

SPORTS NEWS



Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 1997

KRAFT NAMED WCHA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

University of Minnesota junior wing Ryan Kraft has been named WCHA Offensive Player of the Week his efforts in last weekend's league sweep over Wisconsin giving the Golden Gophers a share of the 1996-97 WCHA Championship. Kraft, who was honored for a league-high third time this season as WCHA Offensive Player of the Week, helped Minnesota stake a claim to the title with a 4-3 win on Friday followed by a 7-3 win Saturday. It marks the 10th time overall in 1996-97 that a Golden Gopher hockey student-athlete has been cited for league player of the week honors.

Kraft, from Moorhead, Minn., scored five goals last weekend including a third-period hat trick as part of a six-goal frame in Saturday's title-clinching win. Kraft's six-point weekend brings his season totals to 24-18--42 on the season. He has totals of 10-7--17 in the team's last six home games, and finished fifth in the league in scoring.

Kraft's final goal Saturday gives him 50 career goals and 125 career points in 121 games at the U of M, and the hat trick Saturday was the fourth of his career. Two of Kraft's career hat tricks have come against the University of Alaska-Anchorage Seawolves, this weekend's WCHA First Round playoff opponent at Mariucci Arena. Game time for the best two-of-three series is 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (if necessary).

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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March 3, 1997

BOBBY JACKSON NAMED BIG TEN CO-PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Minnesota guard Bobby Jackson was named the Big Ten Player of the Week for the second consecutive week and the third time this season. Jackson shared the honor with Illinois' Kiwane Garris this week. Jackson and Garris are the only players in the conference to be honored three times this season. All three of Jackson's awards have come during Big Ten play, while Garris was honored once during nonconference play.

Jackson's selection marks the fifth time a Golden Gopher player was selected, which is a school record. Minnesota has never had a player garner the award three times during the same season prior to this season. Jackson scored the tying basket and hit the winning free throw vs. Michigan. He scored 19 points and hauled down nine rebounds in the game as Minnesota clinched its first Big Ten title since 1982.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

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For Immediate Release

March 4, 1997

UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH MEN'S ATHLETICS IN PRODUCING GOLDEN GOPHER GROWTH POSTER

The University Children's Foundation and the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota have partnered with Men's Athletics to sponsor the Golden Gopher growth poster. The oversize poster features co-captain centers John Thomas and Trevor Winter and 7,000 of them will be distributed at the end of the Michigan State game on Thursday.

The University Children's Foundation is a valuable source of funding for research into the causes and cures of childhood diseases. The mission of the University Children's Foundation is to raise funds to support the basic and applied research programs of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota.



SPORTS NEWS

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For Immediate Release

March 5, 1997

BOBBY JACKSON NAMED SECOND TEAM ALL-AMERICA

The United States Basketball Writers Association announced that Golden Gopher senior Bobby Jackson has been named a second team All-America selection. In addition, Jackson was named a third team All-American selection, Big Ten Player of the Year, and placed on the first team All Big Ten team by College Hoops Insider magazine. Junior Sam Jacobson was an All-Big Ten second team selection and Head Coach Clem Haskins was named as the Big Ten Coach of the Year by the same publication.

USBWA First Team All-American

Tim Duncan, Wake Forest; Keith Van Horn, Utah; Ron Mercer, Kentucky; Danny Fortson, Cincinnati; Raef LaFrentz, Kansas.

USBWA Second Team All-American

Bobby Jackson, Minnesota; Chauncey Billups, Colorado; Adonal Foyle, Colgate; Brevin Knight, Stanford; Jacque Vaughn, Kansas.

College Hoops Insider Awards:

National Player of the Year, Tim Duncan-Wake Forest
National Coach of the Year, Rob Evans-Mississippi

First Team All-America:

Tim Duncan, Wake Forest; Ed Gray, California; Brevin Knight, Stanford; Raef LaFrentz, Kansas; Ron Mercer, Kentucky; Keith Van Horn, Utah;

Second Team:

Tony Battie Texas Tech; Chauncey Billups, Colorado; Keith Booth, Maryland; Danny Fortson, Cincinnati; DeJaun Wheat, Louisville; Dedric Wiloughby, Iowa State.

Third Team:

Bobby Jackson, Minnesota; Cory Carr, Texas Tech; Antwan Jamison, North Carolina; Reggie Freeman, Texas; Shea Seals, Tulsa; Carlos Williams, UAB.

Big Ten Player of the Year: **Bobby Jackson, Minnesota**

Big Ten Coach of the Year: **Clem Haskins, Minnesota**

First Team All-Big Ten:

Bobby Jackson, Minnesota; Ryan Bowen, Iowa; Kiwane Garris, Illinois; Andre Woolridge, Iowa; Andre Patterson, Indiana.

Second Team All-Big Ten:

Sam Jacobson, Minnesota; Chad Austin, Purdue; Louis Bullock, Michigan; Sam Okey, Wisconsin; Maurice Taylor, Michigan.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE


March 6, 1997

CLYMER MEDICALLY CLEARED TO RETURN TO HOCKEY LINEUP

University of Minnesota freshman hockey defenseman Ben Clymer has been declared medically able to play by team doctors following his latest examination earlier this week. The vertigo-like symptoms Clymer had been experiencing have been resolved, and his balance has improved dramatically, giving him the green light to begin participating in contact drills at practice and possible game action.

The infected left inner-ear nerve has been taken over by the healthy right inner-ear nerve, compensating for the balance deficiency Clymer previously had been experiencing and restoring his balance to its normal state before the illness.

A decision will be made before Friday's game on Clymer's availability for this weekend's WCHA first-round playoff series at Mariucci Arena.



SPORTS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

For Release at 8 p.m.

March 10, 1997

JACKSON NAMED GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S BASKETBALL MVP

Senior guard Bobby Jackson was named MVP of the 1996-97 University of Minnesota men's basketball team at the team's awards banquet tonight at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel.

Jackson, the team's leading scorer, ranks in the top 10 in six of eight Big Ten statistical categories. A finalist for the Wooden, RCA and AP Player of the Year awards, he has already been named All-America by a number of publications. He leads Minnesota in scoring and assists, is second in steals and third in rebounding.

The complete list of awards handed out at the team's banquet is as follows:

Most Valuable Player: Bobby Jackson

Senior Players: John Thomas, Bobby Jackson, Trevor Winter, Aaron Stauber

1996-97 Captains: John Thomas, Trevor Winter

Best Free Throw Percentage: Eric Harris (78.5)

Assists Leader: Bobby Jackson (124)

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award: Trevor Winter (third consecutive year)

Academic Award—Most Improved: Bobby Jackson

Academic All-Big Ten Team: Trevor Winter

Most Improved Player: Miles Tarver

Rebound Leader: Courtney James (213)

Best Defensive Player Award: Eric Harris

Best Team Defender: John Thomas

Hustle Award: Charles Thomas

Clutch Shot Award: Sam Jacobson

Sixth Man Award: Quincy Lewis

MVP Practice Player: Aaron Stauber

Senior Managers: Kevin Ellich, Brett Bresnahan, Corey Campbell, Dave Muhich

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Big Ten Coach of the Year: **Clem Haskins, Minnesota**

First Team All-Big Ten:

Bobby Jackson, Minnesota; Ryan Bowen, Iowa; Kiwane Garris, Illinois; Andre Woolridge, Iowa; Andre Patterson, Indiana.

Second Team All-Big Ten:

Sam Jacobson, Minnesota; Chad Austin, Purdue; Louis Bullock, Michigan; Sam Okey, Wisconsin; Maurice Taylor, Michigan.



SPORTS & FITNESS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 1997

MINNESOTA TO PLAY AT 7:05 P.M. FRIDAY AT WCHA FINAL FIVE

The WCHA has announced that the University of Minnesota vs. St. Cloud State University NSP/WCHA Final Five semifinal game will be the 7:05 p.m. contest on Friday, March 14 at the St. Paul Civic Center. The other semifinal game earlier that day will match the University of North Dakota with the winner of the Denver University and Colorado College game at 2:05 p.m. Denver and Colorado College will play at 7:05 p.m. Thursday evening at the St. Paul Civic Center.

Single-game tickets for each session will go on sale Monday morning by calling any Ticketmaster location at (612) 989-5151, the St. Paul Civic Center at (612) 224-9627, or in person at the Civic Center Box Office. Thursday evening tickets are \$10 each, Friday's semifinal games are \$15 for each session, Saturday's third-place game at 2:05 p.m. is \$15, and the Broadmoor Trophy championship game Saturday evening at 7:05 p.m. is priced at \$20 each. A tournament schedule (seeds in parenthesis) and ticket prices are as follows:

Thursday, March 13

7:05 p.m. - (4) Colorado College vs. (5) Denver
Tickets: \$10

Friday, March 14

2:05 p.m. - (1) North Dakota vs. winner of Colorado College/Denver game
Tickets: \$15
7:05 p.m. - (2) Minnesota vs. (3) St. Cloud State
Tickets: \$15

Saturday, March 15

2:05 p.m. - Third place game
Tickets: \$15
7:05 p.m. - Championship game
Tickets: \$20

All games of the NSP/WCHA Final Five will be shown live on Midwest Sports Channel and all Minnesota games of the tournament will be broadcast by KSTP-AM 1500.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SPORTS NEWS



Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

TO: Media Outlets Covering Minnesota Men's Basketball Team
FROM: Marc Ryan, Director of Media Relations
RE: Miscellaneous Details Surrounding NCAA Tournament
DATE: Sunday, March 9, 1997


NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament
Midwest Region
Kemper Arena
Kansas City, MO

#1 Minnesota (27-3) vs. #16 SW Texas State (16-12)
Friday, March 14, 1997
Time TBA (will be announced Monday, March 10 no later than noon Central)
Second round games will be played Sunday, March 16

The ticket office phone number for the Midwest Regional at Kansas City is (913) 864-3141. There are tickets still available at a price of \$120 for the three session, six-game package. There will be NO tickets available at the U of M ticket office.

Please remember to fax your credential request form to our office no later than 10 a.m. Monday. If you do not cover the first and second rounds, the NCAA will NOT allow you to cover subsequent rounds in the tournament should Minnesota advance. Remember to include arrival/departure dates and credit card information if you want us to secure you a room in the media headquarters. The fax numbers are (612) 626-7871 or (612) 625-0359

Note: The 1997 Golden Gopher basketball banquet is on Monday beginning at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1300 Nicollet Mall. For more information, call the Golden Gopher Basketball Office at (612) 625-3085.



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Assists Leader: Bobby Jackson (124)
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award: Trevor Winter (third consecutive year)
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Sixth Man Award: Quincy Lewis
MVP Practice Player: Aaron Stauber
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

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TO: Media Agencies Covering Golden Gopher Basketball
FROM: Marc Ryan, Director of Media Relations
RE: Monday News Conference
DATE: March 10, 1997 (11:45 a.m.)

We have just received word that Clem Haskins has been named Big Ten Coach of the Year and Bobby Jackson Big Ten Player of the Year (also Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year).

There will be a news conference in the Williams Arena postgame interview area today at 2 p.m. with Coach Haskins and Jackson. Parking will be available on the tarmac located on the University Avenue side of the arena.

This will be the only media availability prior to Thursday's regularly scheduled news conference at Kemper Arena in Kansas City.



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

University of Minnesota •

Bierman Field Athletic Building •

516 15th Avenue Southeast •

Minneapolis, Minn. 55414

Phone: 612.625.4090 •

Fax: 612.625.0359 •

Director: Marc Ryan •

Assistant Directors: Bill Crumley and Brad Ruitter

March 10, 1997

Gopher Hotline

The Golden Gopher Hotline features daily interviews with players and coaches. It is available to the media 24 hours a day by calling (612) 625-7887. The hotline is broadcast quality and is changed by noon each day. This service is for media use only. The schedule for this week is as follows:

Monday, March 10-Tuesday, March 11:

Basketball coach Clem Haskins and senior guard Bobby Jackson

Wednesday, March 12-Thursday, March 13:

Junior forward Sam Jacobson

Friday, March 14:

Junior guard Eric Harris

Saturday, March 15:

Head hockey coach Doug Woog

Sunday, March 16:

Junior forward Wyatt Smith

DON'T FORGET MARCH MADNESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA...

The University of Minnesota will host these major championships in the month of March!

March 13-15 WCHA Final Five
@ St. Paul Civic Center

March 22-23 Big Ten Gymnastics
@ Sports Pavilion

March 27-29 NCAA Swimming and Diving
@ U of M Aquatic Center

To order tickets, please call 1-800-U-Gopher or (612) 624-8080. To request media credentials call (612) 625-4090!

GET WIRED!

The U of M Men's Athletic Department is now on the Internet. The World Wide Web site contains press releases, statistics, rosters, schedules and much more. The Web pages can be accessed at: <http://gophersports.umn.edu>

This Week in Gopher Sports

Mon-Tues
Mar. 10-11

• Golf

at Ashworth Invitational
San Diego, Calif., All day

Friday,
March 14

• Basketball

vs. Southwest Texas State Bobcats
NCAA Midwest Regional
Kemper Arena, Kansas City, Mo.
CBS-TV, Channel 4
WCCO-AM (830)

• Hockey

25 minutes after Game 3
vs. St. Cloud State Huskies
WCHA Final Five
St. Paul Civic Center
Midwest Sports Channel
KSTP-AM 1500, 7 p.m.

• Tennis

vs. Iowa Hawkeyes
Rochester Athletic Club, 6 p.m.

Saturday,
March 8

• Hockey

• Third Place Game
WCHA Final Five
St. Paul Civic Center
Midwest Sports Channel
KSTP-AM 1500, 2:05 p.m.

• Championship Game
WCHA Final Five
St. Paul Civic Center
Midwest Sports Channel
KSTP-AM 1500, 7:05 p.m.

Sunday,
March 9

• Basketball

To Be Determined
NCAA Midwest Regional
Kemper Arena, Kansas City, Mo.
CBS-TV, Channel 4
WCCO-AM (830), TBA



WRESTLING

1996-97 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	PLACE	SCORE/TIME
All Unattached			
Nov. 16	Bison Open	Fargo, N.D.	All Day
Nov. 23	UNO Open	Omaha, Neb.	All Day
Nov. 29	Northern Open	Madison, Wis.	All Day
Official Team Schedule			
Nov. 22	North Dakota St.	Fargo, N.D.	W, 42-3
Dec. 6	Northwestern	Williams	W, 35-3
Dec. 15	Clarion Duals	Clarion, Pa.	1st Place
	- Ohio U		W, 39-4
	- Clarion		W, 34-9
	- Rider		W, 27-12
Dec. 17	S. Connecticut St.	New Haven, Conn.	W, 46-6
Jan. 4	Iowa State	Williams	L, 16-19
Jan. 7	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	W, 29-12
Jan. 10	South Dakota St.	Williams	Cancelled
Jan. 18-19	National Duals	Lincoln, Neb.	3rd Place
	- Missouri Valley		W, 48-0
	- Penn State		W, 21-10
	- Iowa		L, 23-12
	- Michigan State		W, 28-9
	- Penn State		W, 19-15
Jan. 24	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	L, 29-12
Jan. 31	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	L, 26-10
Feb. 2	Wisconsin	Williams	W, 28-9
Feb. 9	Penn State	Pavilion	W, 28-7
Feb. 15	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	W, 23-12
Feb. 16	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	W, 28-10
Feb. 23	Ohio State	Pavilion	W, 23-16
Mar. 8-9	Big Tens	Home	2nd
Mar. 20-22	NCAAs	Cedar Falls, Iowa	All Day

Bold indicates home meets

WRESTLERS ADVANCE WHOLE TEAM TO NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: For the first time in school history, Minnesota will have all 10 wrestlers competing at the NCAA Championships. The Golden Gophers qualified everyone by having no one finish lower than sixth at the Big Ten Championships.

The NCAA Championships will be held at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa, March 20-22.

Session I	First Round	11 a.m.
Thursday, March 20		
Session II	Preliminaries	7 p.m.
Thursday, March 20		
Session III	Quarterfinals	11 a.m.
Friday, March 21		
Session IV	Semifinals	7 p.m.
Friday, March 21		

Session V	Wrestle-back/Medal Round	11 a.m.
Saturday, March 22		
Session VI	Finals	7 p.m.
Saturday, March 22		

THE COACH: The Golden Gophers' J Robinson (Oklahoma State, 1969) is currently in his 11th year and has guided Minnesota to a 148-74-3 record and two runner-up Big Ten finishes. Robinson has coached 11 Big Ten champions and 23 NCAA All-Americans. He is 16-4 in 1996-97.

HARTUNG WINS BIG TEN TITLE; MINNESOTA PLACES SECOND: Sophomore **TIM HARTUNG** (Durand, Wis.) became the first Golden Gopher to win a Big Ten wrestling title since 1994 by decisioning Michigan State's Brian Picklo, 3-1 in overtime, at 190 pounds. Picklo had defeated Hartung earlier this year, 2-1 in overtime, for Hartung's only defeat.

Both wrestlers had earned a point on escapes when Hartung shot a low-leg single and finished with a takedown 50 seconds into the overtime. Hartung, ranked No. 3 in the nation, placed sixth at last year's Big Tens at 177 pounds and advanced to the NCAA Championships where he went 2-2 before being eliminated.

Junior **JASON DAVIDS** (Forest Lake, Minn.) placed second for the second straight year, losing to Roger Chandler of Indiana, 13-6, at 142 pounds. Davids finished fifth in last year's NCAA Championships and is currently ranked No. 3 nationally.

Three Minnesota wrestlers suffered semifinal losses but came back to place third, including **PAT CONNORS** (Longview, Wash.) at 126 pounds, **CHAD KRAFT** (Lakefield, Minn.) at 150 pounds and **JOSH HOLIDAY** (Anaheim, Calif.) at 158 pounds.

Connors, ranked No. 11 in the country, scored a major decision over Illinois' Carl Perry, 18-8, to place third. Connors did not place in last year's Big Tens.

Kraft, ranked No. 4 in the country, pinned Illinois' Eric Siebert 38 seconds into overtime to place third. Kraft entered the Big Tens as the No. 4 seed while Siebert was the No. 2 seed.

Holiday, a sophomore, upended Wisconsin's Kole Clauson, 5-2, to place third. Holiday did not place in last year's Big Tens.

Other Golden Gopher placewinners included **ZAC TAYLOR** (Sandpoint, Idaho) and **BRANDON EGGUM** (Sidney, Mont.), who placed fourth at 167 and 177 pounds, respectively. **TROY MARR** (Wyoming, Minn.) finished fifth at 134 pounds, while **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (Susanville, Calif.) placed sixth.

Junior **BRANDON PAULSON** (Coon Rapids, Minn.), wrestling for the first time in nearly two months, placed sixth at 118 pounds. Paulson had been sidelined following corrective ankle surgery.

As a team, Minnesota placed second, improving on its sixth-place finish a year ago. The Golden Gophers amassed 116.50 points, second to Iowa's 140.50. It was the 24th consecutive Big Ten wrestling title for the Hawkeyes. Illinois was third with 105.50 points.

Final Team Scores

1. Iowa, 140.50; 2. Minnesota, 116.50; 3. Illinois, 105.50; 4. Penn State, 89.50; 5. Michigan, 59.50; 6. Ohio State, 56.00; 7. Wisconsin, 55.00; 8. Michigan State, 48.50; 9. Indiana, 43.00; 10. Purdue, 39.50; 11. Northwestern, 39.00

118 Championship: David Morgan, MSU dec. Lindsey Durlacher, ILL, 9-7 OT; Third Place: Jeremy Hunter, PSU dec. Jessie Whitmer, IOWA, 9-8; Fifth Place: Tim Dermlan, PU dec. Brandon Paulson, MINN, 7-2

126 Championship: Eric Jetton, WIS dec. Mike Mena, IOWA, 2-0; Third Place: Pat Connors, MINN maj. dec. Carl Perry, ILL, 18-8; Fifth Place: Jason Hayes, PU dec. Micah Hey, NU, 3-2

134 Championship: Mark Ironside, IOWA maj. dec. Jeff Bucher, OSU, 18-5; Third Place: Biff Walizer, PSU dec. Tony Siebert, ILL, 5-2; Fifth Place: Troy Marr, MINN dec. Trevor Elliot, IND, 7-5

142 Championship: Roger Chandler, IND dec. Jason Davids, MINN vs. 13-6; Third Place: Clint Musser, PSU dec. Kassey Gilliss, IOWA, 4-2; Fifth Place: Jon Vaughn, ILL maj. dec. Frank Laccone, PU, 9-0

150 Championship: Lincoln McIlravy, IOWA maj. dec. Bill Lacure, MICH, 19-7; Third Place: Chad Kraft, MINN fall, Eric Siebert, ILL, 7:38; Fifth Place: Mickey Griffin, PU dec. Drew Pariano, NU, 5-2

158 Championship: Ernest Benion, ILL dec. Joe Williams, IOWA, 2-1 DBL OT; Third Place: Josh Holiday, MINN dec. Kole Clauson, WIS, 5-2; Fifth Place: Eric Douglas, PU dec. Kurt Hudson, NU, 3-2

167 Championship: Kevin Wilmot, WIS dec. Jeff Catrabone, MICH, 4-3; Third Place: Mike Uker, IOWA maj. dec. Zac Taylor, MINN, 14-6; Fifth Place: Davion Peterson, PU inj. def. Glenn Pritzlaff, PSU

177 Championship: Mitch Clark, OSU dec. Jevon Herman, ILL, 5-3; Third Place: Erich Harvey, MSU dec. Brandon Eggum, MINN, 6-0; Fifth Place: Joel Goeden, NU dec. Tony Ersland, IOWA, 5-2

190 Championship: Tim Hartung, MINN dec. Brian Picklo, MSU, 3-1 OT; Third Place: Lee Fullhart, IOWA maj. dec. Rob Neidlinger, PSU, 6-2; Fifth Place: Sam Neider, NU dec. Anthony Gary, OSU, 6-4

HWT Championship: Kerry McCoy, PSU dec. Airron Richarson, MICH, 5-1; Third Place: Seth Brady, ILL inj. def. Nick Nutter, OSU; Fifth Place: Ben Nachtrieb, IND dec. Shelton Benjamin, MINN, 8-3

ROBINSON NAMED BIG TEN COACH OF THE YEAR:

Golden Gopher Head Coach J Robinson was named Big Ten Wrestling Coach of the Year following this weekend's championships. It was the third time Robinson has been honored, receiving the award in 1989 and 1994.

MINNESOTA PROJECTED STARTING LINE-UP FOR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Wgt., Name, Yr., Hometown, Overall, Big Ten Place
118, Brandon Paulson, Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn., 17-5, 6th
126, No. 11 Pat Connors, So., Longview, Wash., 17-7, 3rd
134, No. 11 Troy Marr, So., Wyoming, Minn., 25-9, 5th
142, No. 3 Jason Davids, Jr., Forest Lake, Minn., 30-3, 2nd
150, No. 4 Chad Kraft, So., Lakefield, Minn., 26-4, 3rd
158, Josh Holiday, So., Anaheim, Calif., 26-9, 3rd
167, No. 6 Zac Taylor, Jr., Sandpoint, Idaho, 20-7, 4th
177, Brandon Eggum, Fr., Sidney, Mont., 19-8, 4th
190, No. 3 Tim Hartung, So., Durand, Wis., 29-1, 1st
Hwt, Shelton Benjamin, Jr., Susanville, Calif., 19-14, 6th

GOLDEN GOPHERS AT LAST YEAR'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Minnesota placed a disappointing 19th in last year's NCAA Championships held in Minneapolis.

Individually, Minnesota had three wrestlers place in the top eight and become All-Americans. Jason Davids (142) and Chad Kraft (150) both finished fifth, while heavyweight Billy Pierce placed sixth.

MINNESOTA WRESTLERS STAY AT NO. 3 IN COUNTRY; SIX GOLDEN GOPHERS NATIONALLY RANKED:

The University of Minnesota wrestling team remained the third-ranked team in the country for the fourth straight week, behind Oklahoma State and Iowa. The Golden Gophers are 16-4 overall and 6-1 in Big Ten duals.

Six Golden Gopher wrestlers are currently ranked in the top 12 in their respective weight classes. Leading the way are Jason Davids and Tim Hartung, both of whom are ranked No. 3. Chad Kraft held on to his No. 4 ranking at 150 pounds, while Zac Taylor slipped one spot to No. 6 in the country at 167 pounds. Kraft's overall mark is 21-3, and Taylor is 18-5.

Sophomore Troy Marr maintained his hold on the No. 11 spot at 134 pounds and carries a record of 22-7, tied for third on the squad in wins.

Debuting in the national rankings was Pat Connors, who has won his last four matches at 126 pounds to improve his season record to 13-6, and is ranked No. 11.

QUOTING COACH ROBINSON:

On the Tournament:

"I felt we wrestled well. We were aggressive and dominating in most matches, but a couple of upsets in the quarterfinals took us out of the team picture. We're close to where we want to be and the guys came together as a team. We made a good statement, and we believe that we can win."

On the team's personality:

"Our guys aren't very emotional, because more emotions equal more pressure. Our guys are at their best when they're relaxed, and their whole social life is this close-knit family."

On the depth of the Big Ten Conference:

"The conference is better than it was 10 years ago. The teams are more intense and they are working harder."

On being named Coach of the Year:

"It's kind of funny, because Dan always wins the tournaments and whoever is second always wins Coach of the Year."



TRACK AND FIELD

1997 TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE

Indoor Track & Field			
DATE	MEET	PLACE	RESULT/TIME
Jan. 4	Early Bird Open	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
Jan. 11	Northwest Open	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
Jan. 18	Badger Track Classic	Madison, Wis.	No team scores
Jan. 25	Minnesota Invite	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
	Manitoba, Drake, Marquette, Iowa		
Jan 31	Mercantile Bank Invite	Cedar Falls, Iowa	5th/37.25 pts.
Feb. 7-8	Iowa State Invitational	Ames, Iowa	No team scores
Feb. 14	Snowshoe Open	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
Feb. 22-23	Big Ten Indoor Champ.	Iowa City, Iowa	3rd/83.33 pts.
Feb. 28	NCAA Qualifying Meet	Ames, Iowa	No team scores
Mar. 7-8	NCAA Indoor Champ.	Indianapolis, Ind.	T10th/16 pts.
Outdoor Track & Field			
Mar. 28-29	Florida Relays	Gainesville, Fla.	TBA
Apr. 4-5	Texas Relays	Austin, Texas	TBA
Apr. 5	Cyclone Open	Ames, Iowa	TBA
Apr. 11-12	Sea Ray Relays	Knoxville, Tenn.	TBA
Apr. 19	Hawkeye Invitational	Iowa City, Iowa	TBA
Apr. 25-26	Drake Relays	Des Moines, Iowa	TBA
May 3	TBA	Bierman Field	TBA
May 4	Jesse Owens	Columbus, Ohio	TBA
May 10	Minnesota Invitational	Bierman Field	9 a.m.
May 17	Minnesota Last Chance	Bierman Field	TBA
May 23-24	Big Ten Outdoor Champ.	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
June 4-7	NCAA Outdoor Champ.	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA

UP NEXT: Minnesota begins its outdoor track and field season at the Florida Relays in Gainesville, Fla. on March 28-29. The NCAA Indoor Championships last week signaled the end of the 1997 indoor season for the Golden Gophers.

TWO GOPHERS PLACE SECOND AT NCAA INDOORS: Minnesota high jumper **STAFFAN STRAND** (Fr., Uplands-Vasby, Sweden) and pole vaulter **TYE HARVEY** (Sr., Jamestown, Calif.) each earned second-place finishes in their event at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Indianapolis last weekend.

Strand placed second with a jump of 7-5 (2.26m). The leap broke his own indoor school record. North Carolina's Eric Bishop won the event with a jump of 7-6 (2.29m).

Harvey finished second with a vault of 18-2 1/2 (5.55m). He also broke his own school record with the jump. Long Beach State's Jason Hinkin won the event with a vault of 18-6 1/2 (5.65m).

MINNESOTA FINISHES TENTH IN FINAL TEAM STANDINGS AT NCAA INDOORS:

Strand's and Harvey's performances gave the Gophers 16 points and tied them for tenth place with Tennessee and Louisiana State in the final team standings at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Indianapolis last weekend. Arkansas won the team title with 59 points.



GOLF

GOLFERS IN SAN DIEGO: Minnesota is continuing its sharp play by shooting a team score of 593 in the University of San Diego/Ashworth Invitational, good enough for fifth place going into the last day of competition.

The Golden Gophers' best score was posted by **ANDY KOMOR** (So., New Brighton, Minn.) who shot a 75 and a 72, which placed him in a tie for 11th place headed into the final day of competition. One stroke behind Komor are **JEFF BARNEY** (So., Appleton, Minn) and **MATT LEWIS** (So., Dubuque, Iowa), who both posted two day scores of 148 which has them tied for 18th place. The tournament concludes Tuesday.

UP NEXT: The Golden Gophers will return to the links after final exams on March 28 when they will travel to Dallas, Texas for the Dr. Pepper Invitational.

LAST WEEK: The University of Minnesota men's golf team was in Hattiesburg, Miss., for the Bridges All-American Tournament. The team finished in fourth place out of 20 teams when they posted a three-round score of 875. The tournament was won by Oklahoma State University.

Paul Dickinson of Alabama-Birmingham took home the medalist honors with a 12-under par 204. **MARTIN LE MESSURIER** (Fr., South Hampton, England) was leader for the Gophers. He shot a par 72 on the first day of competition and combined that with two scores of 70 in the final two rounds, good enough to tie for fifth place. Minnesota's **ROB KERR** (Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada) was close behind, posting a three-round total of 216, which placed him in a tie for 10th place in the tournament.

Other Minnesota finishers included Barney (Tied 25th), **MARK HALVERSON** (Tied 49th - Fargo, N.D.), and Komor (Tied 59th).

Minnesota Individual Scores: T5. Martin LeMesurier, Minn., 72-70-70-216. T10. Rob Kerr, Minn., 71-71-74-216. T25. Jeff Barney, Minn., 77-72-72-221. T49. Mark Halverson, Minn., 76-78-75-229. T59. Andy Komor, Minn., 77-75-79-231.



GYMNASTICS

1997 GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	PLACE	SCORE/TIME
Jan. 11	Alumni Meet	Sports Pavilion	L / 217.925
Jan. 18	Windy City Invite	Chicago, Ill.	7th/211.900
Jan. 31	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	L/223.875
Feb. 8	Michigan and Michigan State	Sports Pavilion	1st/222.100
Feb. 15	Winter Cup	Battle Creek, Mich.	No team scores
Feb. 22	New Mexico and Santa Barbara	Albuquerque, N.M.	2nd/222.40
Mar. 1	Ohio State	Sports Pavilion	L/228.5-228.725
Mar. 9	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	L/225.15-230.175
Mar. 22-23	Big Ten Champ.	Sports Pavilion	1:00 p.m.
Mar. 29	Illinois-Chicago	Chicago, Ill.	2:00 p.m.
Apr. 5	NCAA Regionals	West Point, N.Y.	TBA
Apr. 17-19	NCAA Champ.	Iowa City, Iowa	TBA

Bold indicates home meets

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS UP NEXT: The No. 10 Golden Gophers take a week off before hosting the Big Ten Championships March 22-23 in the Sports Pavilion.

LAST WEEK: The University of Minnesota Golden Gopher gymnastics team lost a dual meet with the No. 4 Nebraska Cornhuskers 230.175-225.15.

Senior co-captain **FRANK TICKNOR** (Milwaukee, Wis.) shared the only event title of the day for the Golden Gophers, tying for the win on the still rings with a 9.675. He also finished third in the all-around.

GEORGE BEATTY (Jr., Aberdeen, N.J.) and senior co-captain **HEATH WALL** (Sterling Heights, Mich.) were the only other Minnesota placewinners. Beatty finished tied for third on the pommel horse, and Wall took third in the floor exercise.

GOLDEN GOPHERS RANKED 10TH: The University of Minnesota men's gymnastics team is ranked 10th by regional qualifying score in the NCAA National Rankings released this week. The Golden Gophers are also ranked sixth in the Eastern Region. Seven teams in the Big Ten are ranked in the nation's top 20 and six in the region's top 10.

NCAA Team National Rankings – Feb. 24 (by high score):
 1. Ohio State; 2. Cal Berkeley; 3. Iowa; 4. Nebraska; 5. Oklahoma; 6. Penn State; 7t. Stanford, UMass; 9. Illinois; 10. **Minnesota**; 11. Brigham Young; 12. Michigan State; 13. New Mexico; 14. Illinois-Chicago; 15. Navy; 16. Temple; 17. Syracuse; 18. Army; 19. Michigan; 20. Air Force

NCAA Eastern Region Team Rankings – Feb. 24 (high score):
 1. Ohio State; 2. Iowa; 3. Penn State; 4. Michigan State; 5. Illinois; 6. UMass; 7. **Minnesota**; 8. Syracuse; 9. Illinois-Chicago; 10. Michigan

WALL IS UM'S TOP RANKED GYMNAST: On the still rings, Heath Wall is tied for 11th in the nation and seventh in the Eastern Region in the rankings by NCAA three-score average. Frank Ticknor is ranked 10th in the region on the rings as well. Beatty is tied for 18th in the nation and 10th in the region on the pommel horse.

Ticknor is the 13th-ranked all-arounder in the nation and the seventh-ranked all-arounder in the Eastern Region.

MINNESOTA SEASON BESTS:

Team Score	228.500	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Floor Exercise	37.700	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Pommel Horse	38.550	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Still Rings	38.500	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Vault	37.800	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Parallel Bars	38.200	at NM/UCSB 2/22
Horizontal Bar	37.950	vs. Mich/MSU 2/8
Floor Exercise	9.600	Frank Ticknor (at NM/UCSB)
Pommel Horse	9.825	Jason Krob (at Iowa)
Still Rings	9.750	Heath Wall (at NM/UCSB, vs. OSU) Frank Ticknor (vs. Ohio State)
Vault	9.600	Frank Ticknor (vs. Ohio State)
Parallel Bars	9.750	George Beatty (vs. Ohio State)
Horizontal Bar	9.650	Heath Wall (vs. Ohio State) Dan Boots (vs. Ohio State)
All-Around	57.500	Heath Wall (vs. Ohio State)

NEBRASKA 230.175, MINNESOTA 225.15

Floor Exercise: 1. Marshall Nelson (NEB) 9.65; 2. Bill Mulholland (NEB) 9.60; 3. Heath Wall (MN) 9.55

Pommel Horse: 1. J.D. Rieve (NEB) 9.70; 2. Derek Leiter (NEB) 9.675; 3t. George Beatty (MN) and Ryan McEwen (NEB) 9.65

Still Rings: 1t. Frank Ticknor (MN) and Ted Harris (NEB) 9.675; 3. Derek Lieter (NEB) 9.5

Vault: 1. J.D. Reive (NEB) 9.7; 2. Frank Ticknor (MN) 9.575; 3. Bill Mulholland (NEB) and Marshall Nelson (NEB) 9.5

Parallel Bars: 1. Marshall Nelson (NEB) 9.8; 2. J.D. Reive (NEB) 9.7; 3. Derek Leiter (NEB) 9.6

Horizontal Bar: 1. Marshall Nelson (NEB) 9.85; 2. Ryan McEwen (NEB) 9.775; 3. Bill Mulholland (NEB) 9.675

All-Around: 1. Bill Mulholland (NEB) 57.325; 2. Derek Leiter (NEB) 56.325; 3. Frank Ticknor (MN) 56.75



SWIMMING AND DIVING

1996-97 SWIMMING & DIVING SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	RESULT/TIME
Oct. 19	Alumni Meet (Aquatic Center)	Non-Scored
Oct. 26	Intra-squad (Aquatic Center)	G-153.5, M-139.5
Nov. 1	Tar Heel Invitational (Chapel Hill, N.C.)	Non-Scored
Nov. 2	North Carolina (Chapel Hill, N.C.)	W 153-145
Nov. 16	Nebraska (Aquatic Center)	W 175-125
Nov. 22	Minnesota Invite (Aquatic Center)	1st/1,409
Dec. 20	Miami (Miami, Fla.)	W 66-47
Jan. 10	Kansas (Aquatic Center)	W 163-80
Jan. 11	Gold Country Invite (Aquatic Center)	1st/1,221
Jan. 18	Northwestern (Evanston, Ill.)	W 181.5-116.5
Jan. 25	Iowa (Aquatic Center)	W 210-89
Jan. 31	Quad Duals - Purdue & Wisconsin (AC)	2-0
Feb. 14	Minnesota Challenge (Aquatic Center)	NTS
Feb. 27-	Big Ten Championships	2nd/
Mar. 1	(Bloomington, Ind)	
Mar. 6	Go-Pher-It Invitational (Aquatic Center)	3 p.m.
Mar. 14	NCAA Diving - Zone Qualifying (AC)	TBA
Mar. 27	NCAA Championships (Aquatic Center)	Noon

UP NEXT: The ninth-ranked Minnesota men's swimming and diving team will compete in the NCAA Zone C Diving Qualifications this weekend at the University Aquatic Center. Competition begins Friday, March 14 at 11:00 am with 1-meter springboard, and concludes Saturday, March 15 at 10:00 am with 3-meter springboard and platform.

Senior **ISAAC BJORKLUND** (New Brighton, Minn.) placed ninth in the Big Tens in 1-meter and 14th in 3-meter competition. He qualified for the NCAAs in both events as a sophomore.

COACH DENNIS DALE: In his 12th season at the helm of the Golden Gopher program, Dennis Dale (Minnesota '67) has been the driving force behind Minnesota's resurgence on the national collegiate swimming and diving scene. Minnesota finished 12th at the 1996 NCAA Championships after placing ninth (1995), seventh (1994), 11th (1993) and sixth (1992). In addition, the Golden Gophers have placed among the top three in the Big Ten race each of the past nine seasons and captured the 1996 title.

Dale has coached 31 All-Big Ten performers the past four seasons, including nine this year - **TY BATHURST, JOHN CAHOY, MITCH HENKE, ERIEK HULSEMAN, LUIS LOPEZ, JONATHON MCLEOD, JEREMY RIENTS, MATT SCHLESSMAN, MARTIN ZIELINSKI.**

COACH KONGZHENG LI: Four-time Olympian Kongzheng Li in his first year coaching the Minnesota divers. Li earned a bronze medal in platform diving for his native China in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Li comes to Minnesota following a stint as CEO of Team Orlando Diving, Inc. where he was named the 1996 Senior National Diving Coach of the Year. He has served as head coach at Texas and George Washington.

MIERI SETS PERSONAL BEST AT GO-PHER-IT INVITATIONAL: Freshman **YOAV MIERI** set a personal best to win the 200 fly at the Go-Pher-It Invitational, a last-chance qualifier for the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships.

Mieri, who placed fourth at the Big Ten Championships in the event, improved his time in the 200 fly by more than a half-second, clocking a 1:47.36, to move within one second of the NCAA automatic mark.

The 200 free relay team also won, edging Iowa State by 0.03 seconds. Minnesota clocked a 1:20.79 to win the race after swimming a 1:19.90 to win the Big Ten title.

Go-Pher-It Invitational

at University Aquatic Center, Minneapolis, Minn.
200 medley relay: 1. Iowa State, 1:29.97

50 free: 1. Dusty Greenwood, Iowa State, 21.31; 2. Bryan Carlson, Minnesota, 21.57

100 free: 1. Adrian Costello, Nebraska, 57.47; 2. Oscar Godoi, Minnesota, 58.46; 3. B.J. Brooks, Iowa State, 1:01.28

100 back: 1. Brian Laherty, Iowa State, 53.20

200 free: 1. Trent Hartl, Kansas, 1:38.86; 2. Val Kalmikous, Nebraska, 1:42.03; 3. Mike Brown, Iowa State, 1:44.38

200 fly: 1. Yoav Meiri, Minnesota, 1:47.36; 2. Lovrenco Franecevic, Iowa State, 1:47.77

200 free relay: 1. Minnesota (Ty Bathurst, Jeremy Rients, Mat Schlessman, Luis Lopez), 1:20.79; 2. Iowa State, 1:20.82

100 free: 1. Dusty Greenwood, Iowa State, 47.00; 2. Terrie Miller, Nebraska, 1:55.90

200 breast: 1. Val Kalmikous, Nebraska, 2:01.11; 2. Mark Ritchey, Iowa State, 2:03.04; 3. Jeffrey Rodriguez, Minnesota, 2:03.42; 4. Jonathon McLeod, Minnesota, 2:09.71; 5. Mitch Henke, Minnesota, 2:13.13

LATEST POLL: The University of Minnesota men's swimming and diving team is ranked ninth in the latest Speedo America's Top 25 swimming poll. The Golden Gophers received 237 points while number one Stanford, received 335. Michigan, the highest ranked Big Ten team, is seventh and Indiana (22), Ohio State (23) and Purdue (24 Tied) were the only other Big Ten schools ranked.

The complete poll follows:

1. Stanford, 335; 2. Auburn, 331; 3. Tennessee, 319; 4. California, 294; 5. So. Cal., 291; 6. Texas, 288; 7. Michigan, 282; 8. Georgia, 258; 9. Minnesota, 237; 10. Arizona St., 203; 11. Arizona, 189; 12. Florida State, 188; 13. Florida, 165; 14. LSU, 157; 15. North Carolina, 145; 16. Nebraska, 134; 17. Harvard, 125; 18. SMU, 105; 19. N.C. State, 91; 20. Texas A&M, 74; 21. Miami, 59; 22. Indiana, 58; 23. Ohio State, 50; 24T. Purdue, 32; 24T. Alabama, 32



TENNIS

NETTERS HOST HAWKEYES: Minnesota will host the Iowa Hawkeyes in its first Big Ten action of the spring season Friday at 6 p.m. at the Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minn.

GOLDEN GOPHERS FINISH FOURTH IN CORPUS CHRISTI TOURNEY: Minnesota finished fourth out of 16 teams in the Corpus Christi Team Tournament last weekend in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Minnesota defeated Arkansas-Little Rock (4-0) and Texas Tech (6-1) and lost to Middle Tennessee State (4-0) and Tulane (4-3) en route to its fourth-place finish.

ON THE HORIZON: The Golden Gophers' next action comes on a trip through the Ivy League March 23-26. Minnesota will play at Yale, Columbia and Princeton. The team's next Big Ten action will occur on March 29 when the Golden Gophers travel to State College, Penn., to take on the Nittany Lions of Penn State.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SPORTS NEWS

The Golden Gopher mascot is positioned behind the word "SPORTS" in the "SPORTS NEWS" title. The mascot is a stylized gopher wearing a dark sweater with white stripes on the sleeves and a white scarf. It has its right arm raised in a fist and its left hand on its hip. The mascot is standing on a small patch of ground.

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

TO: Media Agencies Covering Golden Gopher Basketball

FROM: Marc Ryan, Director of Media Relations


RE: Monday News Conference

DATE: March 10, 1997 (11:45 a.m.)

We have just received word that Clem Haskins has been named Big Ten Coach of the Year and Bobby Jackson Big Ten Player of the Year (also Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year).

There will be a news conference in the Williams Arena postgame interview area today at 2 p.m. with Coach Haskins and Jackson. Parking will be available on the tarmac located on the University Avenue side of the arena.

This will be the only media availability prior to Thursday's regularly scheduled news conference at Kemper Arena in Kansas City.



SPORTS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 1997
TO: Golden Gopher Hockey Media Outlets
FROM: Brad Ruitter, University of Minnesota
RE: Announcement of all-WCHA Teams and WCHA Player of the Year

The WCHA will hold an awards presentation on Friday, March 14 beginning at 10 a.m. in the Promenade Ballroom of the St. Paul Hotel in downtown St. Paul. The event will be held in conjunction with this weekend's WCHA Final Five at the Civic Center. Media members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

There will be light ala carte breakfast menu items available, and the presentation is expected to last no more than 40 minutes. The program will culminate with the presentation of the WCHA Coach of the Year Award and WCHA Player of the Year Award. University of Minnesota junior defenseman Mike Crowley is a strong candidate for the league's player of the year award, and will be in attendance at the presentation. The ceremony will also be part of a special tape-delay program to be aired on Midwest Sports Channel at a date to be determined.

SPORTS NEWS



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For Immediate Release

March 13, 1997

HASKINS NAMED CHEVROLET NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

University of Minnesota Coach Clem Haskins, who this season led the Golden Gophers to their first Big Ten title since 1982, a school record for victories with a 27-3 overall record, and a number one seed in the NCAA Tournament's Midwest Regional, has been named 1997 Chevrolet National Coach of the Year. He was named Big Ten Coach of the Year Monday.


Each year Chevrolet honors college basketball's Coach and Player of the Year as voted upon by the CBS Sports production staff. Tim Duncan of Wake Forest has been named Player of the Year.

The formal presentation of the awards will take place at the half of the first national semifinal game on March 29 at the Final Four in Indianapolis. A check for \$2,500 will be presented in Haskins' name to the University of Minnesota's general scholarship fund.

Past Chevrolet National Coach of the Year Winners

- 1981 Dale Brown, LSU
- 1982 Gene Keady, Purdue
- 1983 Lou Carnesecca, St. John's
- 1984 Gene Keady, Purdue
- 1985 Dale Brown, LSU
- 1986 Mike Krzyzewski, Duke
- 1987 Joey Meyer, DePaul
- 1988 John Chaney, Temple
- 1989 Lute Olson, Arizona
- 1990 Jim Calhoun, Connecticut
- 1991 Randy Ayers, Ohio State
- 1992 George Raveling, USC
- 1993 Eddie Fogler, Vanderbilt
- 1994 Nolan Richardson, Arkansas
- 1995 Gene Keady, Purdue
- 1996 Gene Keady, Purdue

SPORTS NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 1997

CROWLEY NAMED WCHA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Crowley, DeBus Named To First Team; Spehar, Clymer On Rookie Team

University of Minnesota junior defenseman Mike Crowley, who Thursday was named one of 10 finalists for the annual Hobey Baker Memorial Award, was named 1996-97 WCHA Player of the Year on Friday morning at an awards ceremony held at the St. Paul Hotel in downtown St. Paul, Minn. The award is the first time since 1983-84 that a defenseman has gathered the league's top individual honor, and just the fifth defenseman in league history ever to earn player of the year citation.

Crowley, a native of Bloomington, Minn., was also honored as a member of the all-WCHA First Team last season when he was a Hobey Baker Award finalist and a first-team All-America selection. He is looking to become Minnesota's third repeat first-team All-American (John Mayasich, 1953-54, 1954-55 and Brian Bonin, 1994-95, 1995-96).

Crowley is on the doorstep of numerous Golden Gopher career records at the conclusion of just his third season in a Maroon and Gold uniform. He is second in all-time points by a defenseman (153, Todd Richards-158, 1985-89), second in assists by a defenseman (118, Todd Richards-128, 1985-89), and third in goals by a defenseman (35, Tony Kellin-37, 1982-86). In addition, Crowley is just one assist away from tying the single-season record he set last season as a sophomore for most assists by a defenseman (46) as the Golden Gophers head into this weekend's NSP/WCHA Final Five at the St. Paul Civic Center.

This season Crowley became the first WCHA defenseman to capture or share the league scoring championship since 1962-63 (Lou Nanne), posting numbers of 5-37--42 in 32 conference games. He leads the team in scoring (7-45--52 overall), and in last weekend's sweep of Alaska-Anchorage became the 21st member of Minnesota's 150-Point Club. Crowley currently has career totals of 35 goals and 118 assists for 153 points.

In addition, Golden Gopher junior goaltender Steve DeBus of Rochester, Minn., was also honored as a member on the league's first team. DeBus led the WCHA in victories (18) and was among the top four goaltenders in league games in goals-against average (3.08), saves (705), shutout periods (32), and minutes played (1675:23).

The honor for Crowley and DeBus is the second straight season Minnesota has placed two players on the all-WCHA First Team. It marks the first time since the 1952-53 and 1953-54 seasons that the Golden Gophers have had at least two first teamers in back-to-back seasons.

Two Golden Gophers were honored on the WCHA All-Rookie Team. Freshmen Dave Spehar of Duluth, Minn., and Ben Clymer of Bloomington, Minn., were placed on the six-member squad. Spehar led all league freshmen in scoring (17-17--34 overall), while blueliner Clymer has been a consistent defensive force in the Golden Gopher lineup while contributing totals of 7-12--19 in 25 games played.

Three U of M student-athletes were recognized on the WCHA All-Academic Team. Seniors Brian LaFleur of Bloomington, Minn., and Dan Woog (South St. Paul, Minn.) along with junior Jason Godbout (Woodbury, Minn.) were given honors for classroom performance.

The complete list of WCHA award winners is listed on page two of this release.

(page two)

WCHA Awards

First Team

F-Brian Swanson, Colorado College
F-David Hoogsteen, North Dakota
F-Jason Blake, North Dakota
D-Mike Crowley, Minnesota
D-Curtis Murphy, North Dakota
G-Steve DeBus, Minnesota

Second Team

F-Dave Paradise, St. Cloud State
F-Matt Cullen, St. Cloud State
F-Mike Peluso, Minnesota-Duluth
D-Eric Rud, Colorado College
D-Rick Mrozik, Minnesota-Duluth
G-Kirk Daubenspeck, Wisconsin

Third Team

F-Sacha Molin, St. Cloud State
F-Ryan Kraft, Minnesota
F-Andre Savage, Michigan Tech
D-Dane Litke, North Dakota
D-Calvin Elfering, Colorado College
G-Jim Mullin, Denver

All-Rookie Team

F-Toby Peterson, Colorado College
F-Dave Spehar, Minnesota
F-Bud Smith, Northern Michigan
D-Curtis Doell, Minnesota-Duluth
D-Ben Clymer, Minnesota
G-Brant Nicklin, Minnesota-Duluth

WCHA Player Of The Year

Mike Crowley, Minnesota

WCHA Rookie Of The Year

Brant Nicklin, Minnesota-Duluth

WCHA Defensive Player Of The Year

Eric Rud, Colorado College

WCHA Student-Athlete Of The Year

Petri Gunther, Denver

WCHA Coach Of The Year

Dean Blais, North Dakota

SPORTS NEWS



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MEDIA ADVISORY

Monday, March 17, 1997

BIG TEN GYMNASTICS COACHES TO HOLD PRE-MEET NEWS CONFERENCE FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The men's and women's Big Ten gymnastics head coaches will hold a press conference on Friday, March 21 previewing the Big Ten Men's and Women's Gymnastics Championships, being hosted by the University of Minnesota March 22 and 23.

The seven men's coaches will be available from 2:15 to 2:30 p.m. on Friday in the Media Workroom in the Sports Pavilion. Head Coach Fred Roethlisberger, assistant coach and former Big Ten Champion Brian Yee and a current Golden Gopher gymnast will be available for the University of Minnesota.

The seven women's coaches will be available from 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. in the media workroom. Head Coach Jim Stephenson will appear at the women's press conference for the University of Minnesota.

If you have not already requested media credentials for the Big Ten Gymnastics Championships, please call Rhonda Lundin, Men's Gymnastics SID, at (612) 626-9599 as soon as possible.

Big Ten Gymnastics Championships Schedule of Events

Friday, March 21	9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Men's Practice
	2:15-2:30 p.m.	Men's Pre-Meet Press Conference
	2:30-2:45 p.m.	Women's Pre-Meet Press Conference
	3:00-6:00 p.m.	Women's Practice
Saturday, March 22	1:00 p.m.	Session 1 – Men's Team Finals
	7:00 p.m.	Session 2 – Women's Team and All-Around Finals
Sunday, March 23	1:00 p.m.	Session 3 – Men's All-Around and Individual Finals

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

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For Immediate Release

March 16, 1997

GOLDEN GOPHERS TO PLAY MICHIGAN STATE IN FIRST ROUND OF NCAA HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The University of Minnesota hockey team will play the Michigan State Spartans on Saturday, March 22 in Grand Rapids, Mich., in the first round of the NCAA Hockey Championships.

The Golden Gophers are the fourth seed in the West Region behind No. 1 seed Michigan, No. 2 North Dakota. Miami-Ohio is the No. 3 seed in the West despite Minnesota's 7-4 victory over the Redskins in the Mariucci Classic on Dec. 28. No. 5 seed Michigan State and No. 6 Cornell round out the West Region.

Friday, March 21

East Region – Centrum, Worcester, Mass.

3. Vermont vs. 6. Denver, 7:30 p.m.

4. New Hampshire vs. 5. Colorado College, 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 22

West Region – Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Mich.

3. Miami-Ohio vs. 6. Cornell, 2 p.m.

4. Minnesota vs. 5. Michigan State, 5:30 p.m.

East Region – Centrum, Worcester, Mass.

1. Clarkson vs. Winner of New Hampshire/Colorado College game, 4 p.m.

2. Boston University vs. Winner of Vermont/Denver game, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 23

West Region – Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Mich.

1. Michigan vs. Winner of Minnesota/Michigan State game, 4:30 p.m.

2. North Dakota vs. Winner of Miami-Ohio/Cornell game, 1 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: March 17, 1997
TO: Golden Gopher Hockey Media Outlets
FROM: Brad Ruiter, U of M Media Relations
RE: NCAA Credentials

Media wishing to be put on a credential list for this weekend's NCAA West Regional should contact me (612/625-4389 phone; 612/625-0359 fax) by no later than 3 p.m. this afternoon. If you do not contact me by then, you will need to attempt to get credentials through Western Michigan University (host school) by contacting Daniel Jankowski at 616/387-4125.

Please indicate to me also if you will need credentials for a potential trip to the NCAA Final Four next weekend in Milwaukee, Wis. I need to send the NCAA our credential needs by no later than tomorrow at Noon.

Thanks for your cooperation.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

For Immediate Release

March 17, 1997

MINNESOTA TO HOLD YOUTH BASEBALL COACHING CLINIC

The University of Minnesota's baseball team coaching staff will hold a Youth Baseball Coaching Clinic on Saturday, Mar. 22 at the Indoor Football Practice Field on the U of M campus. The clinic, which will be held from 9 a.m. til 1 p.m., will introduce more basic teaching techniques and philosophies that apply to the younger player.

The topics that will be discussed include organizing practice, baseball fundamentals, communication, and additional coaching skills.

The is no charge for the four-hour clinic. For registration information, please call the Minnesota baseball office at (612) 625-1060.



SPORTS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359

MEDIA ADVISORY

TO: Golden Gopher Hockey Media Outlets
FROM: Brad Ruiter
RE: Schedule for the week
DATE: March 18, 1997

Due to finals week at the University of Minnesota, this week's schedule is somewhat different.

Practice Times

Wednesday, March 19	10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	Mariucci Arena
Thursday, March 20	Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Augsburg College

Remember to arrive at least 15-20 minutes before practice if you would like coach or player access on either day.

Team Departure - Thursday, March 20

Team will leave via bus from Mariucci Arena for Signature Airport at 7 p.m.

Charter flight departs from Signature Airport at 8 p.m.

Team will be headquartered at:
Holiday Inn North
Grand Rapids, Michigan
(616) 387-4125

Team Returns To Minneapolis On Sunday, March 23

Flight departs Grand Rapids at 10:30 p.m. (EST)
Arrives at Signature Airport at approximately 11 p.m. (CST)



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

University of Minnesota •

Bierman Field Athletic Building •

516 15th Avenue Southeast •

Minneapolis, Minn. 55414

Phone: 612.625.4090 •

Fax: 612.625.0359 •

Director: Marc Ryan •

Assistant Directors: Bill Crumley and Brad Ruiter

March 17, 1997

Gopher Hotline

The Golden Gopher Hotline features daily interviews with players and coaches. It is available to the media 24 hours a day by calling (612) 625-7887. The hotline is broadcast quality and is changed by noon each day. This service is for media use only. The schedule for this week is as follows:

Monday, March 17-Tuesday, March 18:

Head basketball coach **Clem Haskins**

Wednesday, March 19:

Head hockey coach **Doug Woog**

Thursday, March 20:

Head wrestling coach **J Robinson**

Friday, March 21:

Head gymnastics coach **Fred Roethlisberger**

Saturday, March 22:

Junior defenseman **Mike Crowley**

Sunday, March 23:

Head tennis coach **David Geatz**

DON'T FORGET MARCH MADNESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA...

The University of Minnesota will host these major championships in the month of March!

March 22-23 Big Ten Gymnastics
@ Sports Pavilion

March 27-29 NCAA Swimming and Diving
@ U of M Aquatic Center

To order tickets, please call 1-800-U-Gopher or (612) 624-8080. To request media credentials call (612) 625-4090!

GET WIRED!

The U of M Men's Athletic Department is now on the Internet. The World Wide Web site contains press releases, statistics, rosters, schedules and much more. The Web pages can be accessed at: <http://gophersports.umn.edu>

This Week in Gopher Sports

Thursday,
March 20

- **Wrestling** at NCAA Championships Cedar Falls, Iowa, All day
- **Basketball** vs. Clemson Tigers
NCAA Midwest Regional
Alamo Dome, San Antonio, Texas
CBS-TV, Channel 4
WCCO-AM (830), 6:55 p.m.

Friday,
March 21

- **Wrestling** at NCAA Championships Cedar Falls, Iowa, All day

Saturday,
March 22

- **Gymnastics** Big Ten Gymnastics Championships Team and All-Around Competition University of Minnesota Sports Pavilion, 1 p.m.
- **Wrestling** at NCAA Championships Cedar Falls, Iowa, All day
- **Basketball** Thursday's Semifinals Winners NCAA Midwest Regional Final Alamo Dome, San Antonio, Texas CBS-TV, Channel 4 WCCO-AM (830), 2:40 p.m.
- **Hockey** vs. Michigan State Spartans NCAA West Regionals Grand Rapids, Mich. Midwest Sports Channel KSTP-1500 AM, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday,
March 23

- **Tennis** vs. Yale Bulldogs New Haven, Conn., 9:30 a.m.
- **Gymnastics** Big Ten Gymnastics Championships Individual Events Competition University of Minnesota Sports Pavilion, 1 p.m.
- **Baseball** vs. Chicago State Cougars H.H.H. Metrodome KSGS-950 AM, 7:30 p.m.
- **Hockey** Minn./MSU Winner vs. Michigan NCAA West Regionals Grand Rapids, Mich. Midwest Sports Channel KSTP-1500 AM, 4:30 p.m.



WRESTLING

1996-97 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	PLACE	SCORE/TIME
All Unattached			
Nov. 16	Bison Open	Fargo, N.D.	All Day
Nov. 23	UNO Open	Omaha, Neb.	All Day
Nov. 29	Northern Open	Madison, Wis.	All Day
Official Team Schedule			
Nov. 22	North Dakota St.	Fargo, N.D.	W, 42-3
Dec. 6	Northwestern	Williams	W, 35-3
Dec. 15	Clarion Duals	Clarion, Pa.	1st Place
		- Ohio U	W, 39-4
		- Clarion	W, 34-9
		- Rider	W, 27-12
Dec. 17	S. Connecticut St.	New Haven, Conn.	W, 46-6
Jan. 4	Iowa State	Williams	L, 16-19
Jan. 7	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	W, 29-12
Jan. 10	South Dakota St.	Williams	Cancelled
Jan. 18-19	National Duals	Lincoln, Neb.	3rd Place
		- Missouri Valley	W, 48-0
		- Penn State	W, 21 -10
		- Iowa	L, 23-12
		- Michigan State	W, 28-9
		- Penn State	W, 19-15
Jan. 24	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	L, 29-12
Jan. 31	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, Okla.	L, 26-10
Feb. 2	Wisconsin	Williams	W, 28-9
Feb. 9	Penn State	Pavilion	W, 28-7
Feb. 15	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	W, 23-12
Feb. 16	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	W, 28-10
Feb. 23	Ohio State	Pavilion	W, 23-16
Mar. 8-9	Big Tens	Home	2nd
Mar. 20-22	NCAAs	Cedar Falls, Iowa	All Day

Bold indicates home meets

WRESTLERS ADVANCE WHOLE TEAM TO NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: For the first time in school history, Minnesota will have all 10 wrestlers competing at the NCAA Championships. The Golden Gophers qualified everyone by having no one finish lower than sixth at the Big Ten Championships. The NCAA Championships will be held at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa, March 20-22.

Thursday, March 20			
Session I	First Round	11 a.m.	
Session II	Preliminaries	7 p.m.	
Friday, March 21			
Session III	Quarterfinals	11 a.m.	
Session IV	Semifinals	7 p.m.	
Saturday, March 22			
Session V	Wrestle-back/Medal Rnd	11 a.m.	
Session VI	Finals	7 p.m.	

THE COACH: The Golden Gophers' J Robinson (Oklahoma State, 1969) is currently in his 11th year and has guided Minnesota to a 148-74-3 record and two runner-up Big Ten finishes. Robinson has coached 11 Big Ten champions and 23 NCAA All-Americans. He is 16-4 in 1996-97.

HARTUNG WINS BIG TEN TITLE: Sophomore **TIM HARTUNG** (Durand, Wis.) became the first Golden Gopher to win a Big Ten wrestling title since 1994 by defeating Michigan State's Brian Picklo, 3-1 in overtime, at 190 pounds. Picklo had defeated Hartung earlier this year, 2-1 in overtime, for Hartung's only defeat.

Both wrestlers had earned a point on escapes when Hartung shot a low-leg single and finished with a takedown 50 seconds into the overtime. Hartung, ranked No. 3 in the nation, placed sixth at last year's Big Tens at 177 pounds and advanced to the NCAA Championships where he went 2-2 before being eliminated.

Junior **JASON DAVIDS** (Forest Lake, Minn.) placed second for the second straight year, losing to Roger Chandler of Indiana, 13-6, at 142 pounds. Davids finished fifth in last year's NCAA Championships and is currently ranked No. 3 nationally.

Three Minnesota wrestlers suffered semifinal losses but came back to place third, including **PAT CONNORS** (Longview, Wash.) at 126 pounds, **CHAD KRAFT** (Lakefield, Minn.) at 150 pounds and **JOSH HOLIDAY** (Anaheim, Calif.) at 158.

Connors, ranked No. 11 in the country, scored a major decision over Illinois' Carl Perry, 18-8, to place third. Connors did not place in last year's Big Tens.

Kraft, ranked No. 4 in the country, pinned Illinois' Eric Siebert 38 seconds into overtime to place third. Kraft entered the Big Tens as the No. 4 seed while Siebert was the No. 2 seed.

Holiday, a sophomore, upended Wisconsin's Kole Clauson, 5-2, to place third. Holiday did not place in last year's Big Tens.

Other Golden Gopher placemen included **ZAC TAYLOR** (Sandpoint, Idaho) and **BRANDON EGGUM** (Sidney, Mont.), who placed fourth at 167 and 177 pounds, respectively. **TROY MARR** (Wyoming, Minn.) finished fifth at 134 pounds, while **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (Susanville, Calif.) placed sixth.

Junior **BRANDON PAULSON** (Coon Rapids, Minn.), wrestling for the first time in nearly two months, placed sixth at 118 pounds. Paulson had been sidelined following corrective ankle surgery.

As a team, Minnesota placed second, improving on its sixth-place finish a year ago. The Golden Gophers amassed 116.50 points, second to Iowa's 140.50. It was the 24th consecutive Big Ten wrestling title for the Hawkeyes. Illinois was third with 105.50 points.

Final Team Scores

1. Iowa, 140.50; 2. Minnesota, 116.50; 3. Illinois, 105.50; 4. Penn State, 89.50; 5. Michigan, 59.50; 6. Ohio State, 56.00; 7. Wisconsin, 55.00; 8. Michigan State, 48.50; 9. Indiana, 43.00; 10. Purdue, 39.50; 11. Northwestern, 39.00

three-meter springboard at the Zone C Diving competition at the University Aquatic Center.

Bjorklund scored 495.05 in the three-meter springboard competition to finish fourth. He also qualified for the NCAAs as a sophomore.

ZONE C DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

at University Aquatic Center

Men's One-Meter

1. Mike Collier, Indiana, 539.40; 2. Peter Gil, Iowa, 495.80; 3. Chris Good, Ohio State, 494.10; 12. Isaac Bjorklund, Minnesota, 432.00; 20. Matt Ninneman, Minnesota, 403.20

Men's Three-Meter

1. Mike McIntyre, Ohio State, 559.00; 2. Mike Collier, Indiana, 528.35; 3. Peter Gil, Iowa, 514.30; 4. Isaac Bjorklund, Minnesota, 495.05; 22. Matt Ninneman, Minnesota, 410.60

Men's Platform

1. Brett Wilmott, Michigan, 512.60; 2. Mike McIntyre, Ohio State, 502.00; 3. Brett Bortolussi, Ohio State, 498.95; 4. Isaac Bjorklund, Minnesota 411.80

Men's Qualifiers

Mike Collier, Indiana; Mike McIntyre, Ohio State; Brett Wilmott, Michigan; Pete Gil, Iowa; Chris Good, Ohio State; Isaac Bjorklund, Minnesota; Chad Hepner, Michigan State; Brett Bortolussi, Ohio State

NCAA POLL: Minnesota remained ninth in the latest NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving poll which came out March 10.

1. Stanford, 239; 2. Auburn, 238; 3. Tennessee, 227; 4. Texas, 217; 5. So. California, 206; 6. California, 204; 7. Michigan, 199; 8. Georgia, 182; 9. Minnesota, 169; 10. Arizona State, 147; 11T. Arizona, 129; 11T. Florida State, 129; 13. North Carolina, 123; 14. Nebraska, 110; 15. LSU, 109; 16. Florida, 94; 17. Harvard, 91; 18. SMU, 65; 19. Miami (Fla.), 59; 20. Texas A&M, 58; 21. Indiana, 52; 22. N.C. State, 50; 23. Ohio State, 33; 24. Purdue, 32; 25. Alabama, 27.



TENNIS

NETTERS TO TAKE TRIP THROUGH IVY

LEAGUE: The Golden Gophers' next action comes Sunday morning at Yale. The match with the Bulldogs marks the beginning of a four-day trip through the Ivy League. Minnesota will play next at Columbia and Princeton March 25 and 26, respectively.

TENNIS TEAMS NETS VICTORY OVER

IOWA HAWKEYES: The University of Minnesota Golden Gopher men's tennis team defeated the Iowa Hawkeyes 5-2 in a match Friday night at the Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minn. The victory was the Golden Gophers' first Big Ten win of the season. Minnesota is now 4-6 overall and 1-2 in conference play.

Minnesota received singles wins from Tom Chicoine, Adam Selkirk, Martin Michaelowski and Martin Kristoffersen. The Golden Gophers also won the doubles point as Chicoine/John Cheregi and Michaelowski/Robin Rutili were victorious in their double matches.

ON THE HORIZON: The team's next Big Ten action comes on March 29 when the Golden Gophers travel to State College, Penn., to take on the Nittany Lions of Penn State.

MINNESOTA 5, IOWA 2

Singles

Tom Derioun (IOWA) def. Ben Gabler (MN) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6
Tom Chicoine (MN) def. Damir Seferboic (IOWA) 6-3, 6-4
Adam Selkirk (MN) def. Ulf Jentler (IOWA) 6-3, 6-4
Ryan Johnstone (IOWA) def. John Cheregi (MN) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4
Martin Michaelowski (MN) def. Justin Pohn (IOWA) 6-3, 6-0
Martin Kristoffersen (MN) def. J.R. Chittley (IOWA) 6-2, 7-5

Doubles

Derioun/Jentler (IOWA) def. Gabler/Selkirk (MN) 9-8
Chicoine/Cheregi (MN) def. Seferboic/Ben Bansey (IOWA) 8-6
Michaelowski/Robin Rutili (MN) def. Johnstone/Dave McDevitt (IOWA) 8-6

ROBINSON NAMED BIG TEN COACH OF

THE YEAR: Golden Gopher Head Coach J Robinson was named Big Ten Wrestling Coach of the Year following this weekend's championships. It was the third time Robinson has been honored, receiving the award in 1989 and 1994.

MINNESOTA PROJECTED STARTING LINE-UP FOR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Wgt., Name, Yr., Hometown, Overall, Big Ten Place
118, Brandon Paulson, Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn., 17-5, 6th
126, No. 11 Pat Connors, So., Longview, Wash., 17-7, 3rd
134, No. 11 Troy Marr, So., Wyoming, Minn., 25-9, 5th
142, No. 3 Jason Davids, Jr., Forest Lake, Minn., 30-3, 2nd
150, No. 4 Chad Kraft, So., Lakefield, Minn., 26-4, 3rd
158, Josh Holiday, So., Anaheim, Calif., 26-9, 3rd
167, No. 6 Zac Taylor, Jr., Sandpoint, Idaho, 20-7, 4th
177, Brandon Eggum, Fr., Sidney, Mont., 19-8, 4th
190, No. 3 Tim Hartung, So., Durand, Wis., 29-1, 1st
Hwt, Shelton Benjamin, Jr., Susanville, Calif., 19-14, 6th

GOLDEN GOPHERS AT LAST YEAR'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Minnesota placed a disappointing 19th in last year's NCAA Championships held in Minneapolis.

Individually, Minnesota had three wrestlers place in the top eight and become All-Americans. Jason Davids (142) and Chad Kraft (150) both finished fifth, while heavyweight Billy Pierce placed sixth.

MINNESOTA WRESTLERS STAY AT NO. 3 IN COUNTRY; SIX GOLDEN GOPHERS

NATIONALLY RANKED: The University of Minnesota wrestling team remained the third-ranked team in the country for the fifth straight week, behind Oklahoma State and Iowa. The Golden Gophers are 16-4 overall and 6-1 in Big Ten duals.

Six Golden Gopher wrestlers are currently ranked in the top 12 in their respective weight classes. Leading the way are Jason Davids and Tim Hartung, both of whom are ranked No. 3. Chad Kraft held on to his No. 4 ranking at 150 pounds, while Zac Taylor slipped one spot to No. 6 in the country at 167 pounds. Kraft's overall mark is 21-3, and Taylor is 18-5.

Sophomore Troy Marr maintained his hold on the No. 11 spot at 134 pounds and carries a record of 22-7, tied for third on the squad in wins.

Debuting in the national rankings was Pat Connors, who has won his last four matches at 126 pounds to improve his season record to 13-6, and is ranked No. 11.

QUOTING COACH ROBINSON:

On the Tournament:

"I felt we wrestled well. We were aggressive and dominating in most matches, but a couple of upsets in the quarterfinals took us out of the team picture. We're close to where we want to be and the guys came together as a team. We made a good statement, and we believe that we can win."

On the team's personality:

"Our guys aren't very emotional, because more emotions equal more pressure. Our guys are at their best when they're

relaxed, and their whole social life is this close-knit family."

On the depth of the Big Ten Conference:

"The conference is better than it was 10 years ago. The teams are more intense and they are working harder."

On being named Coach of the Year:

"It's kind of funny, because Dan always wins the tournaments and whoever is second always wins Coach of the Year. Seriously, it's the biggest honor a coach can get, especially when it's from his peers."



TRACK AND FIELD

1997 TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE

Indoor Track & Field			
DATE	MEET	PLACE	RESULT/TIME
Jan. 4	Early Bird Open	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
Jan. 11	Northwest Open	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
Jan. 18	Badger Track Classic	Madison, Wis.	No team scores
Jan. 25	Minnesota Invite	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
	Maritoba, Drake, Marquette, Iowa		
Jan 31	Mercantile Bank Invite	Cedar Falls, Iowa	5th/37.25 pts.
Feb. 7-8	Iowa State Invitational	Ames, Iowa	No team scores
Feb. 14	Snowshoe Open	UM Fieldhouse	No team scores
Feb. 22-23	Big Ten Indoor Champ.	Iowa City, Iowa	3rd/83.33 pts.
Feb. 28	NCAA Qualifying Meet	Ames, Iowa	No team scores
Mar. 7-8	NCAA Indoor Champ.	Indianapolis, Ind.	T10th/16 pts.
Outdoor Track & Field			
Mar. 28-29	Raleigh Relays	Raleigh, N.C.	TBA
Apr. 4-5	Texas Relays	Austin, Texas	TBA
Apr. 5	Cyclone Open	Ames, Iowa	TBA
Apr. 11-12	Sea Ray Relays	Knoxville, Tenn.	TBA
Apr. 19	Hawkeye Invitational	Iowa City, Iowa	TBA
Apr. 25-26	Drake Relays	Des Moines, Iowa	TBA
May 3	TBA	Bierman Field	TBA
May 4	Jesse Owens	Columbus, Ohio	TBA
May 10	Minnesota Invitational	Bierman Field	9 a.m.
May 17	Minnesota Last Chance	Bierman Field	TBA
May 23-24	Big Ten Outdoor Champ.	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
June 4-7	NCAA Outdoor Champ.	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA

UP NEXT: Minnesota begins its outdoor track and field season at the Raleigh Relays in Raleigh, N.C. on March 28-29. The NCAA Indoor Championships on March 7-8 signaled the end of the 1997 indoor season for the Golden Gophers.

TWO GOPHERS PLACE SECOND AT NCAA INDOORS: Minnesota high jumper **STAFFAN STRAND** (Fr., Uplands-Vasby, Sweden) and pole vaulter **TYE HARVEY** (Sr., Jamestown, Calif.) each earned second-place finishes in their event at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Indianapolis March 7-8.

Strand placed second with a jump of 7-5 (2.26m). The leap broke his own indoor school record. North Carolina's Eric Bishop won the event with a jump of 7-6 (2.29m).

Harvey finished second with a vault of 18-2 1/2 (5.55m). He also broke his own school record with the jump. Long Beach State's Jason Hinkin won the event with a vault of 18-6 1/2 (5.65m).

MINNESOTA FINISHES TENTH IN FINAL TEAM STANDINGS AT NCAA INDOORS: Strand's and Harvey's performances gave the Gophers 16 points and tied them for tenth place with Tennessee and Louisiana State in the final team standings at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Indianapolis. Arkansas won the team title with 59 points.



GOLF

UP NEXT: The Golden Gophers will return to the links after final exams on March 29-30 when they will travel to Dallas, Texas, for the Dr. Pepper Invitational.

GOLFERS FINISH THIRD IN SAN DIEGO: The University of Minnesota men's golf team finished third in the Ashworth Invitational in San Diego, Calif. The Golden Gophers finished with a three-round total of 888, nine strokes behind Central Florida and just one stroke behind Hawaii.

Sophomores **BILL THOMPSON** (Wayzata, Minn.) and **ANDY KOMOR** (New Brighton, Minn.) were the top finishers for the Golden Gophers. Thompson and Komor tied for sixth with three-day totals of 221, which was five strokes over par. The Minnesota pair was 10 strokes off the lead of Central Florida's Jason Opal who won the invitational with a 211. Sophomore **MATT LEWIS** (Dubuque, Iowa) finished tied for 12th with a three-round total of 222.

Minnesota Individual Scores: T6. Bill Thompson, Minn., 77-73-71-221. T6. Andy Komor, Minn., 75-72-74-221. T12. Matt Lewis, Minn., 73-74-75. T37. Jeff Barney, Minn., 74-74-80-228. T63. Matt Burgess, Minn., 77-80-76-233.

GOLFERS RANKED IN LATEST POLL: The University of Minnesota men's golf team is No. 17 in the latest Rolex Collegiate Rankings with 48.892 points. The Golden Gophers are the highest ranked Big Ten team in the rankings. The University of Nevada-Las Vegas is the top ranked team with 209.540 points.

The Golden Gophers have five top-five tournament finishes this season. Big Ten Freshman of the Year candidate **MARTIN LE MESURIER** (South Hampton, England) leads the team with a 73.1 average. Junior All-American **ROB KERR** (Pointe Claire, Quebec) is second with a 73.5 average.

ROLEX MEN'S TEAM RANKINGS

1. UNLV, 209.540; 2. Oklahoma State, 194.540; 3. TCU, 193.580; 4. Arizona, 167.920; 5. East Tennessee St., 147.200; 6. Wake Forest, 142.180; 7. North Carolina, 139.520; 8. Texas, 125.201; 9. Florida, 114.653; 10. Clemson, 105.608; 11. Arizona State, 103.850; 12. Southern California, 101.373; 13. Georgia Tech, 75.720; 14. Auburn, 72.227; 15. Virginia, 65.830; 16. Brigham Young, 56.840; 17. Minnesota, 48.892; 18. Tulsa, 48.721; 19. SMU, 74.868; 20. New Mexico, 44.920; 21. Mississippi State, 42.200; 22. LSU, 41.800; 23. Ohio State, 41.229; 24. Northwestern, 38.840; 25. Alabama, 37.017.



GYMNASTICS

1997 GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	PLACE	SCORE/TIME
Jan. 11	Alumni Meet	Sports Pavilion	L / 217.925
Jan. 18	Windy City Invite	Chicago, Ill.	7th/211.900
Jan. 31	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	L/223.875
Feb. 8	Michigan and Michigan State	Sports Pavilion	1st/222.100
Feb. 15	Winter Cup	Battle Creek, Mich.	No team scores
Feb. 22	New Mexico and Santa Barbara	Albuquerque, N.M.	2nd/222.40
Mar. 1	Ohio State	Sports Pavilion	L/228.5-228.725
Mar. 9	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	L/225.15-230.175
Mar. 22-23	Big Ten Champ.	Sports Pavilion	1:00 p.m.
Mar. 29	Illinois-Chicago	Chicago, Ill.	2:00 p.m.
Apr. 5	NCAA Regionals	West Point, N.Y.	TBA
Apr. 17-19	NCAA Champ.	Iowa City, Iowa	TBA

Bold indicates home meets

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS UP NEXT: The No. 10 Golden Gophers host the Big Ten Championships Saturday and Sunday in the Sports Pavilion. The team and all-around competition begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and the tournament concludes with individual event competition on Sunday, also at 1 p.m.

MEN'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Fri., Mar. 21	2:15-2:30 p.m.	Men's Press Conference Pavilion Media Room
Sat., Mar. 22	1 p.m.	Men's Team & All-Around Sports Pavilion
Sun., Mar. 23	1 p.m.	Men's Individual Finals Sports Pavilion

LAST YEAR AT BIG TENS: Minnesota finished fourth last year at the Big Ten Championships behind three of the top five ranked teams in the country - Ohio State, Iowa and Penn State. **HEATH WALL** (Sr., Sterling Heights, Mich.) recorded the highest Golden Gopher finish, taking third with a 9.70 on the still rings. **JASON KROB** (So., St. Charles, Mo.) placed seventh in his specialty, the pommel horse.

GOLDEN GOPHERS RANKED 10TH: The University of Minnesota men's gymnastics team is ranked 10th by regional qualifying score in the NCAA National Rankings released this week. The Golden Gophers are also ranked sixth in the Eastern Region. This weekend's Big Ten Championships will be very competitive as all seven teams in the Big Ten are ranked in the nation's top 20 and six of seven appear in the Eastern Region's top 10.

NCAA Team National Rankings - March 10

(by regional qualifying average):

1. Ohio State; 2. Cal Berkeley; 3. Iowa; 4. Nebraska; 5. Oklahoma; 6. Penn State; 7. Stanford, UMass; 9. Illinois; **10. Minnesota**; 11. Brigham Young; 12. Michigan State; 13. New Mexico; 14. Illinois-Chicago; 15. Navy; 16. Temple; 17. Syracuse; 18. Army; 19. Michigan; 20. Air Force

NCAA Eastern Region Team Rankings - March 10

(by regional qualifying average):

1. Ohio State; 2. Iowa; 3. Penn State; 4. UMass; 5. Illinois; **6. Minnesota**; 7. Michigan State; 8. Illinois-Chicago; 9. Navy; 10. Temple

WALL IS UM'S TOP RANKED GYMNAST: On the still rings, Heath Wall is tied for 11th in the nation and seventh in the Eastern Region in the rankings by NCAA three-score average. Senior co-captain **FRANK TICKNOR** (Milwaukee, Wis.) is ranked 10th in the region on the rings as well. **GEORGE BEATTY** (Jr., Aberdeen, N.J.) is tied for 18th in the nation and 10th in the region on the pommel horse.

Ticknor is the 13th-ranked all-arounder in the nation and the seventh-ranked gymnast in the Eastern Region.

ON THE HORIZON: The Golden Gophers will travel to the NCAA East Regional in West Point, N.Y., on April 5. The six top teams in the East Region will travel to the regional, and the top three teams will then travel to the NCAA Championships in Iowa City April 17-19. Last year, Minnesota barely missed qualifying for the East Regional as a team, but three Golden Gophers (Ryan Carns, Chris Harrington, Andrew Weaver) qualified individually. Harrington went onto the NCAA Championships in the vault but did not qualify for the individual finals.

MINNESOTA SEASON BESTS:

Team Score	228.500	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Floor Exercise	37.700	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Pommel Horse	38.550	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Still Rings	38.500	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Vault	37.800	vs. Ohio State 3/1/97
Parallel Bars	38.200	at NM/UCSB 2/22
Horizontal Bar	37.950	vs. Mich/MSU 2/8

Floor Exercise	9.600	Frank Ticknor (at NM/UCSB)
Pommel Horse	9.825	Jason Krob (at Iowa)
Still Rings	9.750	Heath Wall (at NM/UCSB, vs. OSU) Frank Ticknor (vs. Ohio State)
Vault	9.600	Frank Ticknor (vs. Ohio State)
Parallel Bars	9.750	George Beatty (vs. Ohio State)
Horizontal Bar	9.650	Heath Wall (vs. Ohio State) Dan Boots (vs. Ohio State)
All-Around	57.500	Heath Wall (vs. Ohio State)



SWIMMING AND DIVING

1996-97 SWIMMING & DIVING SCHEDULE

DATE	MEET	RESULT/TIME
Oct. 19	Alumni Meet (Aquatic Center)	Non-Scored
Oct. 26	Intra-squad (Aquatic Center)	G-153.5, M-139.5
Nov. 1	Tar Heel Invitational (Chapel Hill, N.C.)	Non-Scored
Nov. 2	North Carolina (Chapel Hill, N.C.)	W 153-145
Nov. 16	Nebraska (Aquatic Center)	W 175-125
Nov. 22	Minnesota Invite (Aquatic Center)	1st/1,409
Dec. 20	Miami (Miami, Fla.)	W 66-47
Jan. 10	Kansas (Aquatic Center)	W 163-80
Jan. 11	Gold Country Invite (Aquatic Center)	1st/1,221
Jan. 18	Northwestern (Evanston, Ill.)	W 181.5-116.5
Jan. 25	Iowa (Aquatic Center)	W 210-89
Jan. 31	Quad Duals - Purdue & Wisconsin (AC)	2-0
Feb. 14	Minnesota Challenge (Aquatic Center)	NTS
Feb. 27-	Big Ten Championships	2nd
Mar. 1	(Bloomington, Ind)	
Mar. 6	Go-Pher-It Invitational (Aquatic Center)	NTS
Mar. 14	NCAA Diving - Zone Qualifying (AC)	NTS
Mar. 27	NCAA Championships (Aquatic Center)	Noon

NCAAS ON THE HORIZON: The ninth-ranked Minnesota men's swimming and diving team qualified 12 swimmers and one diver for the NCAA Championships March 27-29. It is the largest Golden Gopher contingent to ever qualify for the NCAAs.

Leading the way for Minnesota is Big Ten champ **MARTIN ZIELINSKI** (So., Bloomington, Minn.) in the 100 fly. Zielinski qualified with a time of 47.09, fourth-fastest in the nation. He will also swim a leg of the 200 medley relay, which qualified with the nation's sixth-fastest time of 1:28.07.

Minnesota's 12-swimmer contingent will be the fifth-largest at the meet, behind Auburn (17), California (13), Southern California (13) and Stanford (13). The Golden Gophers' 12 qualifiers is two more than Michigan, which edged Minnesota by just 17 points for the Big Ten title.

The Golden Gophers will host the NCAA Championships at the University Aquatic Center March 27-29. Preliminary sessions begin each day at noon, followed by finals at 7:00 pm each day.

SWIMMING COACH DENNIS DALE: In his 12th season at the helm of the Golden Gopher program, Dennis Dale (Minnesota '67) has been the driving force behind Minnesota's resurgence on the national collegiate swimming and diving scene. Minnesota finished 12th at the 1996 NCAA Championships after placing ninth (1995), seventh (1994), 11th (1993) and sixth (1992). In addition, the Golden Gophers

have placed among the top three in the Big Ten race each of the past nine seasons and captured the 1996 title.

Dale has coached 31 All-Big Ten performers the past four seasons, including nine this year - **TY BATHURST, JOHN CAHOY, MITCH HENKE, ERIEK HULSEMAN, LUIS LOPEZ, JONATHON MCLEOD, JEREMY RIENTS, MATT SCHLESSMAN, MARTIN ZIELINSKI.**

DIVING COACH KONGZHENG LI: Four-time Olympian Kongzheng Li in his first year coaching the Minnesota divers. Li earned a bronze medal in platform diving for his native China in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Li comes to Minnesota following a stint as CEO of Team Orlando Diving, Inc., where he was named the 1996 Senior National Diving Coach of the Year. He has served as head coach at the University of Texas and George Washington University.

MINNESOTA NCAA SWIMMING QUALIFIERS

200 free relay - 13. Minnesota (Ty Bathurst, Jeremy Rients, Matt Schlessman, Luis Lopez), 1:19.90
 500 free - 25. Manolis Lentaris, 4:24.34; 30. Bill Bishop, 4:24.78
 200 IM - 14. Jonathan McLeod, 1:47.93; 29. Yoav Mieri, 1:49.34
 50 free - 22. Ty Bathurst, 20.06; 36. Matt Schlessman, 20.27; 39. Jeremy Rients, 20.30; 53. Luis Lopez, 20.47
 400 medley relay - 10. Minnesota (Eriek Hulseman, Mitch Henke, Martin Zielinski, Matt Schlessman), 3:14.51
 200 medley relay - 6. Minnesota (Eriek Hulseman, Mitch Henke, Martin Zielinski, Ty Bathurst), 1:28.07
 400 IM - 10. Jonathan McLeod, 3:49.35; 23. Yoav Mieri, 3:53.06; 24. Bill Bishop, 3:53.81
 100 fly - 4. Martin Zielinski, 47.09; 34. John Cahoy, 48.87
 200 free - 13. Manolis Lentaris, 1:36.84; 34. Jeremy Rients, 1:38.05
 100 breast - 17. Mitch Henke, 54.96; 28. Ty Bathurst, 55.79
 100 back - 22. Martin Zielinski, 48.68; 30. Eriek Hulseman, 49.40
 800 free relay - 9. Minnesota (Manolis Lentaris, John Cahoy, Matt Schlessman, Jonathan McLeod), 6:31.61
 1650 free - 21. Bill Bishop, 15:19.56; 28. Manolis Lentaris, 15:34.30
 100 free - 10. Matt Schlessman, 43.94; 16. Jeremy Rients, 44.09; 50. John Cahoy, 44.77; 52. Luis Lopez, 44.79; 61. Ty Bathurst, 44.93
 200 breast - 23. Mitch Henke, 2:00.71
 200 fly - 16. Martin Zielinski, 1:47.22; 25. Jonathan McLeod, 1:48.07
 400 free relay - 10. Minnesota (Jeremy Rients, Matt Schlessman, John Cahoy, Luis Lopez), 2:56.81

BJORKLUND QUALIFIES AT ZONE C COMPETITION: Minnesota senior **ISAAC BJORKLUND** (New Brighton, Minn.) qualified for the NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships by placing fourth in the

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



SPORTS NEWS

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CELEBRATION SET FOR GOLDEN GOPHER BASKETBALL TEAM

The University of Minnesota men's basketball team will be honored with a "Golden Celebration" at Williams Arena on Saturday night, upon its return from the NCAA Midwest Regional Final in San Antonio, Texas. The Gophers are expected to arrive by about 9:45 p.m.

The festivities will take place win or lose. Admission to the event is free. Doors to the arena will open at 9 p.m., as will the concession and souvenir stands. Free parking will be available in the Huron Street complex.