellout of the Sports Pavilion in 1994-95. Women's volleyball recorded a record crowd of 6,046 in Williams Arena in 1991 for a regular season match as part of an IBM Family Night promotion and averaged 1,527 fans in 1994-95 compared to 587 in 1984-85.

Basketball, volleyball and gymnastics have all experienced record crowds for heavily promoted regular season events, as well as special post-season Big Ten and NCAA events. Gymnastics drew 7,591 for the Central Regional Championship in 1990 at Williams Arena. All three sports are nationally ranked in attendance. Women's soccer and softball also draw considerable attention and contribute to the department's audience-driven sports.

A reorganization in 1989 established an assistant athletic director for external operations overseeing the promotions and sports information units and since that change corporate sponsorships have increased from a handful of companies to nearly 50 in 1994-95. Additional opportunities for community corporate support have showed record support for each of the four NCAA women's national championships the department has hosted.

The first radio broadcasts of volleyball and basketball on a

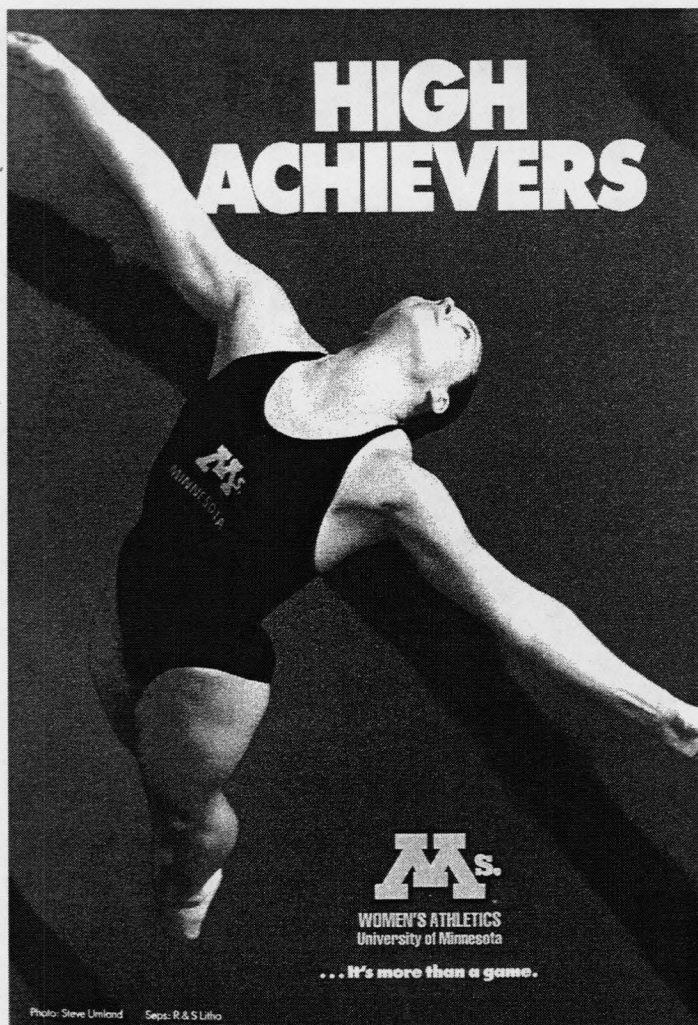
commercial radio station (WWTC-AM) took place in 1989-90 and television contracts have provided local exposure on KITN-TV, Channel 29, KMSP-TV, UPN 9 and most recently Midwest Sports Channel (MSC).

In 1985, Grey Advertising designed a new logo specifically for the women's athletic department to establish a symbol for identity and marketing of the department. Grey also was instrumental in the beginnings of a billboard and bus shelter public service campaign featuring "Scholar-Athlete" images which was carried out for many years with different pro bono providers.

In 1989-90 the department

began a Gopher Sports Sampler ticket booklet which was later turned into a Ms Sports Pass punch card for ticketing. However, with the opening of the Sports Pavilion in 1993, full service ticketing and season tickets for five sports was implemented with the Gopher ticket office.

The sports information unit increased staff to a full-time assistant SID and intern with the advent of in-house desktop publishing for department publications. The budget was increased to upgrade all media guides for the 10 sports, print four-color schedule cards for all 10 sports and print schedule posters for each of the women's athletic teams.



**ADVISORY COUNCIL AND  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
ENHANCE BERG  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Advisory Council of community men and women leaders who give their time and talent to the women's athletic department continued to grow in support of the program. The leaders of the Advisory Council for the second decade of the department include the following chairs:

- Kathleen C. Ridder (1984-87)
- Mary Stringer (1987-89)
- Sheryl Ramstad Hvass (1989-91)
- Sharon Bredeson (1991-93)
- Marilyn Tickle Bryant (1993- )

In addition to these chairs, the department secured the services of community leaders for volunteer steering committees for special events. When the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championship was held in St. Paul in 1990, Anne Ford Nelson chaired the steering committee. For the 1995 Women's Final Four in Minneapolis, Linda Mona and Peggy Lucas co-chaired the steering committee. And as the department celebrates its 20th Anniversary, Barbara Lupient has chaired a committee for a special commemorative dinner celebration and fund raiser for the Berg Fund.

The Berg Scholarship Fund has exhibited record growth in the second decade of the women's athletic department. In 1984-85 a total of \$130,000 was raised for the annual fund, with a little over \$33,000 from the tenth anniversary dinner celebration. In 1994-95 \$209,000 was raised for the Berg annual fund.

As part of the University of Minnesota Capital Campaign, by 1988 \$2.5 million had been raised through estate gifts, annuity trusts, pooled income gifts and current gifts according to development director Jeanette Link and committee chair Kathleen C. Ridder. Endowments for

scholarships were at two in 1984-85 and are at eight in 1994-95 with swimming and diving almost completely endowed.

The women's athletic department established its own President's Club Chapter in 1988 which has grown to 62 members who have contributed \$10,000 or more for women's scholarships. In addition to the successful 100 men and 100 women annual campaigns and phonathon, special events have contributed to the growth of the Berg Fund.

Initiated in 1991, the Ms. Gopher Silent & Live Auction now raises approximately \$25,000 annually. The Ms. Gopher Golf outing continues to be held each spring and different events dot each year's landscape from a walk-a-thon, hot-shot contest or raffle to a special entertainment event. The increased need to develop private support has led increased staffing in the development fund area of the department.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Chronology of Administrative Staff since 1984-85:

**Faculty Representatives:**

- 1981-1993 Jo-Ida Hansen
- 1993 - Mariah Snyder

**Athletic Directors**

- 1982-88 Merrily Dean Baker
- 1988 Donna J. Olson (interim)
- 1988 - Chris Voelz

**Associate/Sr. Associate Directors**

- 1985 - Donna J. Olson

**Assistant Athletic Director**

- 1989 - Karen Smith

**Director of Academic Counseling**

- 1983- Elayne Donahue

**Development Fund Directors**

- 1980-1990 Jeanette Link
- 1990-91 Cynthia Rihm
- 1991- Holly Callen

**Director of Annual Giving & Special Events**

- 1994-1995 Kathy Chuckas
- 1995- Barb Lawrence

**Sports Information Director**

- 1982-1991 Karen Smith
- 1991- Dianne Boyer

**Promotions Directors**

- 1985-1987 Pam Willingham Holt
- 1987 -1989 Gail Shore
- 1989-91 Joan C. Garr
- 1991- Diane Erstad Achterkirch

**Head Athletic Trainer/Director of Student Services**

- 1977-1992 Leah Wollenburg
- 1992-1995 Karen Swanson
- 1994- Sally Mays



Merrily Dean Baker



Chris Voelz

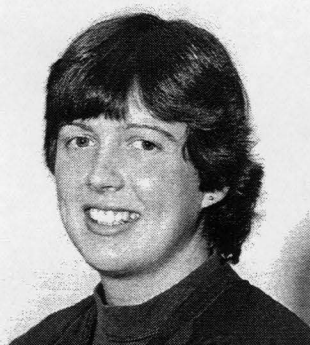
## HALL OF FAME (PREVIOUS INDUCTEES)



**Chris Curry, Inducted 1985**

**Significant Accomplishment by a University of Minnesota Woman Athlete**

Chris Curry was the first woman athlete to receive an athletic scholarship based on athletic ability to the University of Minnesota. In 1981, she became the department's first and only individual national champion in any sport, winning the AIAW National 3-meter diving title. In 1977-78, she won the AIAW Region 6 3-meter crown, and in 1978-79 the 1-meter title. She was redshirted for a back injury in 1979-80, but returned to achieve two AIAW all-American titles in 1981, and in 1982 when she was third on the 3-meter board. Curry received the department's first Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor and was also named the Outstanding Senior Athlete in 1982. She graduated with a B.S. degree in physical education with a coaching emphasis.



**Gretchen Larson, Inducted 1985**

**Significant Accomplishment by a University of Minnesota Woman Athlete**

Gretchen Larson played pitcher, catcher, outfielder and first base while at Minnesota and achieved all-American recognition by both the AIAW in 1982 as an outfielder, and the NCAA in 1983 as a utility player. After graduation, she competed internationally with the Raybestos Brackettes, who won the ASA women's major fast-pitch national in 1983 and 1985 and were runners-up in 1984. Larson was selected to the U.S. Tri-Nations team in 1983 and 1985 and competed on the U.S. Olympic Softball Exhibition team in Los Angeles in 1984. She also played on first place teams at the World Champions Tourney in London, the Netherlands Invitational in 1985, and the World Championship in New Zealand in 1986.



**Dorothy Lestina Sheppard, Benefactor, Class of 1929, Inducted 1985**

**Significant contribution to women's intercollegiate athletics at the University of Minnesota by someone other than an athlete, coach, or administrator**

Dorothy Sheppard established the first endowment fund for women athletic scholarships, and her most generous gift will insure ten swimming scholarships every year for future women athletes. An active member of the Patty Berg Development Fund Advisory Council, Sheppard was a strong supporter of the entire program. Although there was not an athletic department when she attended the 'U', Sheppard earned an "M" letter sweater by gathering 1,000 points from participating on ten different athletic teams. Those 'activities' included serving as president of the Aquatic League in 1927, on the W.A.A. Board from 1926-28, and as captain of the field hockey team.



**Cathie Twomey, Inducted 1985**

**For Significant Accomplishment by a University of Minnesota Woman Athlete**

Cathie Twomey has achieved international running recognition after dominating the Big Ten during her collegiate career. Between 1976-78, the middle distance runner won eight conference championships (three of those on relay teams) in track and another in cross country. She was a four-time cross country all-American and track all-American in 1976 and 1977. Twomey now runs for Athletics West out of Eugene, Ore., and in 1984 was ranked second in the U.S. in the 5,000 meters, and eighth in the world. In 1982, she set the women's world record in the 20K.



**Jane Oas Benson, Inducted 1990**

**Significant Accomplishment by a University of Minnesota woman Student-Athlete**

Jane Oas Benson (1972-76) was an instrumental forerunner in establishing the women's track and field team at the University of Minnesota. She competed in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic trials and was a 1976 USTF all-American with three top ten finishes from 1973-76 at collegiate national meets. In 1976 at the Big Ten Championships, she finished first in the 220 and 440 yard dashes and ran the anchor leg of the 4x400 relay. She still holds seven Gopher track records. Oas Benson graduated in 1977 with a degree in physical education and in 1980 earned a master's degree in business administration. In 1979-80, she was selected as one of the outstanding women in Minnesota by Twin Cities Yearbook.



**Robin Huebner, Inducted 1990**

**Significant Accomplishment by a Univ. of Minnesota woman Student-Athlete**

Robin Huebner (1979-83) was an outstanding gymnast who won honors in both AIAW and NCAA competition. She set school records in the all-around and three of four events (vault, uneven bars, floor exercise). Huebner earned three AIAW all-American honors in the 1982 AIAW national championships, finished second on the uneven bars and floor exercise and fifth all-around. That same year, she won the AIAW Region 6 all-around title. She was the AIAW Region 6 uneven bars champion in 1980. She won the NCAA Central Region all-around, uneven bars and floor exercise championships in 1983 and finished 24th in the all-around at the 1983 NCAA national championship. A six-time Big Ten champion, Huebner was the first Gopher to win the Big Ten all-around title, which she did twice. She was named Minnesota's Senior Athlete of the Year in 1983.



**Terry Ganley Nieszner, Inducted 1990**

**Significant Accomplishment by a Univ. of Minnesota woman Student-Athlete**

Terry Ganley Nieszner (1974-77) has helped build the Minnesota swimming program as both an athlete and coach. As a swimmer, she qualified for nationals 21 times in eight events and at one time, held every Minnesota freestyle, backstroke and individual medley record. She was Minnesota's first female all-American in any sport and won four AIAW all-American honors. Her all-American honors came in 1974 in the backstroke, in 1975 in the freestyle and individual medley, and in 1976 in the freestyle relay. A two-time Big Ten champion, she was Minnesota's 1977 Senior Athlete of the Year and also won the Presidential Outstanding Leadership Award.



**Kathleen C. Ridder, Inducted 1990**

**Significant contribution to women's intercollegiate athletics at the U of M**

Kathleen C. Ridder has made extraordinary contributions to the University of Minnesota women's athletic department, both financially and through time spent as a volunteer. She demonstrated her devotion to women's athletics by establishing the Kathleen C. Ridder scholarship in 1983. The scholarship is given to a junior or senior student-athlete who is working toward a degree in medicine, science, health science, or math. Ridder has chaired several women's athletic department committees including the Advisory Council and the women's athletic scholarship endowment of the Minnesota Campaign. Ridder has also served on several University boards and has had numerous other non-profit affiliations as an active volunteer in the community.

## HALL OF FAME (INDUCTED NOVEMBER 1995)

The University of Minnesota Women's Athletic Department Hall of Fame inducts its third group of honorees on November 17 as part of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the department.

The 1995 inductees are:

**Laura Coenen, 1981-85**

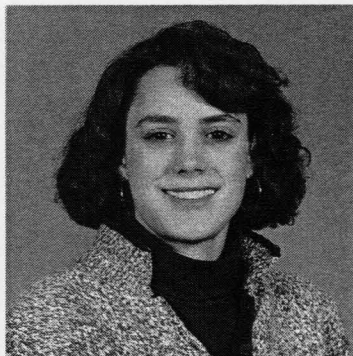
For significant accomplishment by a University of Minnesota Woman Athlete:



Coenen is the only women's basketball player to have her jersey, No. 44, retired. At the time she completed her career, she was the all-time leading scorer with 2,044 points and held 13 school records. Coenen was the Big Ten MVP in 1983, a Kodak All-Region IV selection in 1983 and 1985 and AIAW All-Region in 1982. She scored in double figures in 91 of 102 career games, averaging 20.0 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. Following her college career, Coenen played professional basketball in Europe.

**Marie Roethlisberger, 1986-90**

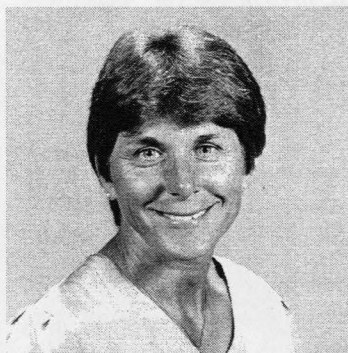
For significant accomplishment by a University of Minnesota Woman Athlete



Roethlisberger was named the U of M's Female Athlete of the Decade for the 1980's by the Big Ten Conference. At Minnesota, Roethlisberger won the 1990 NCAA Championship on the uneven bars and was named the Senior Gymnast of the Year. She was named an NCAA Top Six recipient in 1990, won the 1991 Honda Inspiration Award and received several post-graduate scholarships. Roethlisberger was a four-time all-American, won four national titles, seven Big Ten titles and was named the Big Ten Gymnast of the Year in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

**Linda Wells, 1974-1982**

For significant achievement by a University of Minnesota Women's Athletic Coach



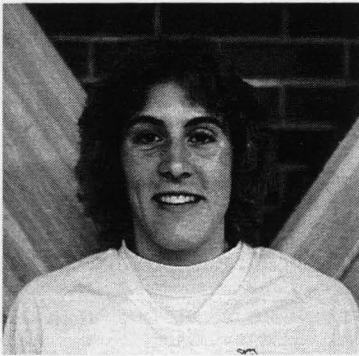
Wells was a three-sport coach at Minnesota in the 1970's and is best known as the Gopher's softball coach from 1974-89, posting a 347-261-1 overall record and advancing the team to third place at the 1978 College World Series, the highest national finish in department history. Wells was named Big Ten Coach of the Year in 1988, and her teams won the conference in 1981, 1986 and 1988. A volleyball coach from 1975-81, her 1978 team won an unofficial Big Ten title in 1978. Wells left Minnesota to become head women's softball coach at Arizona State University.



**Patty Berg**

**For significant professional achievement by a former Woman Athlete at the University of Minnesota**

The Minneapolis native won her first title, the Minneapolis City Championship, in 1934 at age 16. She went on to win 83 amateur and professional tournaments in 40 years of competition. Berg was the first president and was among the co-founders of the Ladies' Professional Golf Association in 1948. Named Associated Press Woman Athlete of the Year three times, she played on two Curtis Cup teams and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame as a charter member in 1974.



**Shelly Medernach**

**For significant achievement which pioneered women's athletics:**

Medernach was an offensive force on the Gophers softball team which placed third at the 1978 College World Series and still holds 12 school records including career batting average. In addition, she is first in career runs, triples and runs batted in. A centerfielder, Medernach was invited to the 1979 Pan American game tryouts and competed on local fast-pitch teams following her college career.



**Linda Roberts**

**For significant achievement which pioneered women's athletics**

Roberts is the Gophers all-time leading rebounder and held 17 school records, including the school scoring record with 1,856 career points, when she ended her career (now third on the all-time list). Twice a Wade Trophy nominee, Roberts was AIAW All-Region in 1980 and the Gophers' MVP in 1979, 1980 and 1981. Roberts ended her career with a 14.3 points and 10.9 rebounding average playing in 129 games. In 1981, the Gophers qualified for the AIAW national quarterfinals and won an unofficial Big Ten title.



# BASKETBALL

The last ten years have been a time of rebuilding, rejoicing and reloading for the Minnesota women's basketball program. After being one of the top teams in the nation in the late 70's and early 80's, where the Gophers advanced to post-season play on a regular basis, the last ten years have seen their share of adversity and triumph in the program.

Head coach Ellen Hanson started the rebuilding process in 1986 after losing then all-time leading scorer Laura Coenen to graduation. Hanson suffered through a hard season where the Gophers finished 8-20 overall and dropped from third to ninth in the Big Ten Conference. Although their record was not the best, Hanson did have some solid players in Molly Tadich, Carol Peterka and Cindy Phillips. Tadich scored the third most points in Minnesota history with 511 points, connecting on 210 field goals. She also led the Gophers with 18.3 points and 11.7 rebounds a game earning second team all-Big Ten honors for the second consecutive season.

Peterka also finished her career with the Gophers in 1986 as she played in all 110 games during her career. When she finished her career, she ranked third on the all-time Gophers list with 1,441 points and fourth in rebounding with 744 boards. She also ranked fourth in field goals made (595) and field goals attempted (1,286).

The next season, Minnesota lost two starters and welcomed six newcomers in continuing their rebuilding process. Minnesota finished with a 9-19 record and was eighth in the Big Ten. Once again, Minnesota looked to Tadich and Phillips. Tadich finished her career as the all-time blocked shots record holder with 192, a record she still holds today. She also ranked second in career rebounds (1,135) and third

on the career scoring list with 1,706 points. She was named second team all-Big Ten for the third time in her career her senior season and ranked second in the league in both scoring and rebounding.

Phillips was also in the middle of a stellar season when it was cut short by a knee injury she suffered against Michigan. Phillips was ranked seventh in the Big Ten in assists and third on the team in assists. For her career, she averaged 6.2 points and 2.7 assists in 87 games.

The rebuilding continued for Minnesota as head coach Ellen Hanson left and was replaced by LaRue Fields, a former Gophers assistant coach under Hanson. Minnesota rallied under the new theme "A New Attitude" and came out of the gates firing. Predicted to place 10th in the conference, Minnesota finished eighth and provided its opponents challenging games both home and away.

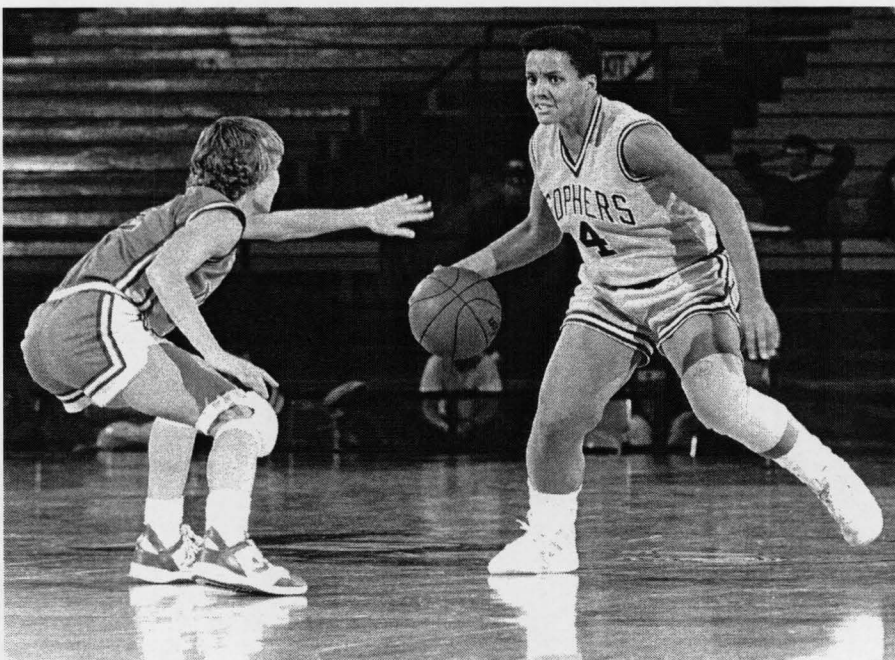
Fields first season also introduced Lea Blackwell to the

Gophers program. Blackwell was named honorable mention all-Big Ten at the guard position, leading the Gophers in scoring with 13.3 points a contest. She also was 13th in the Big Ten and led the conference in three point shooting (.367 and 18 treys), the first year the three point shot was in the conference.

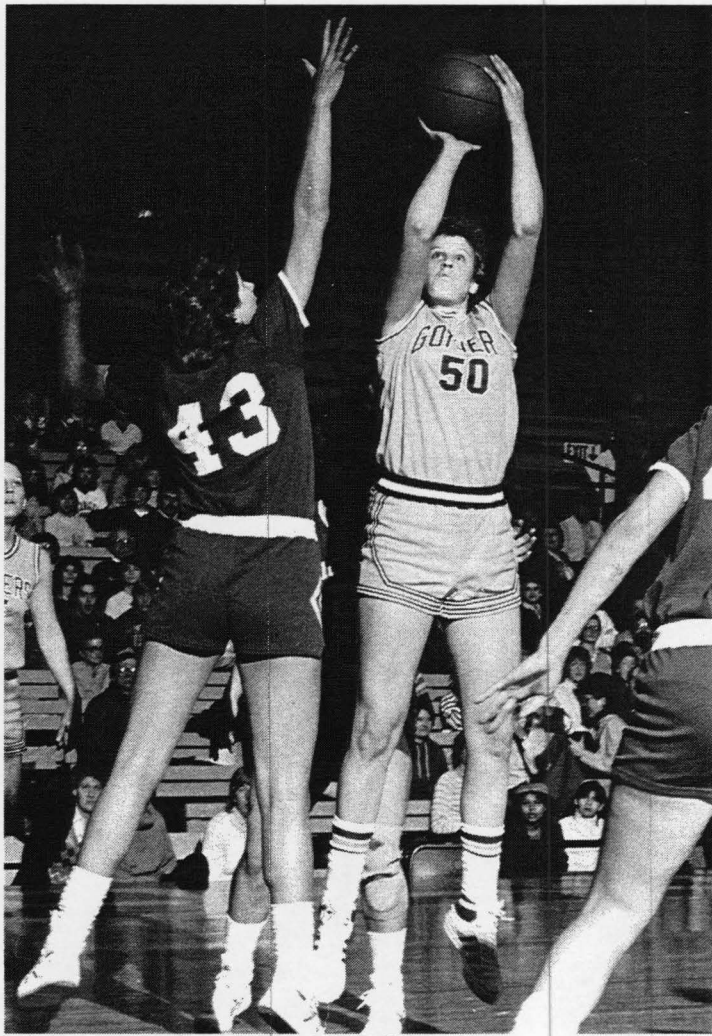
Minnesota continued to struggle in 1989 as they finished 10th in the Big Ten, but Blackwell and sophomore center Ellen Kramer shined for the Gophers as they were named honorable mention all-Big Ten, and Jodi Olson made a long-range contribution to the Gophers.

Blackwell finished her career sixth on the Gophers all-time assists list with 220 in only two seasons. She also was second in three-point shooting and treys attempted.

Olson concluded her career for the Gophers by breaking the record for three point shooting with 48 in a season and 101 for her tenure with the maroon and gold. She finished the season ranked second in



*Lea Blackwell*



*Molly Tadich*

the nation in free throw shooting at .915.

But the rebuilding process seemed to stalemate and Fields resigned after the 1990 season to pursue new career opportunities outside of coaching. She finished with a record of 24-59 (.289) in her three years at Minnesota.

Minnesota then hired Linda Hill-MacDonald from Temple to be its third coach in the last ten years. Hill-MacDonald had a tough task at hand in trying to rebuild the struggling program, and in her first season the Gophers finished with a 6-22 record and were 10th in the Big Ten. But there was some light on the horizon as Hill-MacDonald welcomed back Kramer and junior Dana Joubert, along with a nucleus of newcomers in Carol Ann Shudlick

and Nikki Coates to help rejuvenate the once struggling program into a national contender.

Hill-MacDonald's first season would be one of three times that Kramer was an all-Big Ten recipient in her career. Kramer closed out her career as Minnesota's fifth leading scorer at 1,731 points and fifth highest rebounder at 728 boards. She was the seventh Gopher to score over 1,000 points and record over 500 rebounds in her career.

Joubert led the Big Ten in rebounding in 1991, averaging 9.5 boards a game and averaged 12 points a game, while being named the Gophers' most improved player. Shudlick was named Big Ten Player of the Week after averaging 18.5 points and 7.8 rebounds in her first four games as a Gopher. Shudlick was

the first Minnesota player to receive the honor since the 1984-85 season.

The rebuilding process continued in 1992 as the Gophers finished the season 8-19 overall and ninth in the Big Ten. Although the team did not finish as high as they would have liked, some individuals gave a sneak preview as to what to expect in the future.

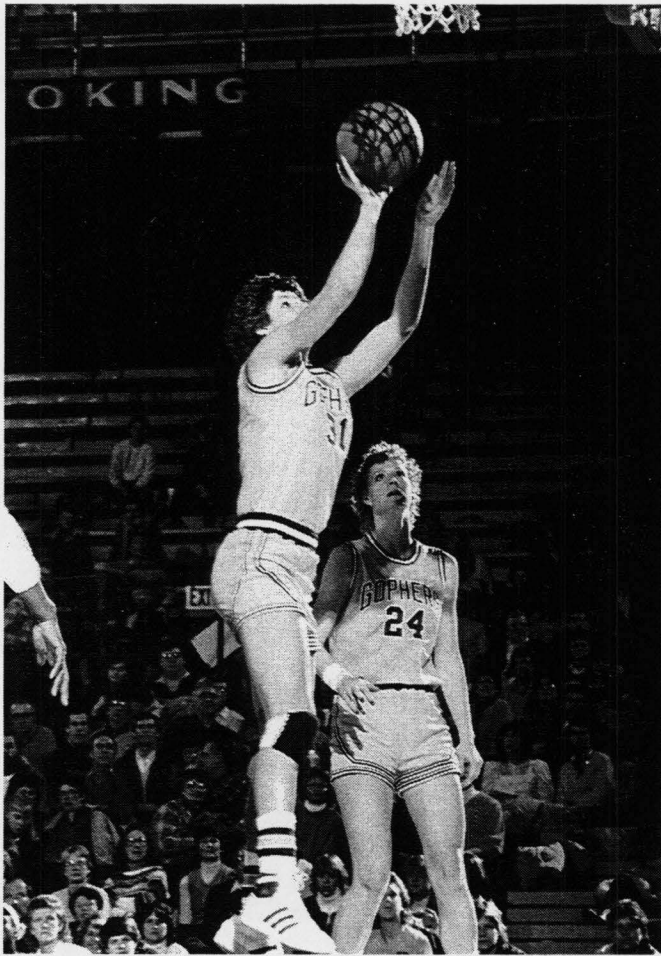
Shudlick was named second team all-Big Ten as a sophomore after averaging 20.3 points a game and finishing second in the league in scoring. She shattered the Minnesota single game scoring record when she scored 44 points against Marquette, the sixth best performance by a Division I participant. She also finished the year with 547 points, good for third at the time, on the single season scoring list.

Joubert also concluded a sparking career as she was ninth on the all-time Minnesota rebounding list. She was second in the Big Ten in rebounds with 8.7 a game and was second in scoring among the Gophers at 13.4.

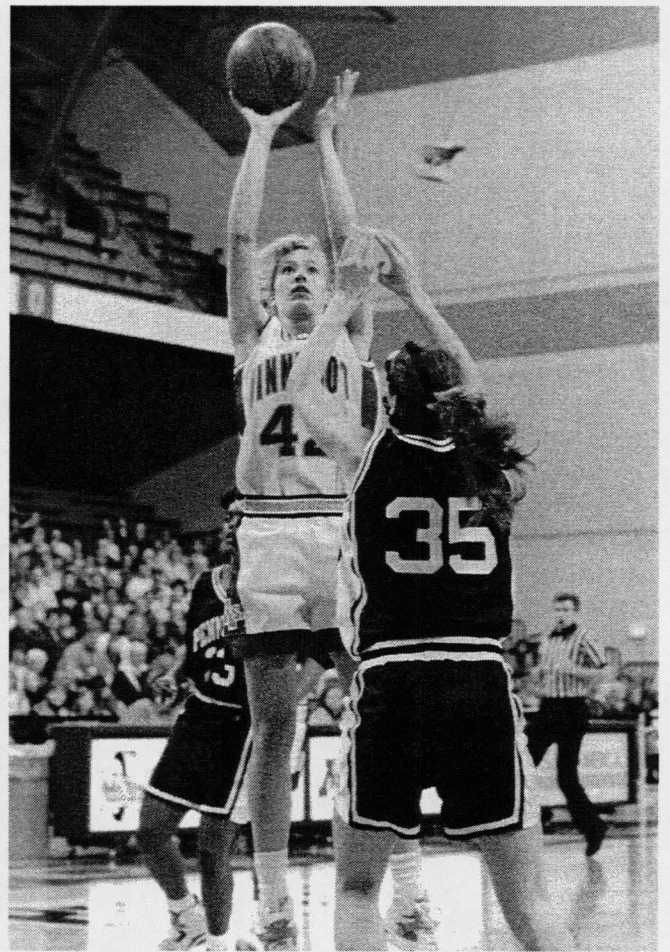
Junior Stacy Carver and newcomers Shannon Loeblein and Cara Pearson also saw their first action in 1992, which would be invaluable to Hill-MacDonald and the Gophers in 1993.

The next season, Minnesota finished with a 14-12 overall record, its first winning season in eight years. After being picked to place 10th in the conference, the Gophers surprised everyone with a fifth-place finish since 1984-85, with a 9-9 record.

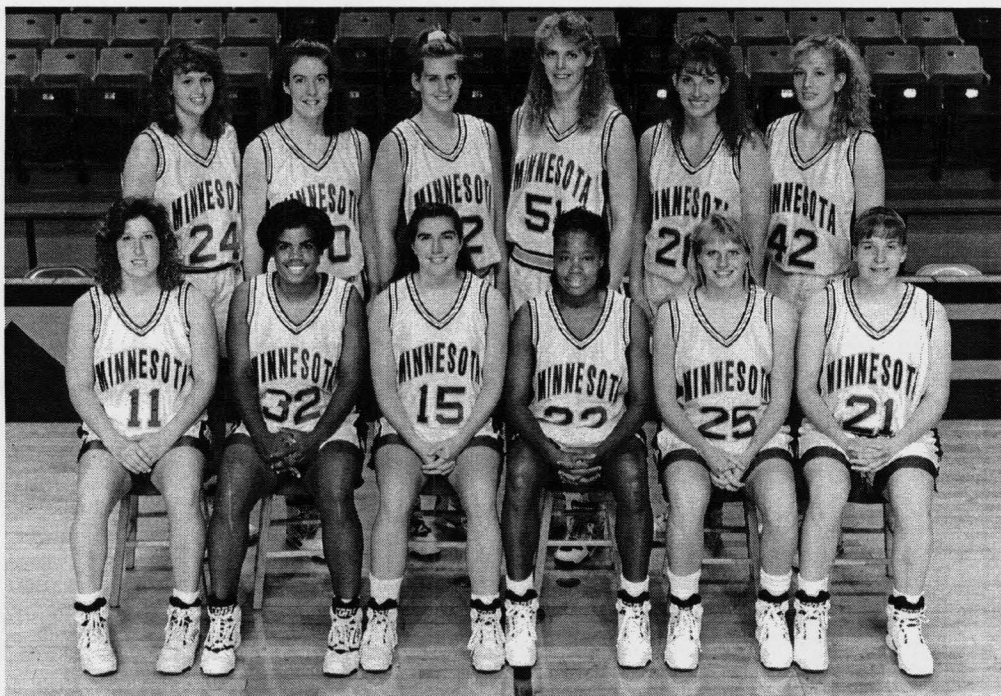
Shudlick was once again the statistical leader for the Gophers as she was named honorable mention all-American, the first Minnesota player to receive such an honor since 1985 and only the third player in history to garner the award. Shudlick was well on her way to becoming Minnesota's most decorated basketball player as she was named first



*Carol Peterka (31) and Barb Meredith (24)*



*Carol Ann Shudlick*



*1993-94 University of Minnesota women's basketball team*

team Kodak all-American Region IV. She was also named first team all-Big Ten, Minnesota first selection since 1985, and was named Big Ten Player of the Week a conference high three times. She was the conference's leading scorer and ranked eighth in the nation at 22.6 points a game.

Carver made her presence felt as she was second on the team in scoring and set a Minnesota school record for three pointers in a game with nine, one short of the NCAA record. She finished her career with 78 three pointers, good for second on the all-time list at the time.

The rejoicing for the program occurred in 1994, when it was a season of firsts for the Gophers. Minnesota kicked off the year in their new home facility, the Sports Pavilion. The Gophers opened the year with nine victories in their new home and went on to finish the season 18-11 and fourth in the Big Ten Conference. The 18 wins for the Gophers squad were the most since 1985 and the fourth-place finish was the highest in nine years. But the biggest reason for rejoicing was on March 13, 1994, as Minnesota received its first-ever invitation to the NCAA Basketball tournament. Minnesota started off the tournament with a bang in defeating Notre Dame, 81-76, at South Bend, Ind. before falling to Vanderbilt in the second round.

Individually, Shudlick was the star of the season as she was given the Wade Trophy for the nation's outstanding senior basketball player, the first time a Minnesota player has ever received the award. She was also named first team Kodak all-American, first-team all-Region, Big Ten Player of the Year, SportsChannel Player-of the Year and the Chicago Tribune Silver Basketball award winner. She also became Minnesota's all-time leading scorer for both men and the women with 2,097 points. (Men's basketball senior Voshon Lenard broke the record in 1995.)

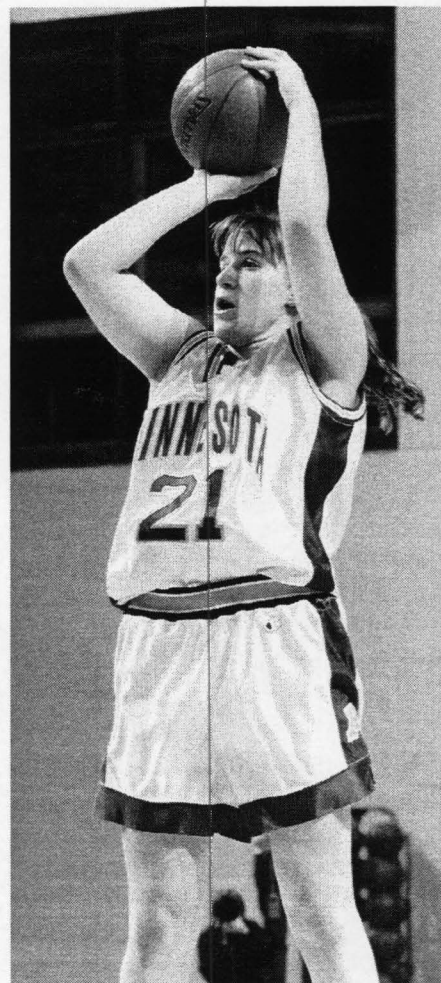
The 1994 season also marked

the end of the careers of four other seniors leaving the ball in the court of Pearson, Loeblein and senior Lori Lawler, along with nine newcomers. Minnesota had an exciting season and finished seventh in the conference with a 12-15 overall record and a 7-9 conference mark. The Gophers defeated #20 Texas A&M, #7 Penn State and #19 Purdue in a three-week span and also had the first sellout in Sports Pavilion history when 5,526 fans squeezed through the Sports Pavilion turnstiles as the Minnesota defeated Illinois. Minnesota also played the first game of the newly revived Big Ten Conference Tournament at the Hinkle Fieldhouse on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, losing to Iowa.

The St. Paul connection of Loeblein and Pearson, along with the improvement of Lawler, carried the Gophers all season. Loeblein broke the Minnesota record for three pointers in a season (63) and career treys (137). Loeblein was named second team all-Big Ten and ended up in the Minnesota top ten for scoring (9th), field goals attempted (9th) and assists (5th).

Pearson was an honorable mention all-Big Ten selection, the second time in her career that she received the award, and entered many of the top ten career lists at Minnesota including scoring and rebounding.

Now Hill-MacDonald and the Gophers are reloading for another run at the NCAA Tournament. With a solid group of sophomores and newcomers Mindy Hansen, Lynda Hass and Sonja Robinson, Minnesota should be rejoicing again in the future.



*Shannon Loeblein*

# CROSS COUNTRY

Consistency has marked the Minnesota cross country program over the last 10 years. The Gophers have either been good enough to qualify for the NCAA championship meet, or one of the best teams in the country not to qualify for the meet. Dozens of runners have helped Minnesota head coach Gary Wilson achieve during the past decade. It has been a very close group of athletes, but a group of athletes that has been very focused and intent on its mission: Excel in the classroom and excel on the cross-country course.

Wilson inherited a program in 1985 that had finished sixth in the Big Ten in 1984. The Gophers struggled during the 1985 season, due to a lack of experience and a lack of depth. Only three letterwinners had returned from the 1984 team, which hurt the Gophers in big-meet competition. Minnesota finished ninth at the 1985 Big Ten meet, but rallied to finish 10th at the district meet.

One of the Gopher harriers that Wilson inherited on his 1985 team was certainly not inexperienced. Senior Jody Eder closed out her Gopher career with her second consecutive all-American citation. Eder finished second at the Minnesota Invitational, fourth in the Big Ten and district meets and 21st at the 1985 NCAA meet. She currently owns the fastest four times and seven of the fastest 10 times in Gopher history. Eder is Minnesota's only two-time all-American in the sport of cross country, and is the last Gopher to achieve all-American status.

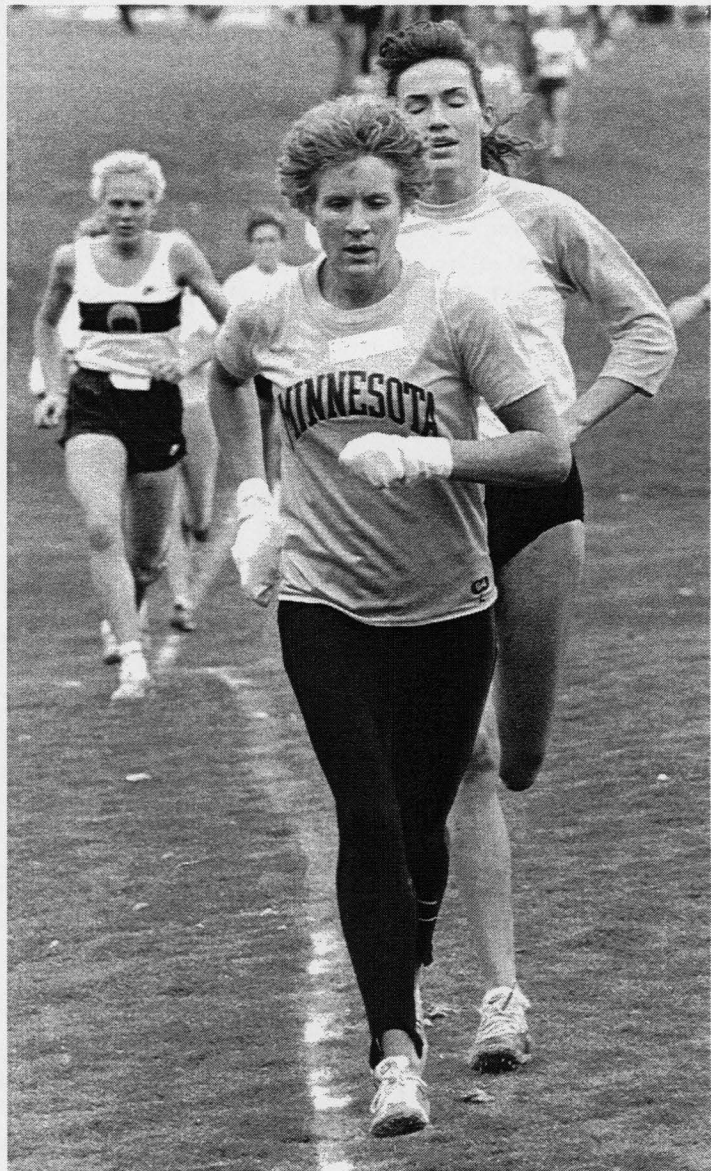
Despite the graduation of Eder, the Gophers were an improved team in 1986. Minnesota had a very young team, as they had a normal starting lineup of four freshmen, two sophomores and a junior. The 1986 Gopher squad chopped 32 points off of Minnesota's 1985 Big Ten point

total and finished eighth, with sophomore Eileen Donaghy and junior Patty Walsh leading the Minnesota effort.

The next season brought one of Minnesota's best efforts in a Big Ten championship meet. The Gophers, after running well in meets at Penn State, Iowa State and Indiana, finished third at the 1987 Big Ten meet at Indiana. Minnesota has historically performed well at the Indiana University Cross Country Course in Bloomington. "It's like a

second home course for us," said Wilson. "Donaghy ran a tremendous race, and that helped the rest of the team." The third-place finish matched Minnesota's best-ever Big Ten finish in 1983.

Donaghy became a Gopher harrier to remember after her performance at the 1987 Big Ten meet. Donaghy sprinted past two runners to become the first non-Badger to win a Big Ten individual cross country championship since Gopher great Cathie Twomey won



Jody Eder

the first unofficial Big Ten title in 1976. Donaghy's time of 16:58.0 ranks eighth on Minnesota's all-time list and is the fastest time for a Gopher on the Indiana course.

Donaghy struggled in 1988 because of a strained knee, but the Gophers as a team received national recognition for the first time in six seasons. Minnesota was ranked nationally for the majority of the 1988 season, moving up as high as 12th at one point. The Gophers finished the season ranked 20th in the nation, which was Minnesota's first top 20 finish since 1983. Minnesota won its own invitational for the first time in school history, giving the Gophers confidence heading into the Big Ten meet. The Gophers finished fifth, marking the first time that the Gophers had finished in the top five of the conference in consecutive seasons. Minnesota finished fourth at the NCAA regional meet, barely missing out on an at-large berth in the NCAA meet.

Minnesota's goal in 1989 was to qualify for its first national meet since 1983. With the graduation of Donaghy, the Gophers did not have a

star runner to help them in the quest for the national meet. Minnesota adopted a "pack attack" strategy, with the majority of Minnesota runners finishing within seconds of each other. The Gophers improved their Big Ten finish to fourth in 1989, but knew they would have to beat two of the three Big Ten schools at the regional meet to qualify for the NCAA meet. Despite an injury during the race to freshman Ann Westby, the Gophers defeated Iowa and Michigan for the first time all season and finished second in the region to qualify for the NCAA meet. Minnesota finished 21st at the national championship meet. "These athletes gave blood and guts all season," said Wilson after the 1989 season. "I couldn't have asked for more from any of them this season. They did just marvelous things."

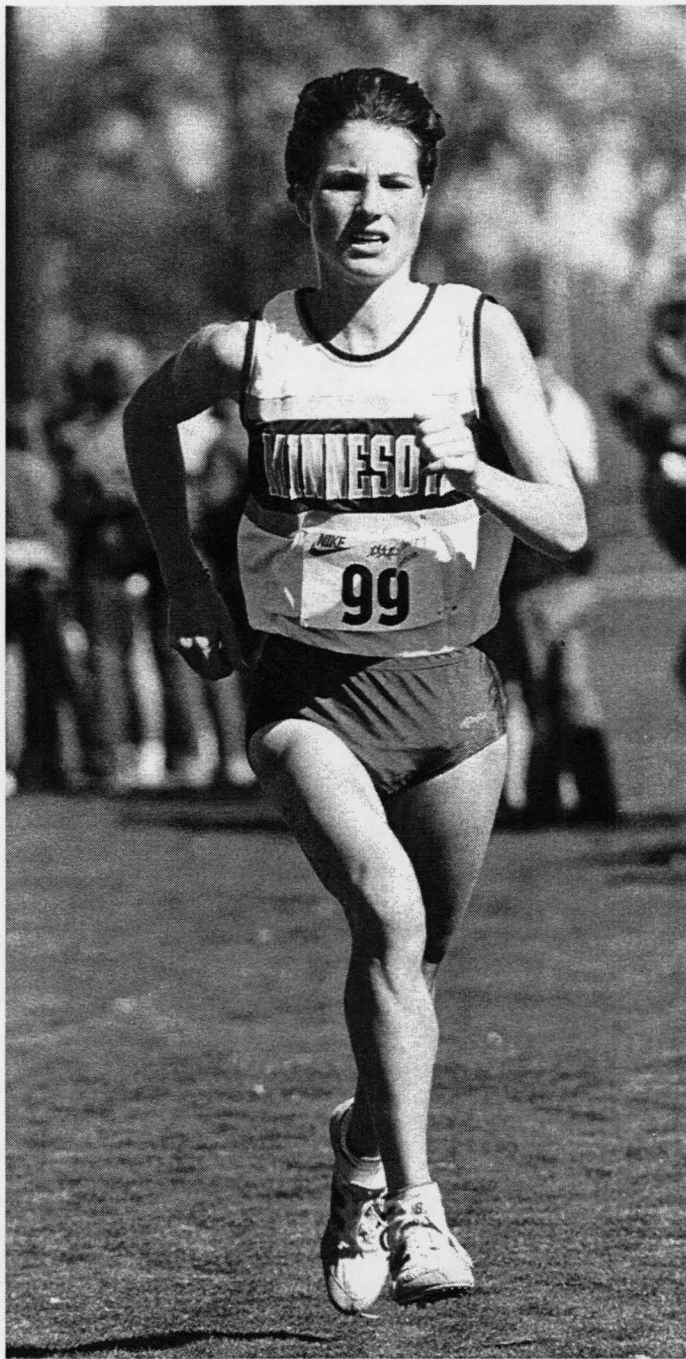
The 1990 team tried to become Minnesota's first-ever team to repeat a trip to the NCAA meet. The Gophers were very consistent in 1990, defeated every non-ranked Division I team that they raced against. Conversely, they lost to every ranked Division I team that they raced. The Gophers were close to getting ranked

all season, but could never get over the hump. The Big Ten meet was hosted by the Gophers for the first time, and Minnesota used the home-course advantage to place fifth. Minnesota finished behind the same four Big Ten teams and finished fifth at the regional meet.

The 1990 season saw the development of a new Minnesota star on the horizon. Gopher junior Chris Rowe, a solid performer on Minnesota's 1989 NCAA team, grew into the team leader for the 1990 and 1991 seasons. Over the 13 races in those two seasons, Rowe was Minnesota's top performer in 11 of those events. Rowe finished 10th at the 1990 Big Ten meet, Minnesota's top performance at a conference meet since Donaghy's championship in 1987. Rowe also had a big role in the Gopher team success in 1991.

In the previous years, Minnesota thought that they had the talent to get to the NCAA meet, and either succeeded in getting to the NCAA meet or came very close to doing so. In 1991, the Gophers did not know what to expect. Rowe was a solid #1 runner, but the Gophers





*Eileen Donaghy*

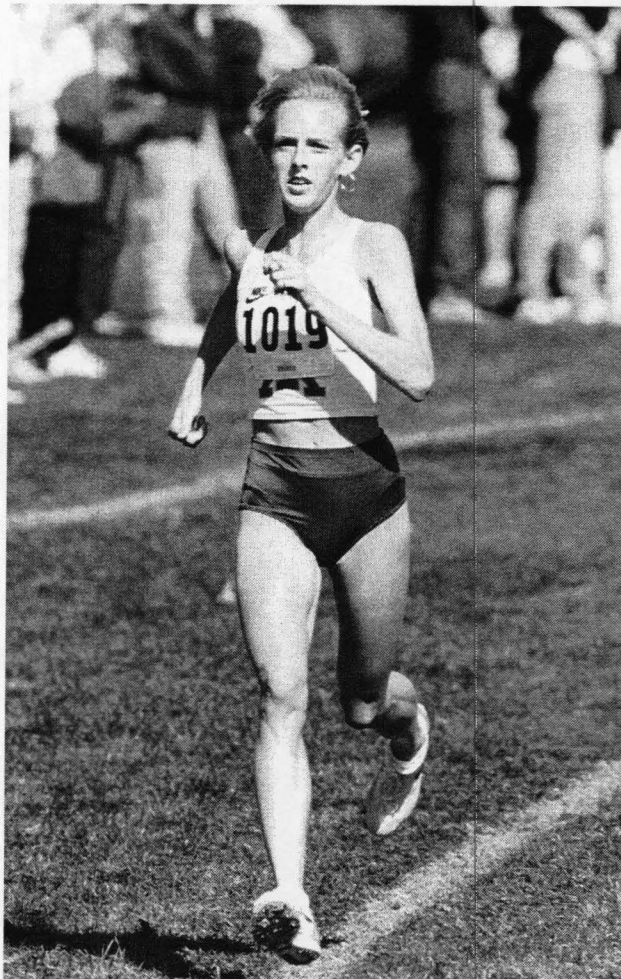


*Jessica Langford*

had several other veteran runners that were unproved in big-time meets. The Gophers showed that inexperience at the Big Ten meet, placing fifth for the second consecutive year. Minnesota shed that inexperience at the regional meet, partially due to the fact that the race was run at Indiana, Minnesota's favorite course away from the Twin Cities. The Gophers again proved why they like racing in Bloomington, as Rowe ran the race of her life to finish third in the region and lead the Gophers to a fourth-place finish as a team, which was good enough to qualify them for a second trip to the NCAA meet in three years. In Tucson, the Gophers ran their best race of the season as a team and finished 17th, Minnesota's best national finish of the decade. "The 1991 team just refused to quit," said Wilson. "It had a bunch of seniors who wanted to prove they were good, and they did it. It was just a great team effort."

Unfortunately for Minnesota, 1991 was Minnesota's last appearance at an NCAA cross country meet. The Gophers have continued to be one of the top teams in the Midwest, periodically getting ranked in the NCAA top 25. Minnesota had one of their best Big Ten meets ever in 1993, finishing third in the conference for the third time in school history. Minnesota had a streak of seven top-five finishes in the Big Ten meet and the NCAA regional meet stopped in 1995, when the Gophers placed sixth in both meets. The Gophers would typically come close, but failed to make the NCAA meet by the slimmest of margins.

The individual performances have outshined the team effort over the past three seasons. In 1992, senior Susan Bliss transferred into the Gopher program from Missouri and was Minnesota's top runner in the final four meets of the season. At the 1992 Big Ten meet,



*Lori Townsend*

Bliss finished sixth to earn all-Big Ten honors in a time that was Minnesota's fastest since Donaghy's championship effort in 1987. At the region meet, Bliss finished eighth to qualify for the NCAA meet, where she finished 41st and just missed earning all-American honors.

The 1993 season saw Jessica Langford take over as the Gophers' team leader. A big part of Minnesota's NCAA meet team in 1991, Langford was Minnesota's top finisher in each of the races that she ran. Langford finished fourth at the Big Ten meet, Minnesota's second-best individual finish at a conference meet since the Big Ten began sponsoring women's sports in 1982. Langford followed that performance with a fifth-place finish at the regional meet, sending her to the national meet for the second time in her career. She finished 103rd at the

1993 NCAA meet.

Learning from the efforts of Bliss and Langford, Lori Townsend took over the mantle as Gopher team leader in 1994 and parlayed her success into an NCAA meet experience. The junior made the most of her Big Ten experience, finishing fifth in the 1994 conference championship and earning all-Big Ten honors. Townsend also finished fifth at the regional meet, needing a career-best 5,000-meter time to do so. The Gopher standout finished 61st at the NCAA meet, missing all-American consideration by 11 seconds.

Under the leadership of Wilson, the Gophers have produced some fast runners and some memorable team performances. Look for more of the same as the women's athletic department enters its third decade.



# GOLF

The second decade of the University of Minnesota women's golf has seen three University alumnae lead the team. Anne Zahn, class of '67, brought the team into the new decade, coaching them from 1982-87. Zahn's protégé Nancy Harris, class of '84, took over the team and coached from 1987-91. Kathy Williams, class of '81 and former teammate of Harris, assumed the helm in 1991 and is the current coach of the Golden Gophers. All three have been named Big Ten coach of the year; Williams in 1992, Harris in 1989 and Zahn in 1987.

Over the last 10 years, Minnesota has been one of the leaders in the Big Ten Conference. The Gophers won the conference team title once, having finished among the top three teams seven times. The team was invited to the 1989 NCAA championship and individuals were invited to the 1987, 1988 and 1993 NCAA tournaments. The Gophers also fielded teams at the 1994 and 1995 NCAA East Regional Championships after sending two individuals to the inaugural East Regional in 1993.

Minnesota won the 1989 Big Ten Conference title at Purdue, being led by Kate Hughes (1985-89), who was also the tournament medalist. Hughes also was the 1988 Big Ten individual champion, making her the only Minnesota female student-athlete to win back-to-back medalist honors at the conference final. She was named the 1989 Big Ten Player of the Year.

Besides winning the conference title, the 1988-89 contingent was the only Minnesota women's golf team to compete as a team at a NCAA championship. Hughes and teammates Jodi Krafka (1984-89), Karen Weiss (1985-89), Kelli Ross (1988-91) and Krista Reuterfelt (1988-92) placed 12th at the 1989 NCAA championships at the challenging Stanford University Golf Course. At that time, the golf team became the highest placing Minnesota women's team at a NCAA championship. (That record has been eclipsed by the swimming and diving



*Julie Hennessy*

team which placed 10th at the 1992 NCAA championship.) Hughes, playing in her third national championship, tied for third and was named a National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) all-American - second team. She also competed as an individual at the 1987 (t-53rd) and 1988 (t-56th) NCAA championships; Hughes was a NGCA all-American honorable mention in 1988. As a senior, she received the highest conference honor possible, being awarded the 1989 Big Ten Conference Medal of Honor. At the 1989 NCAA championship, Krafka tied for 54th, Weiss tied for 69th, Ross tied for 75th and Reuterfelt tied for 94th.

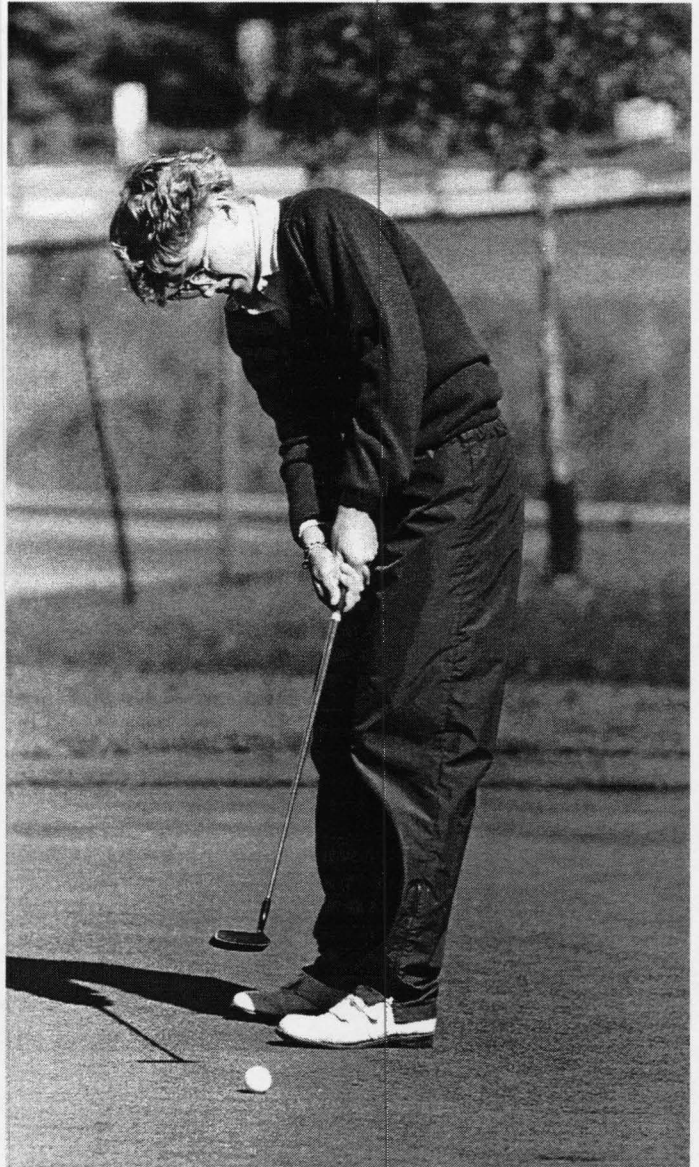
During the 1985-86 season, Minnesota won the Gopher Fall Invitational and the Lady Invitational. Dee Forsberg (1983-87) won two tournaments, taking medalist honors at the Lady Badger and Iowa Invitationals. Julie Hennessy (1983-87) was first at the Gopher Fall Invitational. Minnesota finished second at the Big Ten meet.

The Iowa Invitational was the site of Minnesota's lone victory during the 1986-87 season. Mary Kuhlmann (1984-1988) won her only tournament, earning medalist honors at the Iowa Invitational. The team was third at the Big Ten championship in 1987.

Minnesota had four team wins during the 1987-88 season under



*Kate Hughes*



*Sara Evens*

Alabama Dual, with Reuterfelt winning the South Alabama Dual.

Sara Evens (1989-93) won her first collegiate tournament as a frosh at Penn State during the 1989-90 season. She was named all-Big Ten and was the Big Ten Newcomer of the Year. Minnesota finished third at the Big Ten meet. During the 1990-91 season, Evens won the Texas-El Paso dual meet with Minnesota winning the Texas-El Paso meet and the Minnesota Invitational. Minnesota finished fifth at the conference championship.

The Gophers won four tournaments during the 1991-92 school year under the watchful eye of first year coach Kathy Williams. The team won the Minnesota, Hawkeye, Peggy Kirk Bell and Lady Northern Invitationals. Minnesota was second at

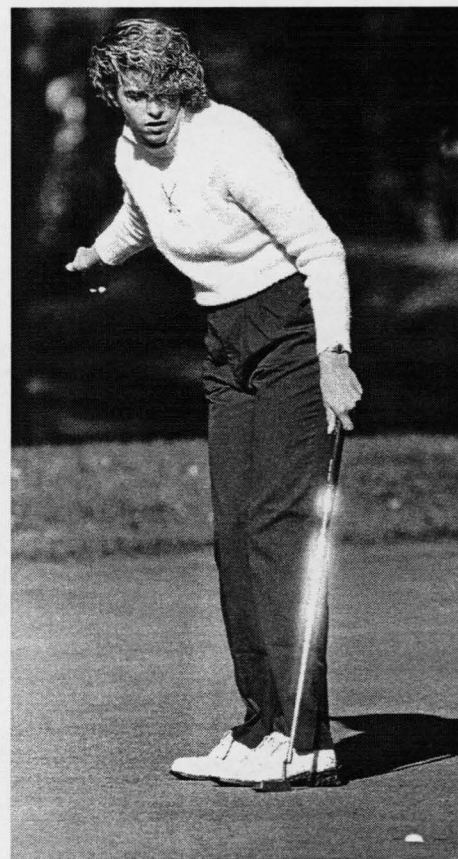
the Big Ten championships. Evens won the Desert Challenge and the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational. Chris Wollack (1989-94) won the Minnesota Invitational for her only career win.

Minnesota's only team victory during the 1992-93 season was at the Minnesota Invitational with Stacey Kolb (1991-93) winning the tournament. The Gophers tied for the third at the Big Ten championships. From there, Evens and Kolb competed as individuals at both the NCAA East Regionals and national championships, finishing 67th and 99th respectively at the NCAA finals.

Medalist and team honors were garnered by the Gophers at the Midwest Golf Classic during the 1993-94 school year with Jana Erdmann (1990-94) earning medalist honors.



*Krista Larsen*



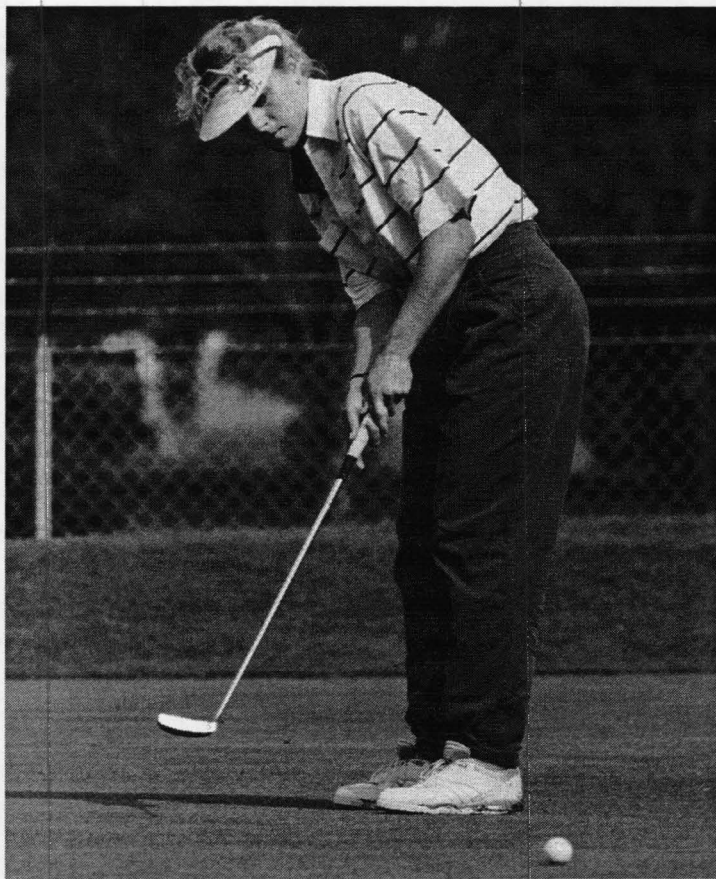
*Dee Forsberg*

Amy Schmiesing (1991-95) won the first of her two career tournaments, taking the honors at the Lady Badger Invitational. Minnesota was sixth at the Big Ten championships. The University sent its first team to the NCAA East Regionals, where Minnesota finished 18th.

In the final year of the decade, the Gophers won the Iowa State Invitational with Angie Ause (1991-95) winning medalist honors. Schmiesing was first at the Minnesota Invitational. The Gophers repeated their sixth-place finish at the conference championship. Invited again to the NCAA East Regional, Minnesota was 19th.



*Jodi Krafka*



*Kelli Ross*



*Kathy Williams and Stacey Kolb*

# GYMNASTICS

Women's gymnastics at the University of Minnesota has grown by leaps and bounds, vaults and somersaults and flips. The program has seen some of its best athletes over the past ten years.

The most decorated Minnesota women's gymnastics athlete and possibly the most decorated women's athlete at the university is Marie Roethlisberger (1987-90). She was a four-time all-Big Ten selection and Big Ten Gymnast of the Year. She won seven Big Ten titles during her collegiate career. During her first season (1986-87), she placed second on the uneven bars at the NCAA Championships and earned Minnesota's first-ever NCAA all-America honor in gymnastics. She won the Big Ten all-around (37.50) and uneven bars (9.70), while tying for second on the floor exercise (9.60). At the Central Region Championships, she finished first on the uneven bars and second in the

all-around. At the NCAA meet, she placed 20th in the all-around (36.80) and second in the bars (9.65)

Roethlisberger's junior year was memorable for all Gopher fans. She received the first-ever NCAA Honda Inspiration Award on February 4, 1989, for overcoming significant personal adversity while achieving excellence in both academics and athletics. She also helped lead the team to its second straight Big Ten title. She won four individual titles at the Big Ten Championships including the all-around (38.20), vault (9.70), balance beam (9.65) and uneven bars (9.80-tie). At the NCAA Central Region meet, Roethlisberger set the meet record with a 38.75 all-around score. She also tied for first with meet record-tying scores of 9.80 and 9.70 on the uneven bars and balance beam, respectively. She tied for 16th on the uneven bars and was 23rd in the all-around at the NCAA Championships.

Roethlisberger could ask for nothing more than what she received her senior year. She won the all-around with a school and region record 39.075 at the NCAA Central Region meet in front of 7,591 hometown fans. At the NCAA Championships, she won the uneven bars title with a 9.875, finished tied for fourth on the floor exercise at 9.825 and finished seventh in the all-around with a 38.90. Roethlisberger received the 1990 American Award, given to the nation's outstanding senior gymnast as voted by the nation's women's gymnastics coaches.

Besides her athletic achievements, Roethlisberger was also honored for her academic achievements. She was a three-time GTE-CoSIDA Academic All-America selection. She also received a 1990 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, which she is using to become a doctor.

Shelley Brown (1984-87) also helped catapult the women's gymnastics team into the spotlight. Her junior year (1985-96), she won the Big Ten all-around title with a 37.35 score. She was the only gymnast in the conference to compete in all four individual finals. She placed first on the balance beam and seventh in the all-around at the NCAA Midwest Regional.

Brown's senior year was just as productive as she set the school records in the vault (9.65). She competed in the balance beam finals for the second straight year, but a fall from the uneven bars prevented her from defending her Big Team all-around title.

Laurie Kaiser (1984-86) had a tremendous junior year, winning the Big Ten floor exercise title for the second time and placing third on the uneven bars.

Mary Jo Mastel (1985-87)



Marie Roethlisberger

finished fourth in the floor exercise her sophomore season at the Big Ten Championships, earning her all-Big Ten honors. Her junior season, she made it to the floor exercise finals at the Big Ten Championships, finishing seventh.

Lisa Wittwer (1988-89) was a two-time all-Big Ten selection. She tied for the Big Ten all-around title her first season, scoring a 38.10. Wittwer placed seventh in the all-around with a 37.55 score at the NCAA Central Region meet. She also placed third on the uneven bars with a 9.70. She earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships, but scored only a 34.45.

Wittwer's second season proved to be just as productive. She tied with Roethlisberger on the

uneven bars for the Big Ten title and finished second in the all-around, while qualifying for the NCAA Championships. She received Big Ten honors for the second straight year. Wittwer scored a 38.30 in the all-around at the regional meet and scored a 37.60 at the NCAA meet, tying her for 27th.

Gena Palm (1989) won the floor exercise title with a 9.55 at the Big Ten Championship meet. In her only year of competition at Minnesota, she was one of four Gophers to be named all-conference and was selected as the Big Ten Newcomer of the Year. She tied for fourth in the all-around (37.45) at the Big Ten meet.

Cathy Zolkowski (1988-91) was a two-time all-Big Ten selection. She tied for second on the floor

exercise at the Big Ten meet her sophomore season. She averaged a 9.40 on the floor. In her junior season, Zolkowski was named all-Big Ten after finishing in a three-way tie for the floor exercise title with a 9.70 score at the Big Ten Championships. At the Central Regional meet, she tied with teammate Monika Juhasz-Nagy for second on the vault with a 9.775 score.

Senior seasons seem to be strong for any gymnast and Zolkowski was no exception. She scored a career best 9.80 to win the Big Ten floor exercise title after tying for first the previous year. She also qualified for the NCAA Central Region championships as an individual all-around. At the meet, she set a then school record with a 9.80 on the vault.

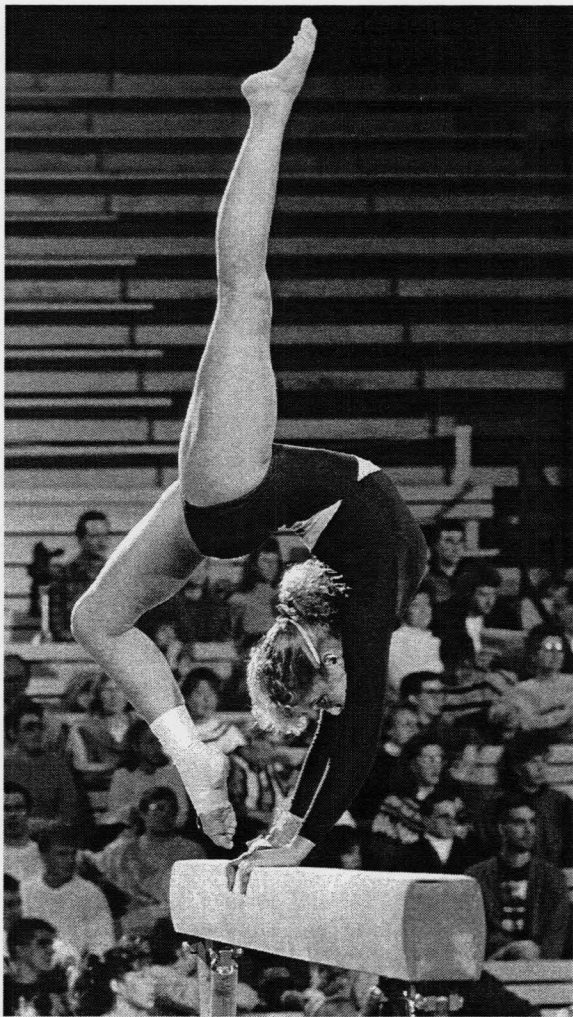
Kathy Ness (1988-91) won a conference title to close out her career at Minnesota. After suffering a fracture in her knee her senior season, she competed on the balance beam for the first time all season at the Big Ten meet. She scored a 9.70, tied for the title and earned all-Big Ten honors.

Juhasz-Nagy (1990-93) still holds the school record for the vault, scoring a 9.85 against Michigan on March 14, 1992. Her second season at Minnesota, she placed fifth in the all-around at the Big Ten meet, earning her all-Big Ten honors. She tied for second in the vault (9.65) and tied for sixth on the uneven bars (9.50). Juhasz-Nagy qualified for the NCAA Central Region championships three times. She tied for second on the vault in 1990 with a 9.775 score and placed eighth in the all-around at 37.575 in 1992.

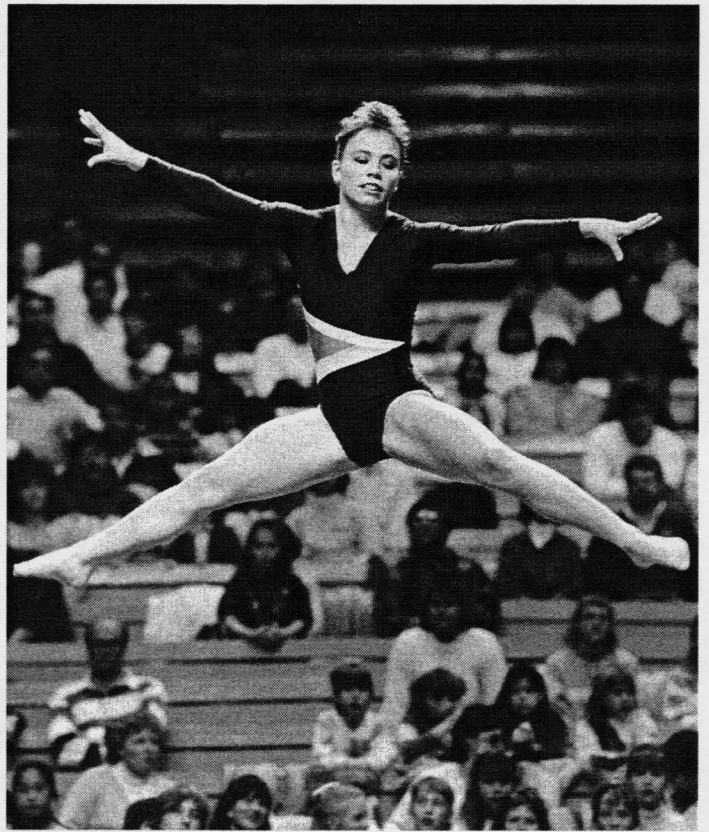
Jessica Wolf (1991, 1993-94) established herself as one of the best gymnasts in the Big Ten her first year. She won the conference vault title with a 9.70 score and tied for second on the floor exercise with a 9.70 score also. She was the second-seeded



*Shelley Brown*



*Kathy Ness*



*Cathy Zolkowski*



*1991 Minnesota women's gymnastics team*

individual qualifier for the NCAA Central Regional championships with a 37.75 qualifying score. Her junior year, she competed exclusively on the uneven bars, scoring a season high 9.40.

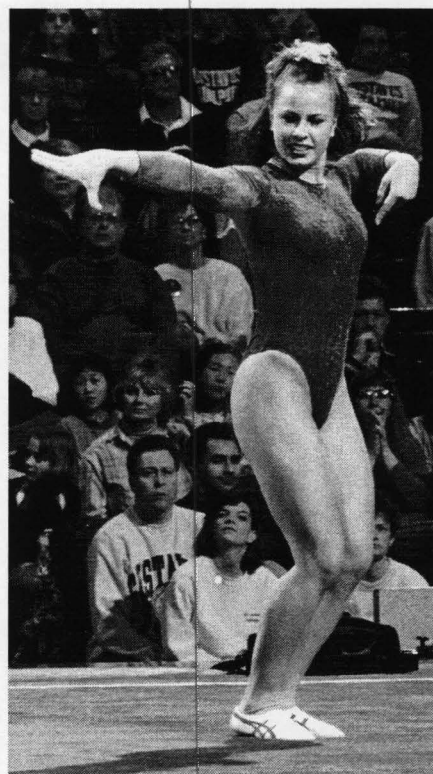
Lori Kindler (1992-94) holds the Minnesota school record for the floor exercise at 9.90. She set the record at Iowa State on February 5, 1994. She also holds the second-best score on floor at 9.850, set at home against Gustavus Adolphus on March 10, of the same year. She tied for fourth place at the Big Ten Championships her junior year with a 9.775 on the floor.

Mindy Knaeble (1995-present) earned all-Big Ten honors in 1995. She placed third at the Big Ten meet with a 9.80 on the balance beam. She tied the school record earlier in the season with a 9.850 against Missouri. Knaeble shares the

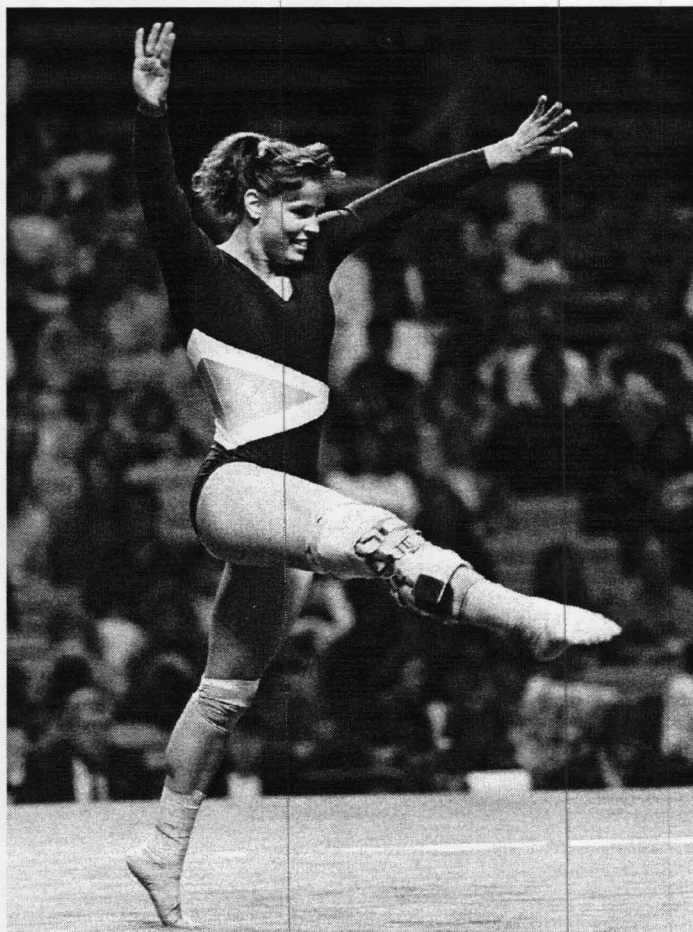
record with Roethlisberger.

As a team, the Gophers have won three Big Ten team titles in the last decade. Minnesota won its first title in 1988, dethroning five-time defending champions Ohio State. The team set a then Big Ten record 186.10. The team won back-to-back titles, winning the second in 1989, setting the Big Ten meet record again at 187.45. The 1991 Gopher team won the third Big Ten title in four years and set a championship scoring record (189.00).

Minnesota started this ten years being in the top 20 most of the season. The 1985-86 squad was ranked among the top 20 for most of the season, and the 1994-95 team ranked among the top 25. The Gophers as a team qualified five times for the Central Region meet. The team's best finish was third when 7,591 fans attended the meet at



*Lori Kindler*



*Lisa Wittwer*

Williams Arena to watch Minnesota score a school record 188.65. The Gophers last qualified for the regional meet in 1994, where Minnesota placed fifth with a 187.300 score.

Coaching has been a stability in the last decade. The women's gymnastics program has been guided by two coaches. Katalin Deli compiled a 96-103-2 record in seven years. Deli guided her team to three Big Ten Championships and was named Big Ten Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1991. Jim Stephenson is the current Gopher coach. He has compiled a 35-47 record the past three seasons and last year was named the co-Big Ten Coach of the Year.

With a strong tradition and strong athletes, the Minnesota women's gymnastics team has the potential to vault into the next 10 years as a national force.



# SOCCER

The University of Minnesota women's athletics entered a new era in 1993 with the addition of women's soccer. The sport became the 10th sport to be offered at the university.

January 28, 1993, will be a day to remember not only by the University of Minnesota but by Sue Montagne as well. Montagne was named the first head coach of the women's soccer program, her first head coaching position. She came to Minnesota from Colorado College in Colorado Spring, Colo., where she served as an assistant coach in 1991 and 1992. Montagne is a 1989 graduate of Massachusetts where she played soccer for four seasons.

Montagne had the task of compiling the first women's soccer team. She began the season with 11 frosh, one sophomore, seven juniors and one senior. Four were transfers while for others, this was the first collegiate competition they would encounter.

The first taste of competition for Minnesota came on September 4, 1993, as the Gophers hosted Creighton at the Bierman Track and Field Stadium. Although Minnesota lost 3-2, the Gophers began to build a reputation as an intense program. The Gophers had a 2-0 halftime lead. Jennifer Walek scored the first goal in Minnesota school history on a crossing pass from the right side that floated over the head of the Creighton goalkeeper. Walek also recorded Minnesota's first assist when she passed to Anne Meitz for the second goal of the game.

Minnesota won the first match in school history three days later, as the Gophers defeated Macalester, 4-1 at home. Gretchen Brandt recorded the first "hat trick" in the win, scoring two of her three goals in the second half. Brandt then recorded her second hat trick the next weekend with three first half goals in Minnesota's 4-3 victory over Northern Illinois on September 11.

The Gophers finished the season with a 13-6 record. The Big Ten Conference did not recognize women's soccer as a conference sport in 1993.

Walek led the team in scoring with 22 goals and nine assists for 53 points. For her efforts, she was selected to the NSCAA/UMBRO all-Central Region second team. Brandt finished second on the team in scoring with 36 points (15 goals and six assists).

The second season brought more changes to the women's soccer program. The team moved to its new home field at the St. Paul Campus Soccer Field, opening the season at home on September 4, 1994, and playing to a 1-1 tie with Michigan State. The overtime game set the tone for the rest of Minnesota's season as the Gophers played five overtime matches, tying four and losing one.

That match also marked the beginning of Big Ten Conference



Anne Meitz, Erin Hussey and Goldie officially kick-off the first-ever women's soccer match.



University President Nils Hasselmo participated in a practice session with the first women's soccer team.

play. It was the first Big Ten women's soccer match to be played. Even the rain could not damper the spirits of 454 fans as Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delaney, women's Athletic Director Chris Voelz and the Gopher captains declared women's soccer an official Big Ten sanctioned sport.

Minnesota got its first home victory at the new field on September 9, as the Gophers defeated Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 5-1. Newcomer Jennifer McElmury scored the first two goals of her Minnesota career.

The highlight of the season came on October 22, when the Gophers defeated then 13th-ranked Wisconsin, 2-0, at the St. Paul Campus Soccer Field. Brandt scored the first goal of the match, while Erin Hussey sealed the Gopher victory with a late second half goal. The match drew the largest crowd in school history with 644 fans coming to see the teams battle.

Another first in 1994 was the

inaugural Big Ten women's soccer championship. The Gophers entered the week as the fifth-seeded team. Minnesota began the tournament, held at the University of Wisconsin, with a 3-1 victory over fourth-seeded Ohio State. Walek scored Minnesota's only goal in the 32nd minute as the Gophers defeated top-seeded Michigan State, 1-0. In only two years of collegiate soccer, Minnesota had made it to the championship match of the Big Ten tournament. The Gopher's glory year would end in that match as second-seeded and 10th-ranked Wisconsin defeated Minnesota, 3-0, to capture the first Big Ten Championship.

Minnesota ended the year with a 10-6-4 overall record and 3-2-2 in the Big Ten. The Gophers finished ninth in the final ISAA Central Region rankings, its first ever appearance in the ISAA Rankings.

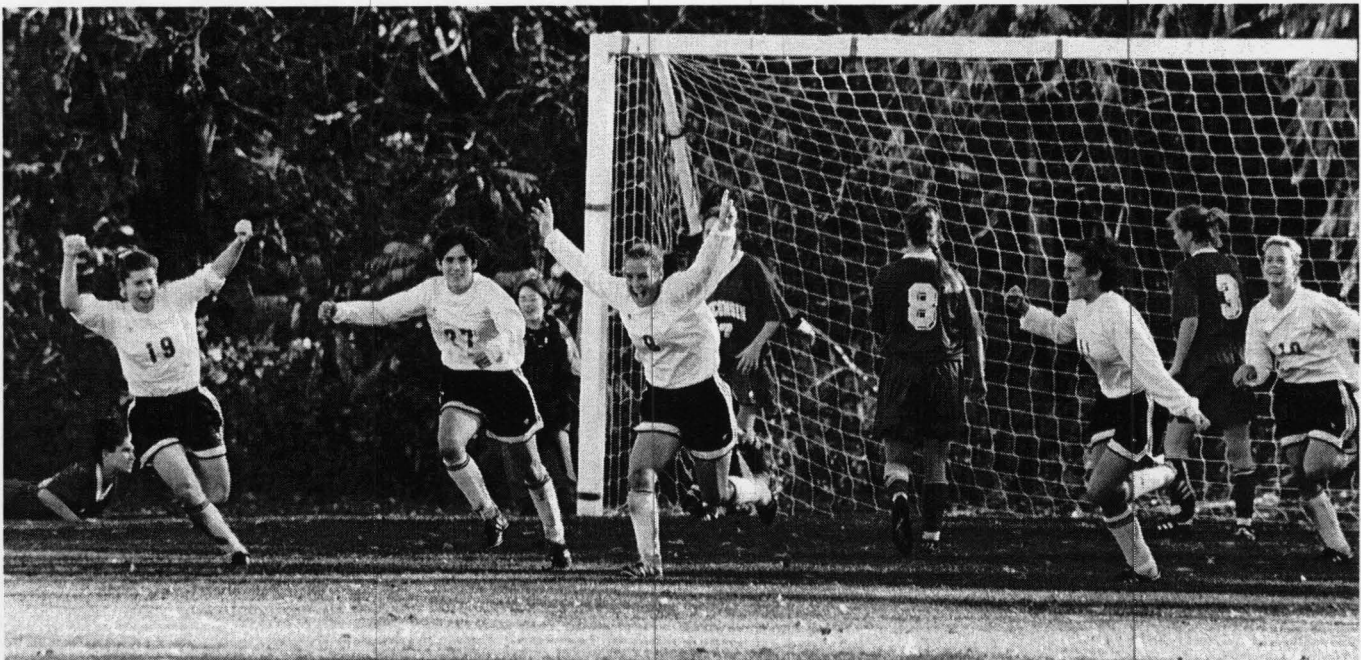
Honors were numerous for the Gophers. Walek and McElmury

were first team all-Big Ten selection while Mikki Denney, a transfer from North Carolina, was a second team all-Big Ten selection. McElmury was also named the Big Ten Newcomer of the Year.

Walek led the team in scoring with 14 goals and six assists for 34 points. McElmury was second on the team in scoring with 11 goals and six assists for 34 points.

Goalkeeper Teresa O'Hearn played 1,933 minutes out of a possible 1,950. She had four shut-outs, 140 saves and a 1.12 goals against average.

With the talent and coaching the Gophers already have, the possibilities for the Minnesota women's soccer team are endless.



*Jennifer Walek, Jennifer McElmury and Erin Hussey*

# SOFTBALL

The sport of softball is not conducive to northern schools like the University of Minnesota. Fall practice must be conducted early before the cold weather comes, and when pre-season practice begins, it must be held inside a gymnasium or a fieldhouse. Despite all of the disadvantages that a Northern school must face in the sport of softball, the University of Minnesota has put out very competitive softball teams over the past ten seasons. Three conference championships, two NCAA tournament appearances, four NCAA all-Americans and 13 all-Big Ten first team members accentuate the last decade of Minnesota softball excellence.

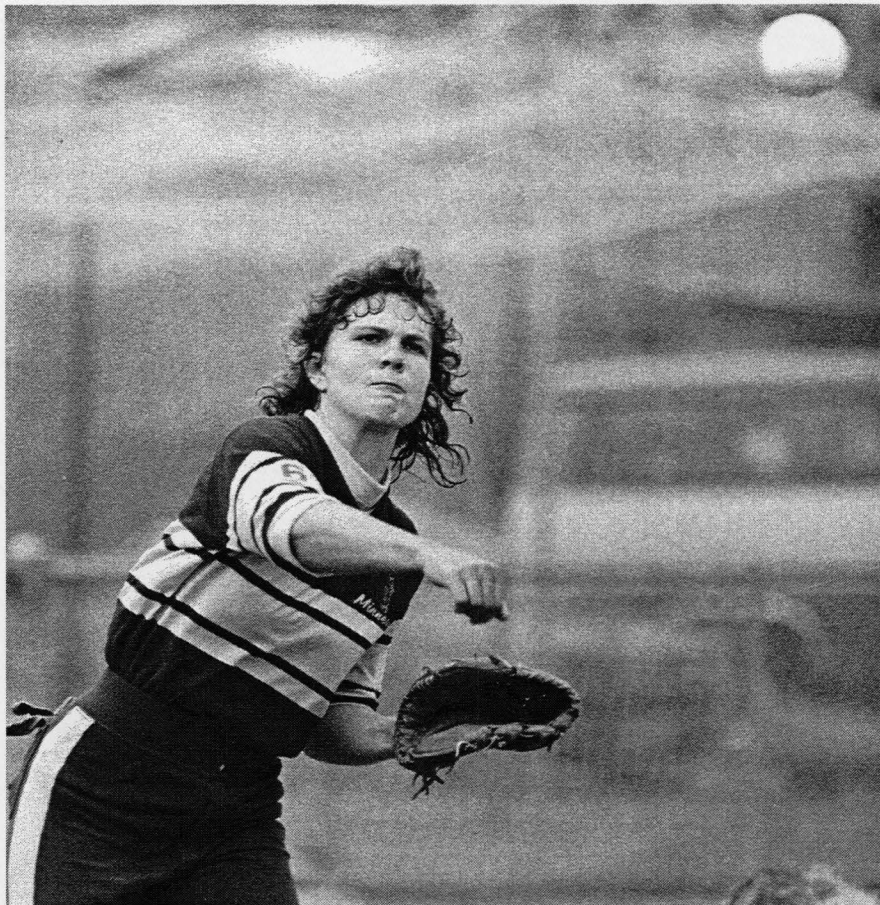
In the history of Golden Gopher softball, four head coaches have guided the program, with three of them having served during the past 10 years. Linda Wells, the architect of the program from its inception in 1974, coached Minnesota from 1986-1989 before moving on to coach at Arizona State. Teresa Wilson was then hired by women's athletic director Chris Voelz from the University of Oregon, where Voelz had previously hired Wilson to lead the Ducks. Wilson coached at Minnesota in 1990 and 1991 before leaving to start a program at the University of Washington. Voelz wasted no time in finding Lisa Bernstein, who was an assistant coach

at the University of Arizona, a perennial power in the sport of softball. Bernstein took over the reins in 1992, and is the current coach for the Gophers.

Wells and the Gophers won a share of the Big Ten softball title in 1986, the first-ever official Big Ten title for women at Minnesota after the conference started sanctioning women's championships in the fall of 1981. "It was a big deal to win the first Big Ten women's title," said Wells. "We were recognized by the Regents at a meeting and give a special award. The 1986 team worked very hard and took great pride in winning the title."

The Gophers had played a tough non-conference schedule to get them ready for the 1986 Big Ten season, and it paid off as Minnesota won six of its first eight games in conference play. Minnesota had an opportunity to win the conference championship outright by winning two of four games at Bierman against Indiana. The Hoosiers got great pitching to win three of the four games and force the three-way tie between Minnesota, Indiana, and Northwestern.

Barb Drake was the dominant player for the 1986 team, as well as the dominant player in the conference. Drake was the 1986 Big Ten Most Valuable Player, topping the conference with a .408 batting average in Big Ten play and winning nine of her 12 Big Ten decisions in the circle with a 0.74 ERA. Overall, Drake led the Gophers in five key offensive categories, including batting average (.345), hits (49) and runs scored (27), as well as wins (15), innings pitched (164 2/3) and earned run average (1.06). She repeated as a second-team NCAA all-American, an honor that she also earned in 1984.



*Kathy Casull*



*Barb Drake*

Drake, who finished her Gopher career in 1987, remains the career leader at Minnesota with 39 doubles and is the only Gopher to appear in the career top five hitting and pitching lists.

Kathy Casull was a first-year Gopher who played third base for the 1986 championship squad. She was one of the few holdovers from the '86 team as the Gophers made another push for a conference championship in 1988.

The Gophers entered the final weekend needing four wins against Michigan State and three Michigan losses in four games against Indiana to win the Big Ten title. Minnesota held the Spartans to two runs in a four-game sweep and then waited to find out their fate.

The Hoosiers came through with three wins to give the Gophers an undisputed Big Ten championship. After winning their second Big Ten title in three years, Minnesota made its first-ever appearance in an

NCAA softball tournament and did not score a run, losing to South Carolina and Arizona.

Casull was the anchor of the infield, committing only two errors in 23 Big Ten games at third base. She earned first-team all-Big Ten and second-team all-Mideast Region honors. As a senior in 1989, Casull became Minnesota's first-ever CoSIDA Academic All-American in the sport of softball. She currently ranks third on the Gopher all-time list with 534 defensive assists.

Bixby was just getting started in her college career, earning Big Ten Frosh of the Year honors with a 22-13 record (11-3 in Big Ten play). She also set Minnesota single-season records with 246 innings pitched and 28 complete games, which are still records to this day.

Bixby and fellow first-year player Kari Blank had hit career highs when they were part of a Big Ten championship team in 1988. After the championship season, each player

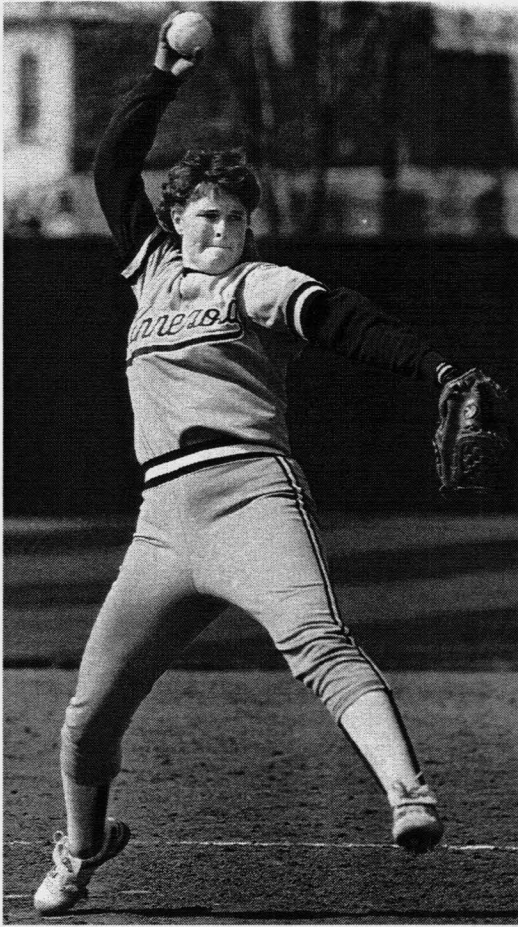
had to adjust to two major changes in their careers. First, they lost their head coach, when Linda Wells left and was replaced by Teresa Wilson. Second, they both suffered season-ending injuries in 1990, which forced them to redshirt the season. Both players had to go through a hard off-season of rehabilitation on their injuries. However, for both players, it was well worth the effort.

The 1991 season was a magical year for Blank, Bixby and the entire Gopher squad. Starting with the school's first-ever home opener at the Metrodome, the Gophers played one of the toughest non-conference schedules ever for a Big Ten squad, going 21-19 before the conference lid-lifter at Iowa. Iowa won two of the first three games of the series, but the Gophers won the series finale 5-3 to achieve a split of the series and start a streak that may never be matched. Four-game sweeps of Northwestern, Ohio State, Michigan State and Indiana brought the Gophers to within two games of the Big Ten title. Minnesota finished the job by sweeping Michigan to clinch the 1991 Big Ten championship. The Gophers won 19 consecutive Big Ten games, a record which stands to this day.

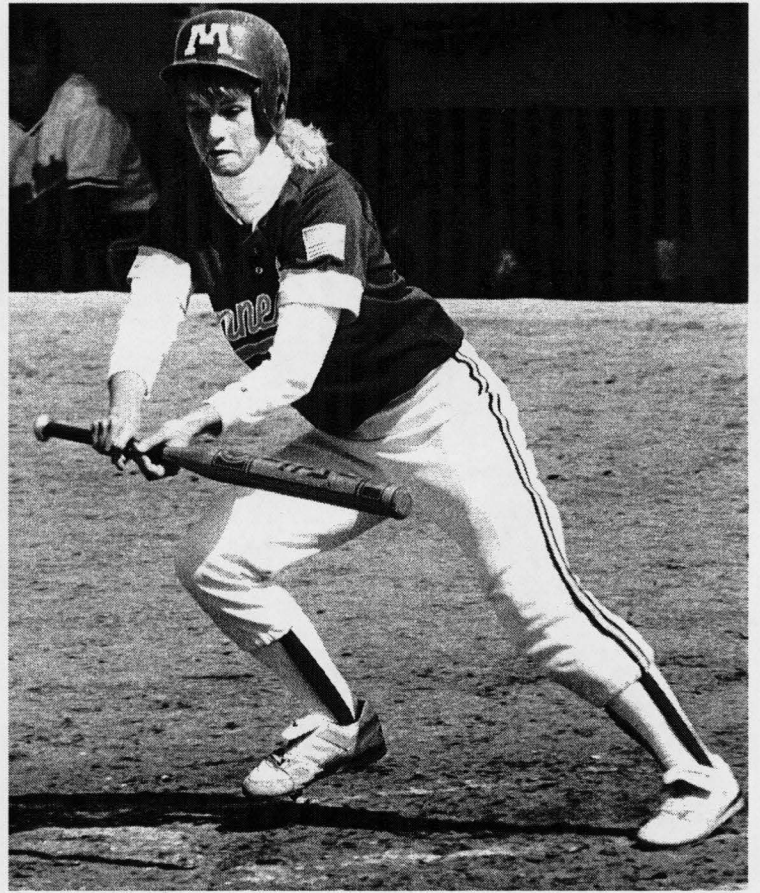
"The team had a great attitude," said Wilson, the 1991 Big Ten Coach of the Year. "During the streak, they would always find ways to win ball games."

Minnesota's 20-4 Big Ten record matched the record set by the 1985 Northwestern team for best Big Ten winning percentage. The Gophers set a school record with 48 wins, including a win over Texas A&M during the NCAA softball tournament, the school's first in NCAA post-season play.

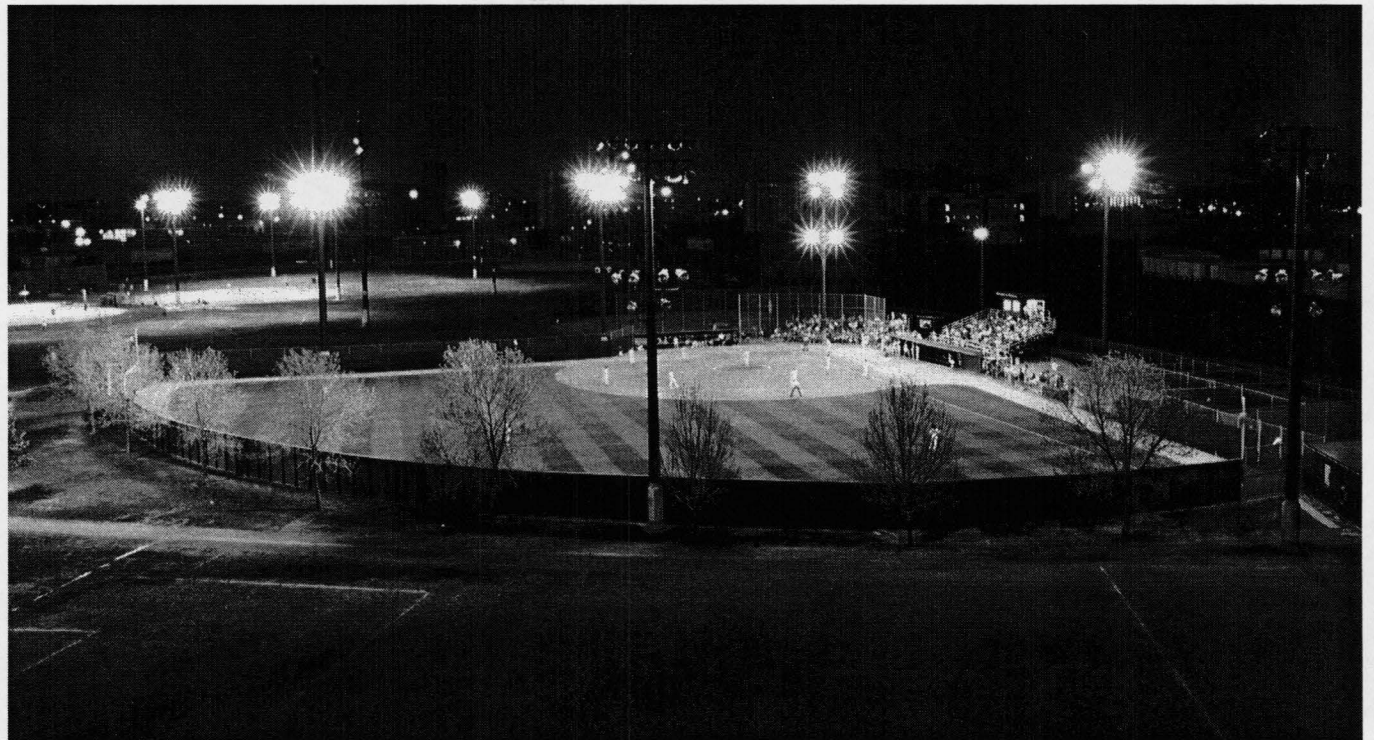
Blank rebounded from her knee injury to set Minnesota single-season records with 82 hits and 43 runs batted in. The 1991 Big Ten Co-Player of the Year also led the Gophers with a .335 overall batting



*Brenda Bixby*



*Kari Blank*



*The Bierman Softball Stadium*

average and was named to the NCAA all-America second team. Bixby recorded her second 22-win season in 1991 and led the Gophers with 20 complete games and seven shutouts. Bixby, who also concluded her career in 1992, is the Gophers' all-time leader with 67 wins, 27 shutouts and 289 strikeouts.

Once again, transition was a part of the Gopher program in 1992, as Teresa Wilson was replaced by Lisa Bernstein. The three players that were key members of the 1991 Big Ten title team that helped ease the transition were Lezlie Weiss, Mischel Doerr and Sarah Maschka. Weiss became the first Gopher to hit .400 in the NCAA era by leading the Big Ten in 1992 with a .404 overall batting average. Her .468 Big Ten average set a conference record. Weiss finished her career with 259 hits, establishing a new Big Ten career record. She is also the career leader with 251 games played and 755 defensive assists. Doerr ranks second on the all-time list with 203 hits and 249 games played, but is the Minnesota all-time leader with 82 stolen bases. Maschka was Minnesota's top pitcher in 1993, winning the final nine games of her career, seven by shutout. A 14-game winner in 1993, Maschka ended her career third with 41 victories, tied for second with 20 shutouts and third with 226 strikeouts.

The first two years of the Bernstein era saw the Gophers win 56% of their games, including a 32-21 mark in Big Ten play. Both the 1992 and 1993 teams had chances to win Big Ten titles, but luck was not on their side. In 1992, the Gophers started the final week two games behind Iowa, but with a chance to pull even in a doubleheader against the Hawkeyes. Minnesota won the first game 4-3 and led 1-0 after four innings in the nightcap, but Iowa rallied for a 2-1 victory. The loss carried over to the weekend, as the Gophers lost the final four games to Michigan, who won the Big Ten

championship. In 1993, the Gophers were one game out of first place midway through the season, entering a key four-game series against Ohio State. After winning the first two games of the series, Maschka broke two bones in her pitching hand after being hit by a line drive. The Gophers were never the same after that, losing seven of their next eight games and falling out of the race.

One of the two games that Minnesota claimed against Ohio State was won on a game-winning home run by Jennifer McGuinness. It was Minnesota's first home run at home since 1981, and would be the first of several for McGuinness. McGuinness hit three during the 1993 season, and then set a school record with 11 home runs during the 1994 season. McGuinness is Minnesota's all-time leader with 15 home runs.

That season also saw the emergence of a new Minnesota softball star: outfielder Rachel Nelson. As a frosh, Nelson led the

Gophers and the Big Ten with 73 hits. She led the Gophers with a .365 batting average, 29 runs scored and 14 stolen bases. She increased her batting average to .380, while leading the Gophers with 36 runs scored (most by a Gopher in the NCAA era) and 13 stolen bases. A first-team all-Big Ten selection in 1995, Nelson has a promising future in her final two years in the Gopher outfield.

The Minnesota softball team's future is also promising. After a last-place finish in 1994, the Gophers rebounded to take the fourth and final spot in the inaugural Big Ten Softball Tournament, winning nine of their final 12 conference games to finish with a 15-13 Big Ten record. The defense was the key to the 1995 squad, finishing fourth in the nation with a .972 fielding percentage. With the vast majority of their offense, defense and pitching returning to the squad, the third decade of Gopher softball should be as successful as the first two.



*Lezlie Weiss' record-breaking hit*

# SWIMMING AND DIVING

The past decade of University of Minnesota women's swimming and diving has been one of winning seasons, numerous top three finishes at Big Ten Conference championships, ten appearances at the NCAA championships, academic hallmarks and a consistency of coaching staffs.

Freeman was the Big Ten women's coach of the year in 1994 and 1986. Assistant coach Terry Nieszner tenure is similar to Freeman's; she has been coaching and managing the travel plans for the team for 19 years. Coach Doug Shaffer is a relative newcomer to the program, entering his seventh year as the women's and men's head diving coach. Shaffer was the 1993 NCAA men's diving Coach of the Year and the 1993 and 1995 Big Ten women's diving coach of the year.

Their leadership has contributed to the squad's 10-year overall win/loss record of 79-24-2 for a .631 winning percentage and a 46-13-2 Big Ten Conference record for a .754 winning percentage.

Over the past decade, Minnesota has competed at every NCAA Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Championship. At

the 1992 championships in Austin, Texas, the team finished in 10th place with 117.5 points for their highest finish ever at the national championships. In fact, it was the highest finish ever for any Minnesota women's team at an NCAA championship. Overall, Minnesota has had eight top 25 finishes in the past decade. During the same time, team members have been awarded all-American and all-American honorable mentions honors 89 times for being finalists or consolation finalists at the national championships.

A dominant power in the Big Ten over the past 10 years, Minnesota has finished second five times (1995, 1991, 1989, 1987, 1986) with three more top five finishes (3rd - 1992, 4th - 1990, 1988). Twenty-two swimmers and divers over the past decade have had won 19 individual titles and combined forces for 66 shared relay team titles. Student-athletes have been named all-Big Ten 36 times for being Big Ten champions or for their performances at conference meets.

Academically, the swimming and diving team has been competitive out of the water as well. Fifty-three times Gophers have received

Big Ten academic awards and 18 have received academic all-American and all-American honorable mention awards.

Many talented student-athletes have contributed to Minnesota's great success over the past ten years. Laurie Nelson completed her four years (1990-94) at the University as the most decorated female diver Minnesota has ever had in Big Ten and NCAA competition. Nelson is a seven-time all-American, one-time all-American honorable mention, a two-time NCAA Zone C diving champion and a three-time Big Ten Conference champion. She has received more all-American honors than any other Minnesota female student-athlete.

At her first NCAA Women's Division I Swimming and Diving Championships in 1991, Nelson became the first Gopher female diver to earn all-American honors by placing fifth in platform diving.

At the 1992 NCAA meet, Nelson earned all-American honors in platform, one- and three-meter diving. At the 1993 NCAA championships at the University Aquatic Center in Minneapolis, Nelson added two more all-American honors in 1-meter and platform diving and all-American honorable mention status in 3-meter diving. Nelson is the only female diver in Minnesota history to win a Big Ten Conference title. Nelson first accomplished this feat at the 1992 conference championship when she was victorious in 1-meter diving. She went on to win the 3-meter and platform events at the 1993 Big Ten championship.

A student-athlete who competed in the first and second decades of the department was Diane Wallner (1982-86). At the time she graduated, she was the fastest swimmer ever to come out of the University of Minnesota women's swimming program.



Jodi Schirmers

In 1986, Wallner became only the ninth swimmer ever to break the 23-second barrier in the 50-yard freestyle when she set the Big Ten record at the 1986 conference meet with a time of :22.97. The time still stands as the Big Ten record. At the 1986 NCAA championships, Wallner finished in seventh place in the 50-yard freestyle, her first NCAA all-American honor in an individual event.

By the time her collegiate career was over, Wallner was a 13-time Big Ten champion, and in addition to the 50-yard freestyle record, she held the conference record in the 100-yard freestyle (:50.69). At each of the four conference championships, Wallner set at least one Big Ten record, with eight records to her credit. She also earned two NCAA all-American honors, as well as five all-American honorable mention awards.

Three other swimmers and divers will be remembered as athletic standouts during the end of the first and the beginning of the second decade of Minnesota women's athletes. Sue Roell (1983-87) is a 10-time Big Ten champion and six-time NCAA all-American/honorable mention recipient. She won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1986 and successfully defended it in 1987 with a Big Ten record time of 1:02.69. Jo Elsen was a six-time Big Ten champion as a relay team member and was a NCAA all-American honorable mention. Jodi Schirmers (1984-88) was a four-time Big Ten champion, winning the 1,650-yard freestyle in 1985, the 200-yard freestyle in 1988 and was a member of winning 400-yard freestyle relay team in 1985 and 1987.

Nancy Swanum (1984-89) was the 100-yard backstroke champion at the 1989 Big Ten meet, fighting her way to the win. Swanum was also two-time conference champion and two-time all-American honorable mention as a relay team member.



*Jean Freeman and Diane Wallner*

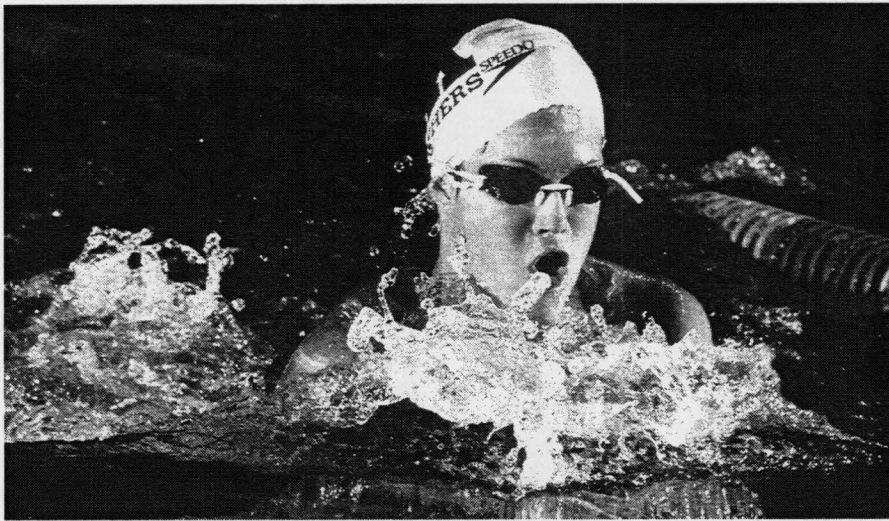
Ruth Gunard (1985-89) was a Big Ten champion as a member of the 200-yard freestyle and medley relay teams as a frosh, and she went on to earn three all-American honorable mention certificates that year in the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays and the 200-yard medley relay. During the next three years, Gunard earned five more Big Ten titles and two more all-American honorable mention honors as a relay team member.

Amy Volna (1985-89) garnered five all-American honorable mention certificates during her career in the relay team events and was a two-time Big Ten champion in the 400-yard freestyle relay and won the 100-yard freestyle as a senior. Shannon Heringer (1986-90) was another instrumental member of the medley relay teams during those years, swimming the butterfly leg of four Big Ten first place relay team and earned all-American honorable mention honors in the 200-yard medley relay in 1989.

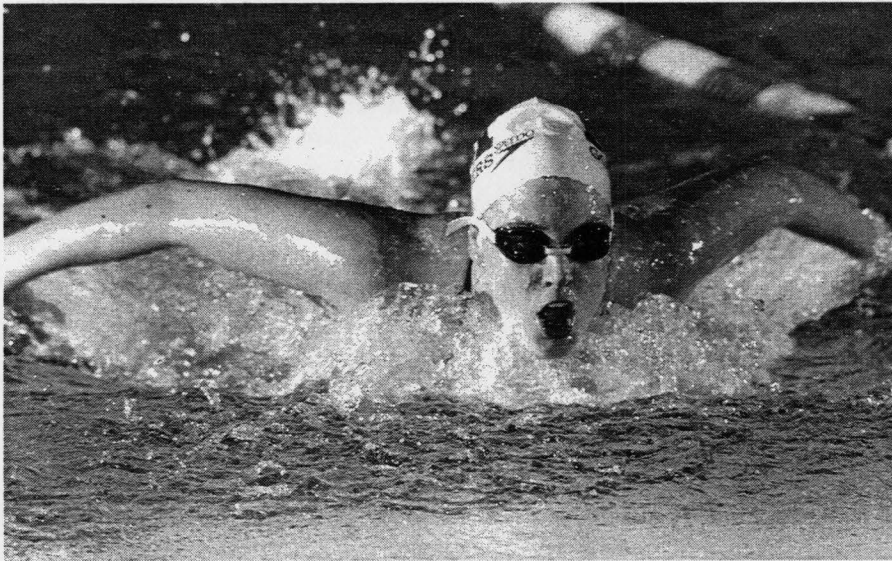
Tami Grewenow (1986-90) continued Minnesota's dominance of the 100-yard breaststroke at the Big

Ten meet, winning the event her sophomore year, making it three years in row a Gopher had won the event. (Roell was 1986 and 1987 champion.) Grewenow earned two more Big Ten titles as a member of the 200-yard medley relay team. She was an all-American (1989) and all-American honorable mention (1988, 1990) in the 100-yard breaststroke and two-time all-American honorable mention as a relay team member. Cass Moe (1988-90) shared the 1989 200-medley relay team Big Ten win with Heringer, Grewenow and Ruth Gunard. Deanne Hop and Stacey Niedenfuer were teammates from 1988-92. As frosh, they shared the Big Ten 400-yard freestyle relay title and the all-American honorable mention honors in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Also in frosh year, Niedenfuer earned all-American honorable mention kudos' in both medley relay events. During her career, Niedenfuer went on to win Big Ten titles in the 50-yard freestyle as a junior and shared in the 200-yard freestyle relay title as a sophomore and junior. She also earned two more all-American honor

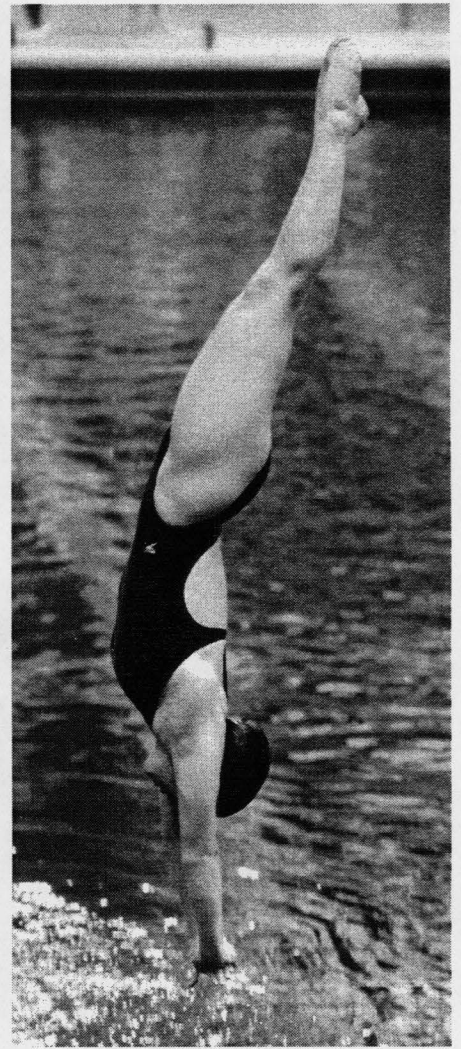




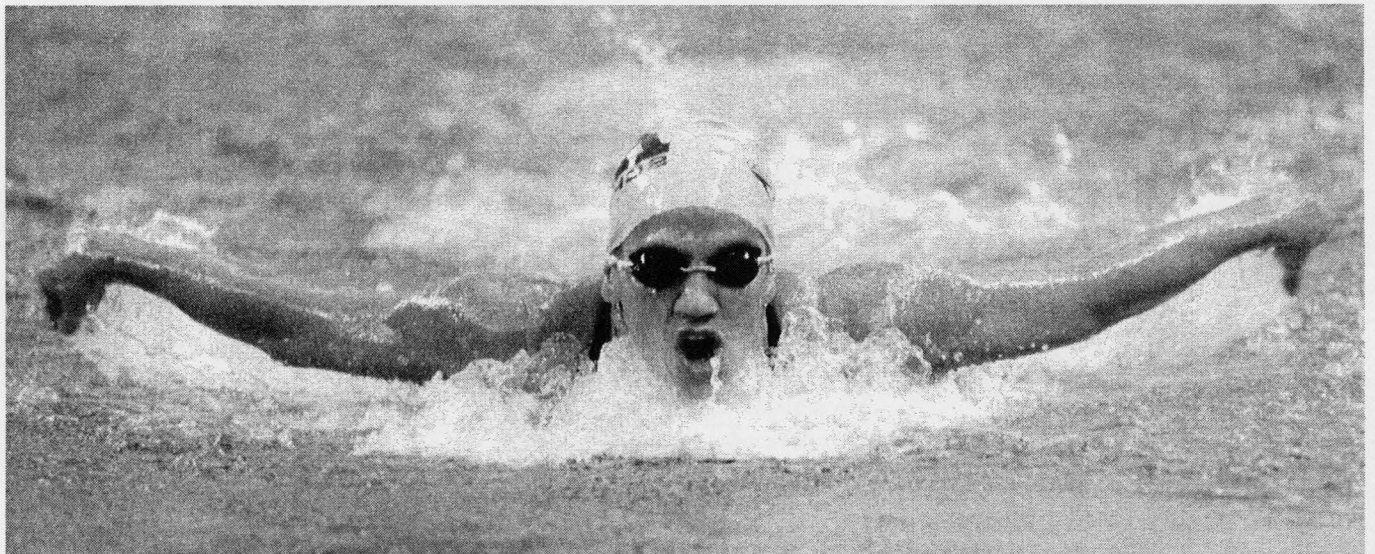
*Sue Roell*



*Jo Elsen*



*Laurie Nelson*



*Tanya Schuh*

mention honors as a relay team member. Hop was all-American honor mention one more time as a relay team member.

The Netherland's Linda Oegema (1988-93) made a big splash her sophomore year, winning the 200- and 400-yard individual medley (IM) events at the 1990 Big Ten Championships. That year, Oegema placed in the finals of the 400-yard IM at the NCAA meet for all-American honors and earned all-American honorable mention in the 200-yard IM. At the NCAA meet in 1991, she was all-American honor in the 200-yard IM and as member of a medley relay team. Lynn Newton also competed at the 1990 NCAA meet, earning all-American honorable mention in the 1,650-yard freestyle. As a senior at the 1992 NCAA championships, Newton's guts and determination helped propel the Gophers to their first ever top 10 finish at the NCAA championships.

Germany's Uta Herrmann (1988-90, 1991-92) was a strong sprinter, earning four Big Ten mantles as relay team member. As a senior, Herrmann was an all-American in the 200-yard medley relay and a three-time all-American honorable mention as a member of three other relay teams.

Laura Herman (1989-93) was a six-time Big Ten champion during her four years at Minnesota,

winning the 50-yard freestyle as a senior. She swam the freestyle leg of five Big Ten champion freestyle and medley relay teams. Herman, a six-time NCAA all-American (1)/all-American honorable mention (5) as relay team member, realized one of her goals as senior at the 1993 NCAA meet at the University (of Minnesota) Aquatic Center. She became an all-American honorable mention in an individual event, finishing 11th in the 50-yard freestyle.

Joining the team as a transfer, Trina Thames (1990-92) is the fastest backstroker in Minnesota history. Thames is Minnesota's highest-placing swimmer or diver at a NCAA championship, placing second in the 100-yard backstroke at the 1992 national finals. In 1991, she was seventh in the event. She also earned three all-American honors in relay team events and six all-American honorable mention awards in individual and relay team events. Thames set the Big Ten record in 1991 in the 100-yard backstroke, winning the race with a time of 56.00. She also was a three-time Big Ten champion as member of freestyle relay teams.

Jenny Easter (1990-94) was a 1991 Big Ten champion as a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay team. Pam Smith (1991-95) was a 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay team Big Ten champion at the 1992. She was all-

American honorable mention in the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays at the 1992 NCAA meet.

At the 1991 NCAA championships, Lisa Davis (1987-91) was all-American honorable mention in 1-meter diving, the first Minnesota diver to score at an NCAA championship. Andrea Rudser (1990-92) was all-American honorable mention in 200- and 400-yard medley relay events, as was Kris Zeller (1990-94) in the 200-medley relay. At the 1992 NCAA championships, Zeller was all-American in the 200-yard medley relay and all-American in the 400-yard medley relay.

At the first Big Ten championship of the decade in 1986, Minnesota set five conference records. At the final conference meet of the decade in 1995, Minnesota continued that tradition, setting two Big Ten records. Frosh Kim Wilson (1994-95) set the 1,650-yard freestyle record with a time of 16:14.67, breaking the former record by nearly three seconds. Senior Kara Martin earned all-American honors in platform diving and all-American honorable mention in 3-meter diving at the 1994 NCAA meet. In 1995 at the NCAA championships, she was all-American honorable mention in platform diving.

At the 1995 NCAA championships, five swimmers and a diver joined Martin in the accolades. Olga Splichalova (1994-95) was an all-American in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a sixth-place finish and all-American honorable mention in the 500-yard freestyle. Tanya Schuh (1993-95) was an all-American in the 100-yard butterfly after finishing fifth and was an all-American honorable mention in the 200-yard medley relay. Other all-American honorable mentions in the relay were Kiki Anderson, Gretchen Hegener and Suzie Helvig. Andrea Berg (1993-95) was all-American honorable mention in 1- and 3-meter springboard diving.



Stacey Niedenfuer

# TENNIS

con•sis•ten•cy (ken sis'ten se) n. 1. agreement with what has already been done or expressed; conformity with a previous practice.

—Webster's New World Dictionary

During the last ten seasons, consistency is a key word in describing the Minnesota tennis program both in terms of teams and individuals. The Gophers have finished seventh or higher in the conference all but one season since 1985, and have had 16 all-Big Ten recipients during those years.

Minnesota head coach Jack Roach (1983-87) was a model of consistency taking his team to four straight fourth-place finishes in the conference while compiling a 60-45 (.571) career mark and a 27-23 (.540) Big Ten record.

Roach was the head coach during the tenure of Nancy Rost, a three-time all Big Ten selection and two-time MVP for the Gophers. Rost finished her career on the all-time victories list in both singles (74) and doubles (65), while posting winning singles records all four years at Minnesota.

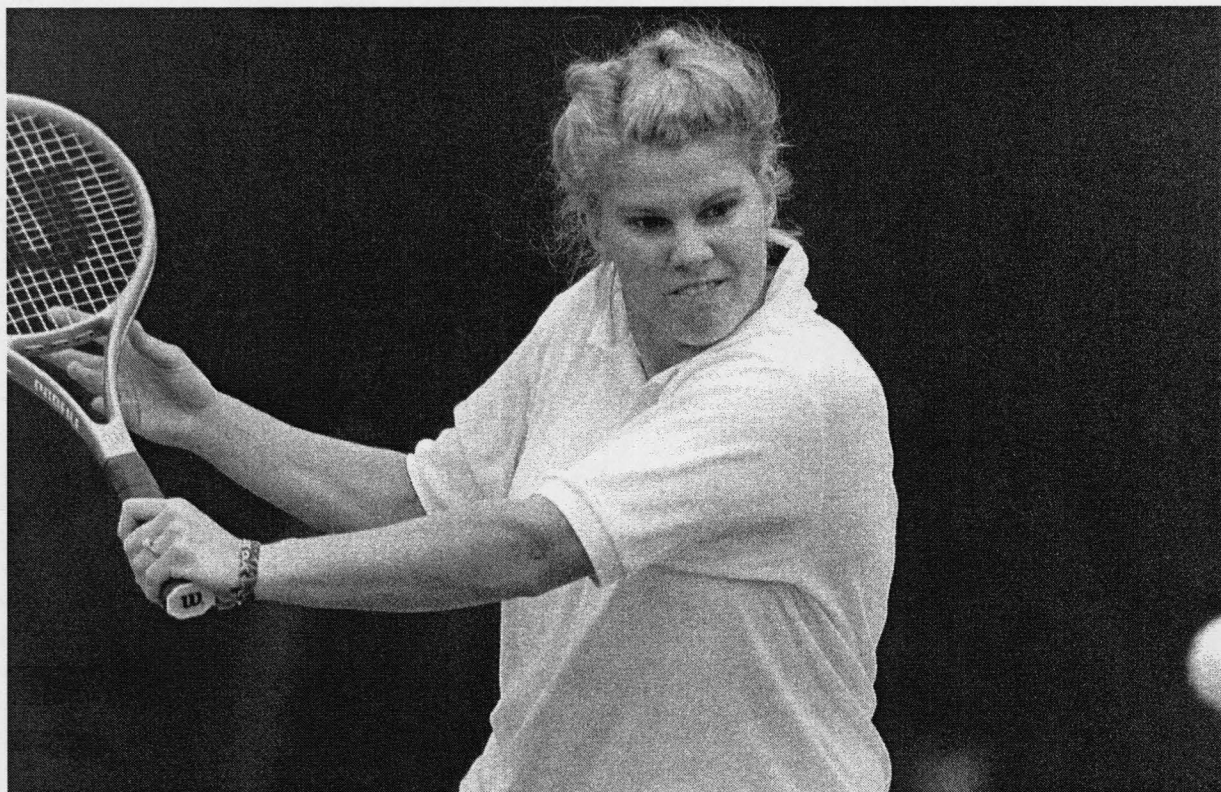
Roach also was instrumental in the start of the "Swedish Invasion" at Minnesota. Roach recruited players Kika Pahlett, Karin Eneberg, Anna Hallgren and Catharina Bengtsson to play for the Gophers. During their careers, the four compiled a 121-81 singles record for the maroon and gold.

After the 1986-87 season, Roach announced he would take a leave of absence and was replaced by David Creighton. Creighton had a successful inaugural year finishing with a 13-13 record and a 6-6 Big Ten mark. He also coached three Gophers

(Anne Gorde, Eneberg and Anne Marie Onvik) to all-Big Ten accolades in 1988, the first time in the history of the program that three Minnesota players received the award in one season.

The 1988 season saw the end of another great collegiate career as Eneberg completed her eligibility at the 'U'. Eneberg finished ranked sixth on the all-time wins list with 75 singles wins and was 12th on the all-time doubles list. She was named all-Big Ten once in her career and was the Minnesota Most Valuable Player in 1988.

Perhaps the finest season in Minnesota tennis history occurred in 1989 as Creighton was named Big Ten Coach of the Year after taking his team to a 19-10 overall record and an 8-4 Big Ten mark to finish fourth at the Big Ten Championships. The 19 wins were the most by a Minnesota team since the 1984 season and its



Anne Gorde



*Nancy Rost*

.655 winning percentage was the highest for a Gopher squad since 1980, a fact even more significant considering the Gophers played nine nationally-ranked teams during the year.

For the second straight season, three Gophers were named to the all-Big Ten team and Gorde was named Big Ten Sportswoman of the Year, an award voted on by conference players and given to the player who best exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship over the course of a season. Gorde and newcomer Sofie Olsson were named to the all-Big Ten singles teams and the doubles team of Gorde and Tonya Breitag were selected to the first-team doubles squad.

Gorde finished her career with 74 singles victories and 81 doubles wins while playing both number one singles and doubles her last three seasons. Her 74 singles wins ties her for seventh on the all-time Minnesota career list and her 81 doubles wins placed her sixth on that list at the time.

The 1989 season also was the introduction of Olsson and frosh Jennie Moe to the Minnesota scene. Olsson became only the second

newcomer in Minnesota history to be named all-Big Ten, one of two selections she would receive in her career. Olsson finished her career at Minnesota with 86 doubles wins, sixth on the all-time list.

Moe did not receive all-Big Ten honors until her sophomore year, one of four times she would be named to the team. For her career, Moe was nationally-ranked throughout her singles career and became the first Gopher to advance past the first round of the Rolex Indoor Intercollegiate Championships in 1990. The two-time Minnesota Most Valuable Player ended her career with 92 singles wins, third on the Gopher all-time list, and 89 doubles victories, good for fifth all time.

Moe also teamed with Olsson in doubles during her entire four-year career. The duo finished with 82 wins, the most by a doubles combination in Minnesota school history and was named second-team all-Big Ten in 1990. After 1990, the Big Ten discontinued the policy of naming separate all-Big Ten teams in singles and doubles and formed one joint 12-person team.

After the 1990 season, Creighton left the Gophers to open

his own tennis club in Florida, leaving the director's chair to Martin Novak. Novak came to the Gophers from Arkansas where he revitalized the Razorbacks program into a national contender. In what turned out to be a major rebuilding year after the loss of Gorde and Breitag, Minnesota finished 4-19 overall and 2-10 in the conference, its worst ever won-loss record.

But it did not take long for Novak's team to rebound as it finished the next season with a 7-7 Big Ten record and a 11-10 record overall to finish seventh in the Big Ten. Led by Olsson and Moe and newcomers Susan Culik and Shanna Johnson, Minnesota was well on its way to returning to Big Ten and national prominence and returning to the model of consistency it has been during the last 10 years.

Culik and Johnson helped lead the Gophers to its second consecutive seventh place finish at the Big Ten Championships in 1993. Johnson was named most valuable player and had a 12-match winning streak at one point in the season, second only to Lisa Martin's 13 consecutive wins in 1984.

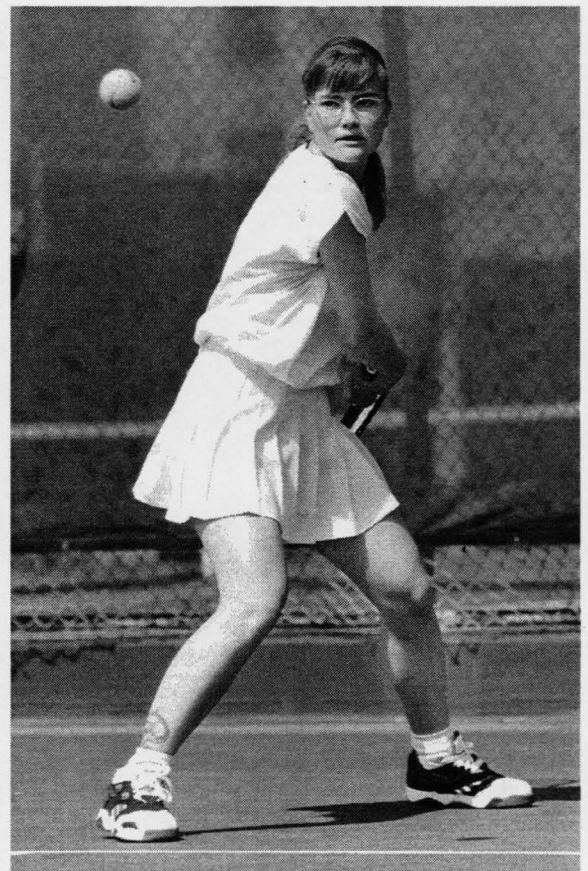
Novak's second year also



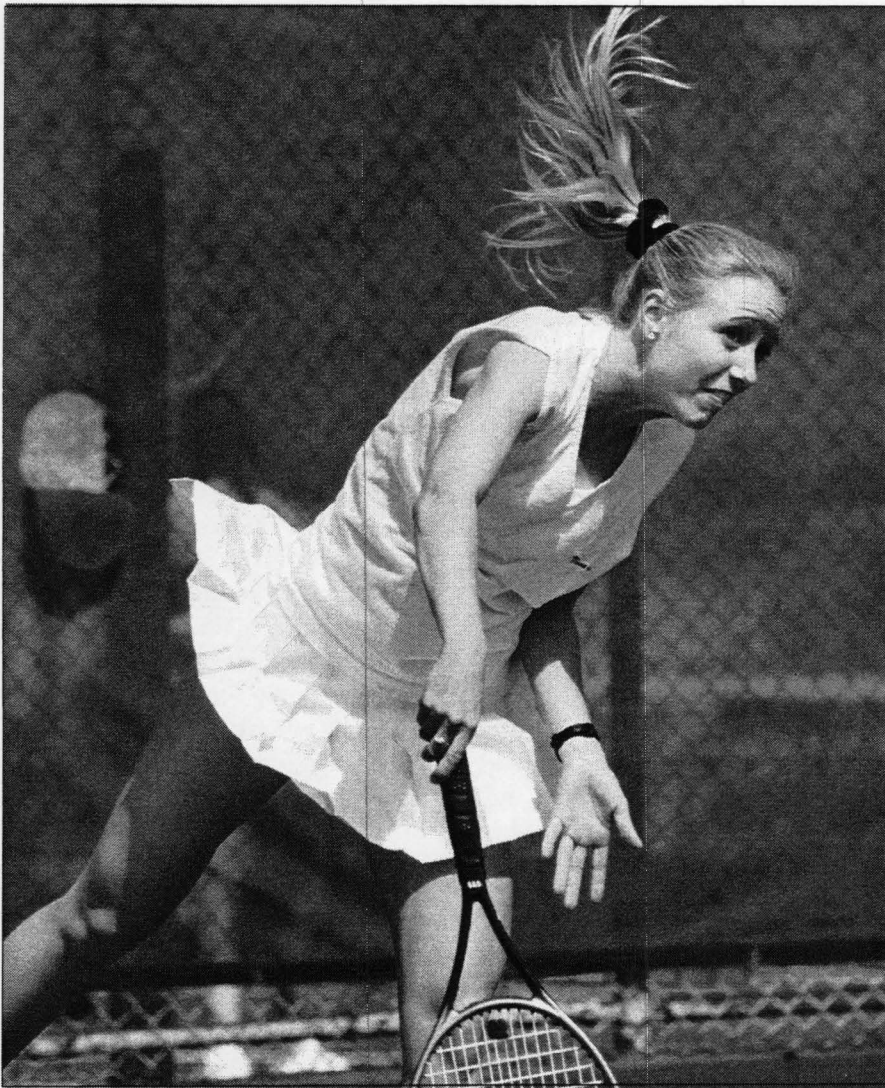
*Soffie Olson and Jennie Moe*



*Karin Eneberg*



*Susan Culik*



*Tiffany Gates*

extended a tradition that was fast becoming a legacy of the women's tennis program at Minnesota... academic excellence. In Novak's five years at Minnesota, he has coached 20 academic all-Big Ten recipients, three CoSIDA Academic all-District selections and his teams have won the University of Minnesota team academic award five consecutive seasons with a GPA of 3.30 or higher.

In accordance with the academic excellence and consistency during Novak's tenure, 1994 proved to be much of the same as Minnesota placed seventh again at the Big Ten Championships and welcomed a bright new star in Tiffany Gates.

Gates made an immediate impact in her first season as she

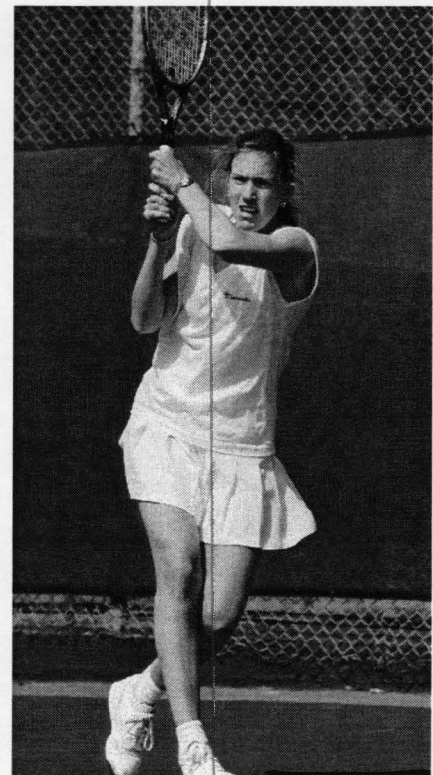
stepped into the number one singles spot, compiling a record of 17-11 in singles to earn first-team all-Big Ten honors. Gates became the first Minnesota athlete since Moe to receive all-Big Ten accolades and was the first frosh to get the honor since Sofie Olsson in 1989.

Gates continued to enter her name in the Minnesota record books in 1995 as she became the first Minnesota woman athlete to receive an invitation to the NCAA Singles Championships in Malibu, Calif. Gates lost in the first round to Melissa Zimpfer of Tennessee, but still held her head high as she became the first athlete to accomplish such a feat at Minnesota. Gates had an excellent year as she finished with a 26-10

overall singles record, earned all-Big Ten honors for the second consecutive season and ended the year ranked 69th in the nation in the Rolex Collegiate Rankings.

Gates also teamed with junior Dana Peterson to form one of the most formidable doubles teams in the nation. Gates and Peterson were ranked as high as 30th during the season and concluded the year with a 22-10 doubles record in helping Minnesota post its fourth straight seventh-place Big Ten finish.

Looking ahead to the future, Novak has laid a solid foundation to develop this consistent program into a national contender. With young players such as Jennifer Hayes, Jenni Svehla and one of the best recruiting classes in Minnesota history with the addition of Jana Hrdinova, Alice Rangithienchai and Tarah Elkins, this model of consistency could turn into a national powerhouse based on consistency in the years to come.



*Dana Peterson*

# TRACK AND FIELD

Track and field during the second decade of the Minnesota women's athletic department has had several changes, but one constant. During the past 10 years, the Cooke Fieldhouse was remodeled and a new surface installed. The Bierman Track and Field Stadium was built for the 1990 United States Olympic Festival, and the 400-meter track with its ten 48-inch lanes is the largest running surface in the United States. Hundreds of athletes and several assistant coaches have come and gone through the program, but head coach Gary Wilson has remained through it all. After taking over for Mike Lawless before the 1986 indoor season, Wilson has shaped the program to produce 16 Big Ten champions and 16 NCAA all-Americans. Despite all of the individual honors, Wilson has strived to move the Gophers up the ladder as a team in Big Ten and NCAA competition. The best results have come in the last part of this 10-

year period, as the Gophers finished fourth at the 1994 Big Ten indoor meet and third at the 1995 Big Ten outdoor meet.

The other constant in the Gopher program has been assistant coach Lynne Anderson. A two-time Olympian in the discus, Anderson has imparted her knowledge to the Gopher throwers over the past decade, and with sparking results. The Gophers have won 14 outdoor titles individually since the Big Ten instituted women's track and field as a sport in 1982. The 14 championships have come in the javelin (6), discus (6) and shot put (2), all with Anderson as the throws coach.

The start of the second decade of Minnesota women's track and field was filled with injuries and disappointment. Minnesota finished ninth in both of the 1986 Big Ten meets, scoring 12 points indoors and 16 points outdoors. However, it also saw the conclusion of one of the great

track careers in Minnesota history. Senior Jody Eder set a varsity record in the indoor 1000 meters, a record that still stands to this day. Eder owns seven Minnesota varsity indoor records, ranging from 880 yards to two miles. She is also the Minnesota record-holder at 1500 meters and 3000 meters outdoors. Eder is the only Gopher in history to earn all-American status on the track both indoors and outdoors.

The 1987 season saw the emergence of a new star on the Gopher scene, and some hope that the program might turn the corner. After a disappointing 10th-place finish at the Big Ten indoor meet, with only two athletes scoring six points, the Gophers were trying to find any spark they could. The spark came from a frosh by the name of Jean Schleusner in the discus. Schleusner, who had finished fifth in the 1987 Big Ten indoor shot put, improved her mark in the discus by over 20 feet during the season and finished second at the Big Ten outdoor meet. The Gophers placed three in the top six of the discus, scoring 13 of the team's 29 points. The 29 points earned the Gophers an eighth-place finish, Minnesota's best finish in a conference meet in two years. School records fell in the 10,000 meters (Eileen Donaghy), triple jump (Jackie Robinson) and high jump (Robyn Hackbarth).

The real improvement came during the 1988 season, one of Wilson's favorite as a coach. The Gophers earned their first-ever Big Ten indoor individual championship, as freshman Tracee Wolf leaped a school-record 5-9 3/4 to take the high jump title. Wolf's win helped the Gophers finish eighth at the Big Ten indoor meet with a school-record 19 team points. Outdoors, the results got even better. Minnesota used two firsts and three seconds to score 58



*Decia Agnew*



*Dani Parkos*

points and finish sixth, the school's best-ever showing at the conference meet. Donaghy, now a junior, finished second in the 5,000 and 10,000 at the conference meet, and finished eighth in the 10,000 at the NCAA meet, earning the first all-American award for Minnesota in outdoor track and field since 1985. Sophomore Decia Agnew (javelin) and freshman Rachel Lewis (discus) began sensational careers with Big Ten championships.

The 1989 team began where the 1988 team left off, scoring a school-record 40 points at the Big Ten indoor meet and finishing in sixth place, the best finish for the Gophers until 1994. Senior Gretchen Otto won Minnesota's first-ever Big Ten indoor championship on the track, establishing a school record in the 600 meters that stands to this day. The Gophers had the school's first-ever top-five finish in mind at the 1989 Big Ten outdoor meet, but came up just 4 1/2 points short with 58 1/2

points and a seventh-place showing. Lewis continued her dominance in the discus, winning her second consecutive Big Ten championship and finishing fifth at the NCAA championship, her first all-American award.

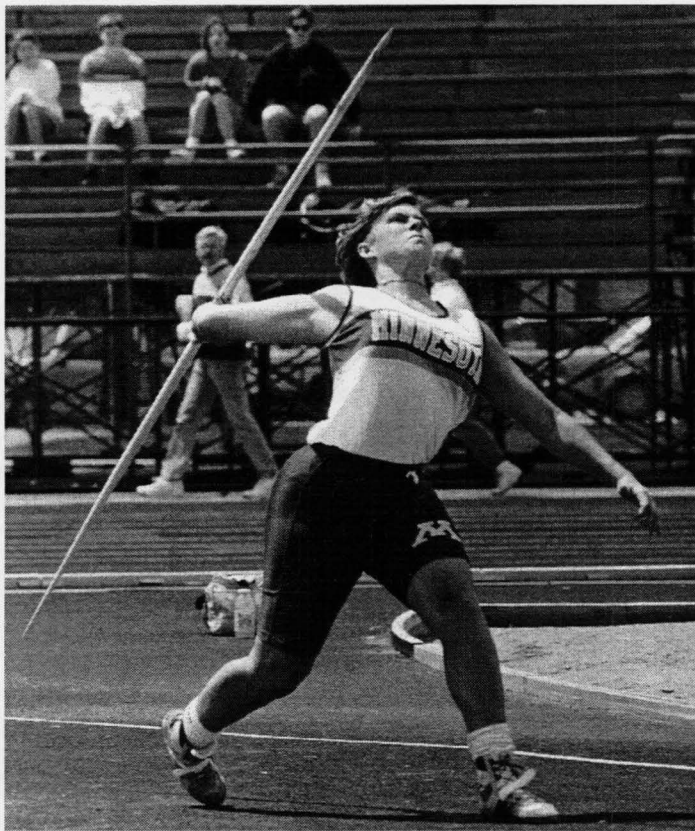
Lewis continued her brilliant career during the Gophers' 1990 indoor season, capturing a second-place finish at the 1990 NCAA indoor meet in the shot put. It is the highest that a Gopher has ever placed at a national indoor meet, and Lewis became Minnesota's first indoor all-American since 1984. Lewis also won her first Big Ten indoor championship in the shot put. Outdoors, the Gophers came close to a top-five finish for the third consecutive year, but finished one point out of fifth place. Minnesota's 59-point total marked the fourth consecutive season that the Gophers had improved their Big Ten meet score. Lewis won her third consecutive Big Ten discus title and her first-ever Big Ten outdoor

shot put title to become Minnesota's first double-winner at a Big Ten meet. Lewis gained all-American status in both events at the NCAA meet. Agnew won her second Big Ten javelin title, while Otto (400-meter hurdles) and Schleusner (discus) gained all-American status for the first time in their careers. Lewis and Schleusner scored 12 points in the discus to place Minnesota 18th nationally, the best-ever finish for the Gophers at an NCAA meet.

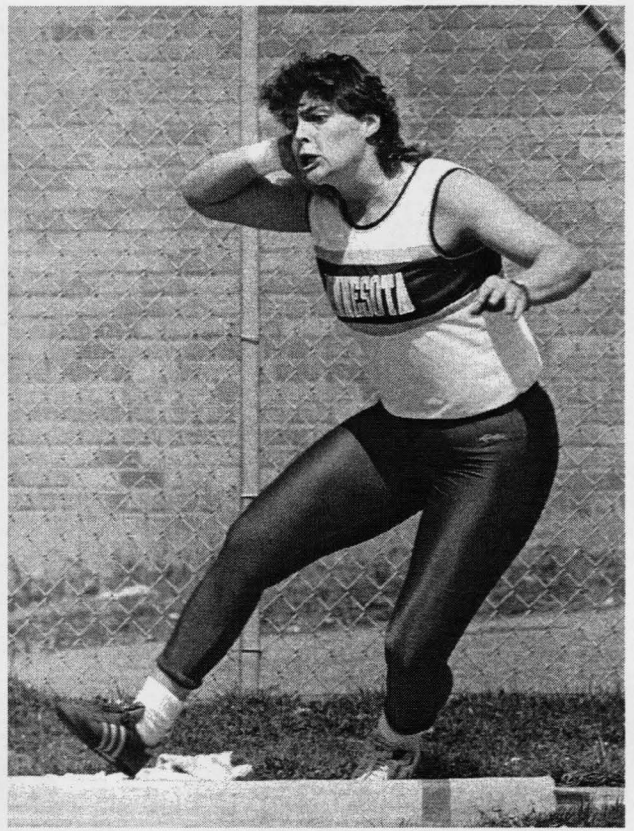
Minnesota's team performance slumped at the 1991 Big Ten indoor meet, scoring 21 points in a 9th-place finish. It did not affect Lewis, as the senior won her second consecutive Big Ten indoor shot put title and placed sixth at the NCAA meet to earn her fifth all-American citation. Again, the Gopher team goal in 1991 was to crack the top five at the Big Ten outdoor meet. But Minnesota came up seven points short, scoring 43 points and finishing seventh. Lewis scored 14 of those 43 points, but could not win a conference championship. Agnew was Minnesota's lone Big Ten champion in 1991 outdoors, winning her third javelin crown. Lewis and Agnew led Minnesota to a second consecutive top-20 finish at the NCAA meet, with Lewis winning her sixth all-American award with a third-place finish in the discus and Agnew winning her first all-American honor with her fourth-place finish in the javelin. Lewis left Minnesota with six Big Ten titles, six all-American awards and both school-records in the shot put.

Losing Lewis and Agnew for the 1992 season, Minnesota was hoping to improve as it hosted its first-ever Big Ten women's outdoor meet. However, the Gophers struggled for the majority of the 1992 season and finished ninth, both indoors and outdoors. Indoors, senior Chris Rowe won her first-ever all-American award by finishing seventh at the NCAA meet in the mile, running the fastest time for a





*Heather Berlin*



*Rachel Lewis*



*The Bierman Track and Field Stadium*



*Kim Martin*

Gopher in a decade. Junior Val Owen was Minnesota's best performer at the Big Ten meet, finishing second in the long jump. Owen remains Minnesota's top long jumper of all-time indoors. Outdoors, junior Susan Bliss delighted the home crowd with a second-place finish in the 5000 meters at the Big Ten outdoor meet. Rowe scored in two events.

In 1993, Wilson saw the breakthrough that he had been hoping for since he came to guide the Gopher program. After an eight-point performance at the Big Ten indoor meet, Minnesota scored a school-record 79 points at the 1993 Big Ten outdoor meet, finishing fourth for the first time in school history. Even more amazing, the Gophers finished one point behind

Wisconsin, a perennial power in the sport of women's track and field. The Gophers were tied for the lead after the first day of the Big Ten outdoor meet with 33 points, led by junior Heather Berlin's performance in the javelin. Her throw of 178-2 won the Big Ten title, set a school record and sent her to the NCAA meet, where she finished third and became an all-American for the first time as a Gopher. The second day of the Big Ten meet saw Minnesota score 46 points, with 32 coming in the discus and triple jump. Frosh Lori Hardrick finished second in the triple jump to lead a 17-point Gopher outburst. To this point, this was Minnesota's most successful team in history.

The indoor season had been a struggle for the Gophers before 1994. Minnesota had only one sixth-place finish and one seventh-place finish in the first 12 years of the Big Ten indoor meet. 1994 was a different story, as the Gophers scored a school-record 41 points and finished fourth. Sophomore Joan Karnes kept Minnesota's throws tradition alive with a Big Ten title in the shot put. Minnesota's sprinters and jumpers also contributed to the team's success, as senior Sascha Ramsay and sophomore Kathianne Sellers sparked in the 200 meters, and Hardrick scored in the triple jump. Minnesota came close to repeating their fourth-place finish at the Big Ten meet, but came up 3 1/2 points short and finished in seventh place with 58 1/2 points. Karnes repeated her shot put feat outdoors, leading a Gopher effort of 37 points in the throws and the heptathlon. Hardrick and junior Cindy Bethany also contributed heavily in the jumping events. However, the loss of Berlin, Ramsay and sophomore distance specialist Lori Townsend to injury prevented the Gophers from even a better finish at the conference meet.

The injury bug had crippled the Gophers in 1994, so health was

the main concern going into the 1995 season. Minnesota knew it had the talent to compete at the top of the conference, but the talent had to be healthy so it could score points at the big meets. Illness to Townsend and some bad breaks went against Minnesota at the 1995 Big Ten indoor meet, as the Gophers could only muster 28 points and a seventh-place finish. First-year performer Kim Martin broke Minnesota varsity records in the 55 and 200 meters, setting the stage for bigger and better things in the upcoming years. Townsend regained her health for the NCAA indoor meet and gained her first all-American award with a sixth-place finish in the 3,000 meters. Outdoors, Minnesota used the 'home track' advantage to score 85.5 points and place third for the first time in school history. Fifteen different athletes scored points, including individual championships for Berlin in the javelin and Parkos in the discus. Minnesota's 4x100 relay team finished third in a school-record time, while Bethany exploded past the 40-foot barrier in the triple jump to place third. Berlin and Townsend wrapped up their seasons by picking up their second all-American citations as Gophers. Berlin finished second in the javelin, while Townsend finished sixth in the 5,000 meters.

The end of the second decade of Minnesota women's track and field saw the achievement of the school's first-ever top-three finish at a Big Ten outdoor meet, and improvement in every aspect of the program. Dominance in the throws events continued, but a resurgence in sprinters and jumpers can be seen. These facts point to a promising future for Minnesota women's track and field.

# VOLLEYBALL

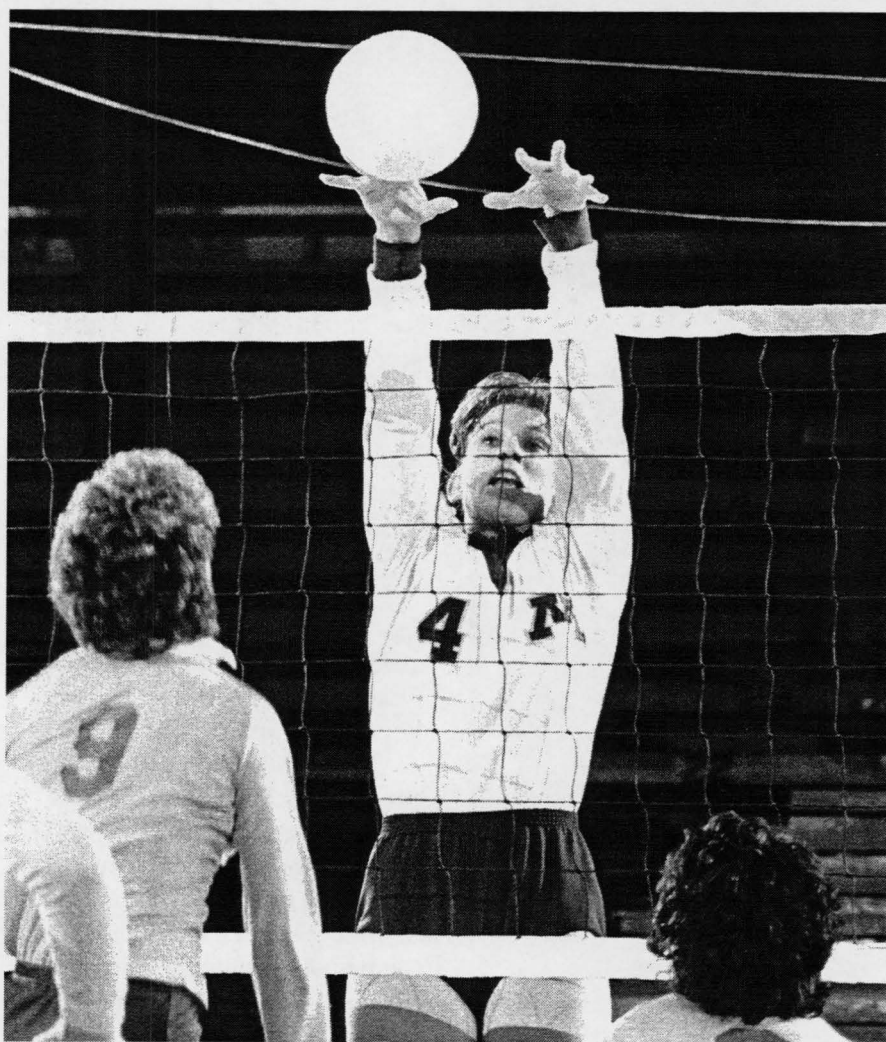
As is the case with many women's sports, volleyball has seen many changes in the last decade. Budget, travel, support staff, facilities, and NCAA tournament format to name just a few. But while changes in the sport at a national level have undergone revisions, the winning tradition of Minnesota volleyball has remained a constant.

Four postseason appearances, including a trip to the "Sweet Sixteen", and eight 20-plus win seasons in the last decade. Twenty-one all-Big Ten selections, a Big Ten Player of the Year and two Big Ten Newcomer of the Year selections. Nine AVCA All-Mideast region selections and five AVCA All-North Central region team members. All in the last decade.

The seasons from 1985 to 1989 proved to be a golden period for Minnesota volleyball, and players from those years still dominate the record books today. The names Miller, Gonzalez, Oesterling, and Schaefer are just a few that bring back memories of greatness to Gopher volleyball enthusiasts.

The 1986 season saw the Gophers finish second in the Big Ten with a 13-5 record to post its best Big Ten finish since league play began in 1982. As a senior in 1986, Pam Miller shattered career hitting and blocking records and finished her career as Minnesota's all-time leading hitter with 1,519 kills. She increased her career block assists record to 398 and added the total blocks record with 536, a record that still stands.

The Gophers started the 1987 season with a bang, recording a 7-0 record out of the gate that earned them a No. 20 ranking in the Tachikara coaches' poll, their first national ranking in the six-year history of that poll. Despite a 24-11 overall record and third-place Big Ten finish by season's end, the Gophers



*Pam Miller*

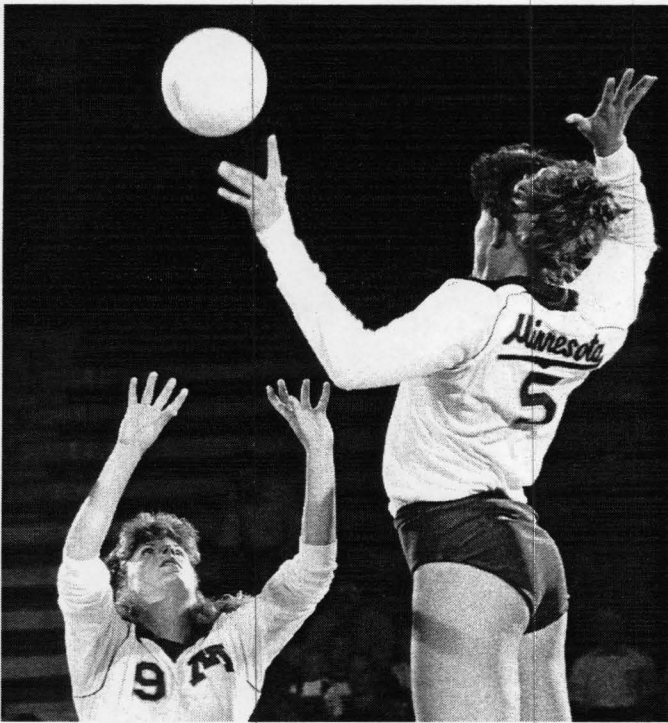
narrowly missed a bid to the NCAA Mideast Region Tournament, as only two Big Ten schools were invited.

In 1988, the Gophers won at least 20 matches for the fourth straight year, finishing 21-10 overall. A late-season surge, in which the Gophers won six of their last eight matches, enabled the team to tie for second in the conference.

The 1989 season proved to be one of the Gophers' most successful campaigns to date. Minnesota was 29-9, finished second in the conference with a 13-5 mark and recorded 11 sweeps while earning its first-ever NCAA postseason berth. In the first round, a hometown crowd of 4,969

watched as Minnesota defeated Colorado, 3-0. Then it was off to the "Sweet 16," where the Gophers lost to No. 1 Mideast seed Nebraska, 3-1, in the semifinals of the NCAA Mideast Regional at Lincoln, Neb. The Gophers set team records in 1989 that still stand for most kills, total attacks, assists and digs.

Andrea Gonzalez (1985-88) dominated, making her mark on both the Minnesota and Big Ten record books. Gonzalez holds career school records for most kills (2,140), total attacks (4,918), service aces (265) and digs (1,188). Her four-year Big Ten kill total of 1,281 was first in the conference over that span. She



*Sharon Oesterling and Lori Miller*

became just the fourth NCAA Division I women's volleyball player to reach 2,000 kills for her career and she held the Big Ten record for most kills in a match with 41 against Michigan State (1987) until the 1995 season. Gonzalez was a unanimous first-team all-Big Ten pick for two straight years and is one of only two players to be named to the conference's first team for four straight years.

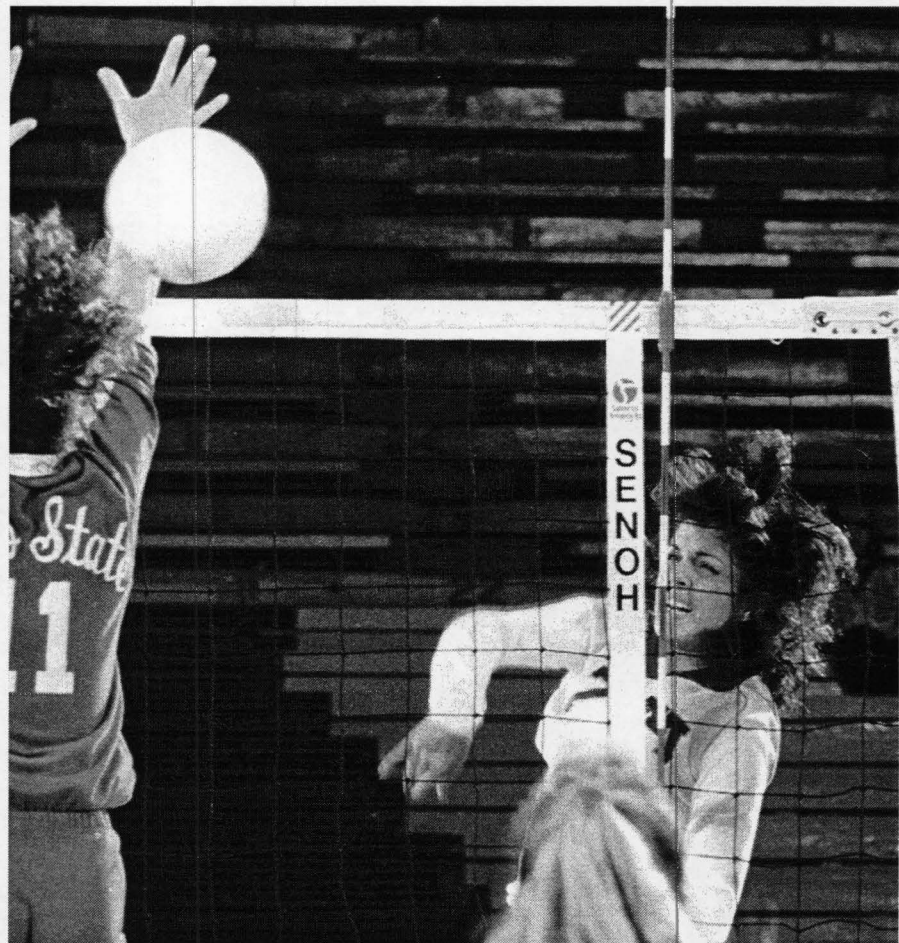
Chris Schaefer (1986-89) set a school record with 646 kills in 1988 and is second in career kills with 1,896. She earned most valuable player honors for the regional round of the NCAA tournament in 1989, was named to the AVCA All-Mideast Region first-team and was first-team all-Big Ten.

Sharon Oesterling (1986-89) holds the Minnesota record for career assists with 6,024 and for assists in a season with 1,725 in 1989. She was a first-team all-Big Ten selection and first-team AVCA All-Mideast Region selection in 1989.

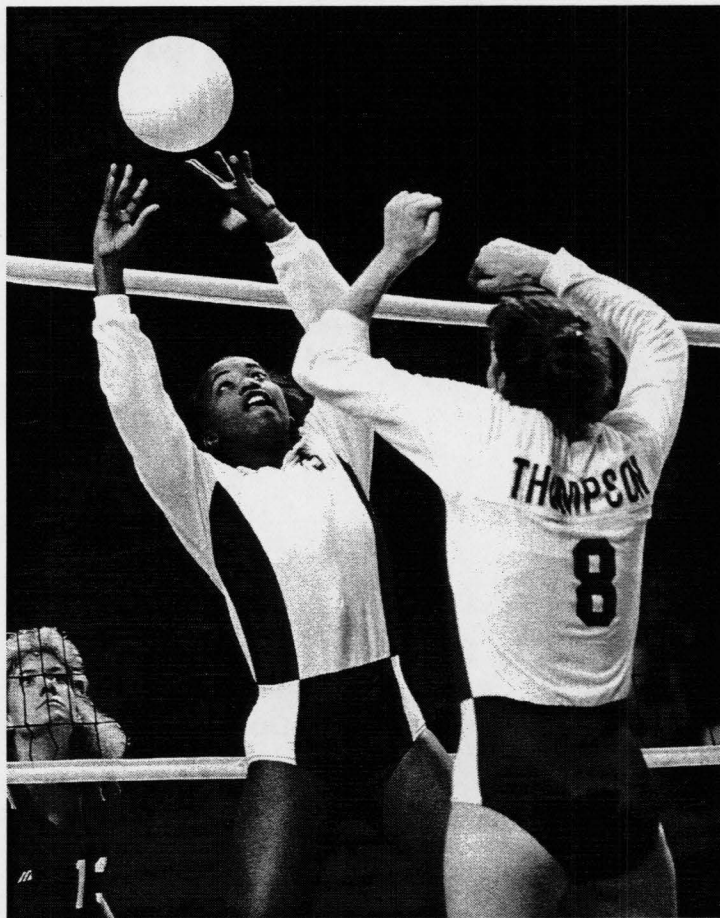
After its first NCAA tournament appearance, Minnesota suffered

through consecutive losing seasons in 1990 and 1991. The 1992 season (25-12, 13-7) saw the Gophers return to their winning form, posting 25 wins and earning an invitation to the National Invitational Volleyball Championships in Kansas City, Mo. The Gophers won three of four matches and two playoff games before losing their semifinal match to tie for third in the tournament. In the Big Ten Conference, Minnesota finished fourth with a 13-7 record, its best conference finish since tying for second place in 1989. The Gophers' 13 conference wins equaled the school-record Big Ten victory total also posted by the 1986 and 1989 teams.

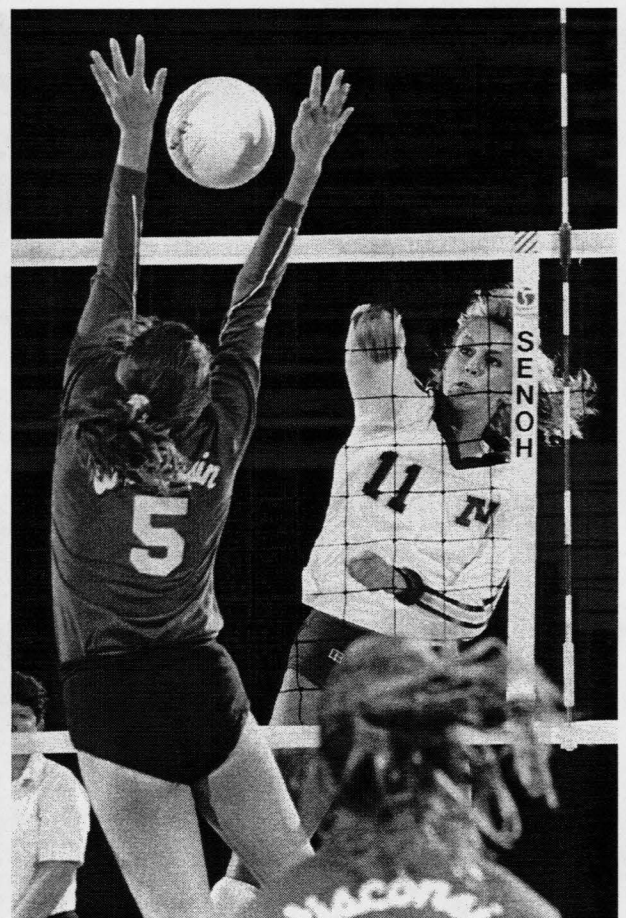
Minnesota's 22-9 overall record in 1993 was good enough to earn the team its second NCAA



*Andrea Gonzalez*



*Sue Jackson*



*Chris Schaefer*



*Minnesota hosted Ball State in the second round of the 1993 NCAA Tournament.*

tournament berth, and just as in their first appearance, Minnesota made the most of it by advancing to the tournament's "Sweet 16." Advancing to the round of 16, though, took two victories, as opposed to one win in 1989, because the NCAA expanded its field from 32 to 48 teams in 1993. Minnesota defeated Ball State, 3-0, in the first round before facing the nation's fourth-ranked team in in UC-Santa Barbara on the Gaucho's home court. It went five games, but the Gophers prevailed, winning 3-2. Minnesota returned home for the NCAA Mideast Region semifinals and championship, where it fell to Notre Dame, 3-2, in front of 6,002 fans in Williams Arena. The team's lone senior, Sue Jackson, was named all-Big Ten and second team all-Mideast Region. She ranks second on Minnesota's all-time list in assists with 5,120.

The Notre Dame match was the end of the line for the Gophers' 1993 season, and it was also the last match the Gophers would play in the storied Williams Arena.

After years of playing in Williams Arena, the Gophers began a new era with a "home of their own" when they moved next door to the Sports Pavilion. The 1994 season was Minnesota's first in the Sports Pavilion, where the team now enjoys access to a home locker room directly off the court, along with the team room for meetings, a complete training room and weight room at their disposal.

The 1994 season (21-15, 10-10) also marked the third consecutive season that the team attended a postseason tournament and its third straight year with 20 or more wins in a season. The Gophers posted 3-1 record at the NIVC Championships, losing to eventual champion Cal State-Northridge, 3-2. Middle hitter Jean Schintz was named to the all-Big Ten first team and to the NIVC all-tournament team, while Gretchen Dahl ended her career second on the

all-time block assists list. Heidi Olhausen set a new school record for block assists in a season with 126.

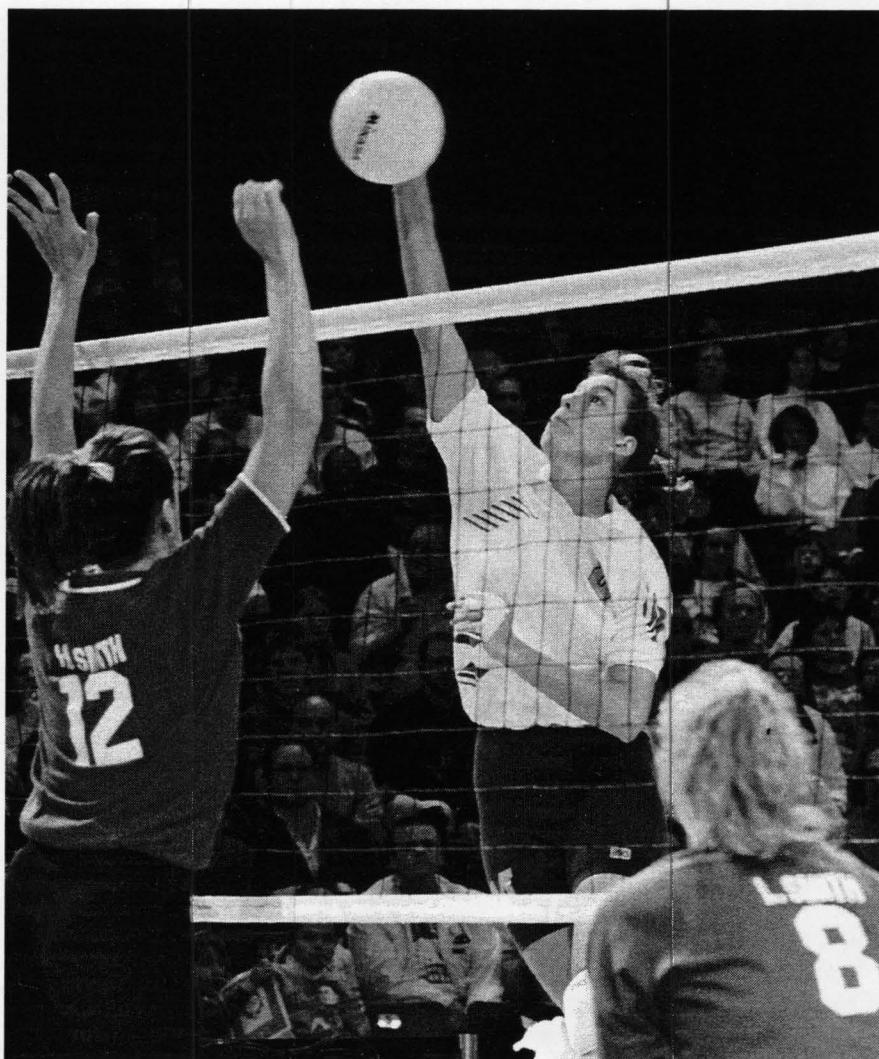
A name that is finding its way to a permanent place in the record books is Katrien DeDecker. DeDecker, a native of Bredene, Belgium, arrived on the scene in 1993 and was named the Big Ten New-comer of the Year. In her first month of collegiate play, DeDecker recorded 31 kills in a match. By her junior season in 1995, DeDecker joined nine others to surpass 1,000 career kills.

The 1994 season also marked the end of Stephanie Schleuder's 13-year career as head volleyball coach at Minnesota. Schleuder departed as the Gopher coach with a 263-173

record at Minnesota. She posted a 561-285 overall coaching record and was among the top 10 winningest Division I coaches in the nation.

Taking over the reigns on an interim basis as head coach was a name familiar with Minnesota volleyball, Pam Miller.

A new decade of Gopher volleyball begins in 1996, with a new face leading Minnesota into the future. But as has been the case with the last decade and decades prior, Gopher volleyball will likely stick with one tradition...winning.



*Katrien DeDecker*

# PATTY BERG

*“At a recent meeting, the Board of Athletic Control decided to give ‘M’'s to the women of the first basketball team. This is the first time such recognition has been given the women and it is a fitting reward at the close of such a successful season as the past one has been. During the past year, ten games have been won, three of these games away from home. The letters have now arrived and are in the shape of a neat gold pin bearing the maroon ‘M’. They will be awarded to Emily Johnston, Bessie Cox, Hattie VanBergen, Mabel Smith, Hannah Oren, Ivy Wagner, Mary Longbrake and Sylvia Frank.”*

—The Minnesota Alumni Weekly, May 18, 1903

The first ‘M’'s given to women athletes in 1903 as on record at the University archives may have been different styles, but the reasons for the awards today are the same.

On May 20, 1975, the first Patty Berg Athletic Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, in Minneapolis, Minn. The banquet was to honor those women who have earned honors both academically and athletically. Patty Berg was the guest of honor for her dedication to the sport of golf, putting Minnesota women on the map. Patty Berg won more than eighty tournaments and helped found the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) in 1949. Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Berg grew up playing on boys' football and baseball teams. She picked up golf at the age of 13 and three years later won the 1934 Minneapolis City Championship - the first of twenty-nine amateur victories in seven years. She won the Minnesota State Championship and that same year advanced to the final of the 1935 US Women's Amateur Championship. Berg turned professional in 1940 and in 1949 teamed with Babe Zaharias to form the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA). She was among

the first inductees to the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1951, and to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974. Berg now lives in Fort Myers, Florida.

The early ‘pioneers’ probably never envisioned an athletic department and the opportunities now enjoyed by today's women athletes. For it was as recent as 1974 that women were not allowed to walk the lower level of the Bierman Field Athletic Building. And no doubt these women would be surprised to see the Aquatic Center, the track and field and the softball stadiums. They did not have the same facilities, the same conditions, or the same opportunities as today's student-athletes. Yet, they had the desire to compete and to excel. And because of them, women's athletics is what it is today.

We have had all-Americans, all-Academic, all Big Ten, Big Ten Medal of Honor, Big Ten Player of the Year, Senior Athlete of the Year and NCAA National Champions. We have records that are meant to be broken so we can say how proud we are to know we run quicker, score more points, and have higher GPA's.

The department of women's athletics has honored those women who have set the ground before some of you were even born. That ground was a different nature — sharing uniforms between five sports, practicing at 9 p.m. because that was the time available after the men's teams were done practicing. Traveling trips by university cars and pooling money to pay for gas and meals. Though the setting was different, the desires and growth are still the same.

We continue to encourage future student-athletes to continue this proud tradition. The decades before you were a beginning - a starting point to build upon and continue to turn dreams into reality.

*“Let her swim, climb mountain peaks, pilot an airplane, battle against the elements, take risks, go out for adventure, and she will not feel before the world...timidity.”*

— Article written by  
Cindy Kommers

