

# GOLDEN GOPHER BASEBALL

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## #26 Minnesota vs. St. Cloud State/Viterbo

Sunday, Feb. 14 vs. St. Cloud State • 7 p.m.  
 Monday, Feb. 15 vs. St. Cloud State • 3 p.m.  
 vs. Viterbo College • 7:30 p.m.

HHH Metrodome (55,000)  
 Minneapolis, Minn.

**Golden Gophers Open Season This Weekend:** Minnesota begin its 1999 campaign against St. Cloud State and Viterbo College this weekend at the Metrodome.

The Golden Gophers hold a 47-8-1 edge in the all-time series with the Huskies of St. Cloud State. Minnesota has won the last seven meetings including a 14-10 victory last year. In that game, the Golden Gophers rallied from a 10-1, fifth-inning deficit to claim the victory. The Huskies last win against the Golden Gophers came on April 19, 1989 in St. Cloud, Minn.

Minnesota and Viterbo have met just once on the diamond. Last season, the Golden Gophers blasted eight home runs in an 18-0 rout at Siebert Field. Former Gopher Craig Selander led the way with three home runs and seven RBIs.

**Preseason Buzz:** Minnesota enters the 1999 season ranked 26th in the country by *Baseball America* and 29th by *Collegiate Baseball*. The Golden Gophers are the highest-rated Big Ten team in either poll. Illinois is ranked 36th by *Baseball America* and 30th by *Collegiate Baseball*.

Senior **Robb Quinlan (Maplewood, Minn.)**, a second-team All-America selection last year, is a preseason third-team All-America choice and is *Baseball America's* choice for preseason Big Ten player of the year. The publication also cites junior left-hander **Ben Birk (St. Paul, Minn.)** as its preseason Big Ten pitcher of the year, as well as the league's top major league prospect.

**About Anderson:** Golden Gopher Head Coach John Anderson enters his 18th season with a career record of 605-384-3 and a Big Ten mark of 252-142. He is one of the youngest coaches in the nation to surpass the 600-win plateau and is the only active Big Ten coach to reach 250 conference victories. Anderson has led the Golden Gophers to four Big Ten titles (1982, '85, '88, and '92) and six Big Ten Tournament championships (1982, '85, '88, '92, '93 and '98) in his tenure at the U of M.

## MINNESOTA SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Feb. 8	Galyan's Gopher Pro-Alumni*	W 9-7
Feb. 14	St. Cloud State	7 p.m.
Feb. 15	St. Cloud State	3 p.m.
Feb. 15	Viterbo College	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 19-21	<i>Coca-Cola Classic (Mobile, Ala.)</i>	
Feb. 19	South Alabama*	5 p.m.
Feb. 20	UAB*	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	T.B.A.*	12:30/3:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	@ Auburn*	3 p.m.
Feb. 26-28	<i>Troy State Classic (Montgomery, Ala.)</i>	
Feb. 26	Troy State*	5 p.m.
Feb. 27	Kentucky*	11 a.m.
Feb. 28	Ohio State*	11 a.m.
March 5-7	<i>Hormel Foods Baseball Classic (H.H.H. Metrodome)</i>	
March 5	vs. Washington State*	6:30 p.m.
March 6	vs. Florida State*	1:30 p.m.
March 7	vs. Wichita State**	12:30 p.m.
March 13	Northern Illinois*	7:30 p.m.
March 14	Northern Illinois (2)*	1 p.m.
March 22	Bowling Green (2)*	6 p.m.
March 23	Bowling Green*	1 p.m.
March 26	Oregon State*	6:30 p.m.
March 27	Oregon State*	6:30 p.m.
March 28	Oregon State*	1 p.m.
April 2	@ Purdue*	3 p.m.
April 3	@ Purdue (2)*	1 p.m.
April 4	@ Purdue*	1 p.m.
April 6	@ Northern Iowa	3 p.m.
April 9	@ Iowa*	3 p.m.
April 10	@ Iowa (2)*	1 p.m.
April 11	@ Iowa*	1 p.m.
April 14	Northern Iowa	3 p.m.
April 16	Michigan*	3 p.m.
April 17	Michigan (2)*	1 p.m.
April 18	Michigan*	1 p.m.
April 21	Mankato State	3 p.m.
April 23	@ Indiana*	3 p.m.
April 24	@ Indiana (2)*	1 p.m.
April 25	@ Indiana*	1 p.m.
April 28	@ Iowa State	3 p.m.
April 30	Illinois*	6:30 p.m.
May 1	Illinois (2)*#-1st game	4 p.m.
May 2	Illinois*	1 p.m.
May 5	St. Thomas	6:30 p.m.
May 7	Northwestern*	6:30 p.m.
May 8	Northwestern (2)*	4 p.m.
May 9	Northwestern**	1 p.m.
May 12	Iowa State	6 p.m.
May 14	Michigan State**	6:30 p.m.
May 15	Michigan State (2)*	4 p.m.
May 16	Michigan State*	1 p.m.
May 20-22	Big Ten Tournament	
May 28-30	NCAA Regionals	
June 4-5	NCAA Super Regionals	
June 11-19	College World Series	

All Games are Central Time  
 \* Games broadcast on KKMS-AM (980)  
 # Games broadcast on Midwest Sports Channel

### Fact Box

## CONTINUING THE TREND

The 1998 Golden Gophers were the eighth-most improved Division I team in the nation. In '97, Minnesota posted a 30-24 record, while last year's squad finished 45-15, a 12-game improvement. Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., made the most dramatic improvement in Division I last year, going from a 13-43 record two years ago to 28-27 last season. The Golden Gophers' .750 winning percentage ranked sixth in the country in '98. Wichita State posted the nation's best winning percentage at .889 with a 56-7 record.

# G O L D E N G O P H E R B A S E B A L L

**Youngsters defeat the Veterans:** On Monday, Feb. 8, the Golden Gophers defeated a team of former Minnesota greats 9-7 in the annual Galyan's Gopher Pro-Alumni Game at the Metrodome. The Golden Gophers rallied from a 5-4 deficit with five runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Junior **Mike Arlt (Lakeville, Minn.)** provided the spark with a two-run double. Pinch hitter **Mark Devore (Bloomington, Minn.)** followed with a two-run single to center. Devore would later score on a single by redshirt freshman **Jon Nuss (Bloomington, Minn.)**.

Senior Robb Quinlan got things started in the first inning with a sacrifice fly and then hit a solo home run to lead off the third inning. The win is just the second for the varsity in eight years.

**Home Openers:** Under Head Coach John Anderson, Minnesota is 11-6 in home openers. Last year, the Golden Gophers used a three-run home run by **Matt Scanlon (Richfield, Minn.)** in the bottom of the 12th-inning to defeat Nebraska 6-3.

**Deja Vu:** Fresh off a school record 45 wins, the Golden Gophers return 15 of 18 lettermen from a year ago. Minnesota has its entire infield back and six of eight position starters overall. With a pitching staff that led the Big Ten in team ERA in '98, 12 of those 14 pitchers are back including the team's top three starters.

**Fast Starts:** Minnesota is looking to start the '99 season in the same fashion as in '98. Last year, the Golden Gophers won their first seven games and posted their best start to a season since 1935. In '97 Minnesota struggled to a 2-8 start before regrouping to win 13 of its next 14 games.

**Climbing the Charts:** Senior Robb Quinlan is primed to close out his remarkable collegiate career by rewriting the Minnesota record book. The second-team All-American set four new single-season school records last season and holds six single-season records overall.

The Maplewood, Minn., native shattered the school's home run record with 24 bombs in '98. The previous record of 18, held by Jerry Kindall, was set in 1956 and had stood for 42 years.

With a full season to play, Quinlan, already the school's career total bases leader, is on pace to set new career marks in home runs, at-bats, hits, runs, RBIs, doubles and slugging percentage.

**Records Watch:** Quinlan has its sights set on the records held by many of the former greats that have worn the Maroon and Gold. Here is how he currently stacks up with a full season to play:

<b>Batting Average:</b>		<b>Hits:</b>	
1. Mark Merila	.393	1. Ryan Lefebvre	271
6. Robb Quinlan	.368	6. Robb Quinlan	238
<b>Slugging Percentage:</b>		<b>Doubles:</b>	
1. Ryan Groebner	.678	1. Brent Gates	61
3. Robb Quinlan	.655	3. Robb Quinlan	53
<b>At-Bats:</b>		<b>Home Runs:</b>	
1. Ryan Lefebvre	787	1. Tom Steinbach	45
9. Robb Quinlan	647	2. Robb Quinlan	39
<b>Runs Scored:</b>		<b>Runs Batted In:</b>	
1. Charlie Nelson	224	1. Mark Merila	179
5. Robb Quinlan	173	7t. Robb Quinlan	146

**More on Quinlan:** A two-time first-team All-Big Ten selection, Quinlan led the league in home runs, runs scored, total bases, hits and slugging percentage last year. He also established new Big Ten single-season records with 39 runs scored, 92 total bases and 251 putouts in league play.

**Family Ties:** The middle of the infield for the Golden Gophers is patrolled by the Brosseau Brothers. **Matt Brosseau (North Oaks, Minn.)**, the eldest of the brothers, started 39 games at second base last season and committed just four errors in 152 chances. **Rick Brosseau (North Oaks, Minn.)** turned heads last season as a true freshman as he earned the starting position at shortstop.

The Brosseaus are doing their part to carry on the family name. Their father, Frank, was a three-year letterwinner for Minnesota from 1964-67. He was a member of the Golden Gophers' last national championship team in 1964 and compiled a 5-1 record with a 1.69 ERA during the regular season. Brosseau claimed the victory in a 12-0 rout of Maine in the second round of the College World Series as he allowed just one hit in five innings.

**Impressive Debut:** Rick Brosseau earned honorable mention Freshman All-America honors last season with a .316 batting average, seven home runs and 35 RBIs. Brosseau played in 57 games for Minnesota with 41 starts at shortstop.

Brosseau began his collegiate career with a five-game hitting streak including a two hits and three runs scored in an 18-12 victory over San Diego State (2/25/98).

**Armed and Ready:** Pitching will be a key once again for Minnesota in 1999. With all but two pitchers back from last season's pitching staff, the group has the potential to be the best assembled in Head Coach John Anderson's tenure.

Leading the group is junior **Ben Birk (8-2, 2.65)** and senior right-hander **Brad Pautz (Reedsville, Wis.)**. After missing the first month of the Big Ten season with a shoulder injury, Birk returned to post a 4-0 record with a stellar 0.34 ERA in league play. Pautz returned to school despite being drafted in the sixth round by the Minnesota Twins in last summer's amateur draft.

**The Ace:** Birk was recruited to be Minnesota's centerfielder of the future. As a true freshman in '97, Birk played in 30 games with 14 starts as an outfielder and designated hitter. He batted just .191 with nine hits in 47 at-bats. On the mound, he made five appearances posting an 0-2 record with a 7.36 ERA.

Last season, the left-hander emerged in fall camp as the team's number one pitcher and put together a brilliant year. He gave up just 11 walks and two home runs in 74.2 innings with an outstanding 6.1 strikeouts to every walk.

To put that in perspective, Michigan State's Mark Mulder, who was the second pick taken in last year's amateur draft by the Oakland Athletics, had a 5.9 strikeout to walk ratio (113/19) last year. The fourth choice in the first round by the Kansas City Royals, Stanford's Jeff Austin, had a 4.25 ratio (136/32) in '98.

**On the Shelf:** Junior **Dan McGrath (Victoria, Australia)** had a breakout season in '98 with a 9-3 record and a 4.68 ERA. A second-team All-Big Ten selection last year, the left-hander will be out of the lineup until March with offseason arm trouble. Success is nothing new to McGrath, he was a member of the 1989 Trumbull (Conn.) Little League World Series Championship team that beat Taiwan 5-2.

# G O L D E N G O P H E R B A S E B A L L

**On the Offensive:** Minnesota will be hard-pressed to match the dominating performance of its offense in '98. The Golden Gophers eclipsed seven single-season hitting records including breaking the home run record by 20.

Robb Quinlan and Matt Scanlon, as well as the departed Craig Selander and Mark Groebner, combined to break six single-season individual records. While Quinlan broke four himself, Selander would have set four if it weren't for his teammates. Scanlon broke the school's at-bat record, while Groebner's 80 RBIs were the most in school history.

In five offensive categories (at-bats, hits, runs scored, RBIs, total bases), all four can be found in the top-ten.

**Golden Gophers Travel to Alabama for Spring Road Trip:** Minnesota will travel to the state of Alabama for a seven-game road trip. Minnesota will start the trip in Mobile, Ala., in the Coca-Cola Classic. The tournament includes host South Alabama, UAB and Jacksonville. After a single mid-week game against the nationally-ranked Auburn Tigers, the Golden Gophers will take part in the Troy State Classic which features Troy State, Kentucky and Ohio State.

**1999 Hormel Foods Baseball Classic Features Elite Field:** Already recognized as one of the nation's premier in-season tournaments, the 15th annual Hormel Foods Baseball Classic (March 5-7) will feature national powers Wichita State and Florida State, in addition to Washington State.

The Golden Gophers will open the tournament against the Cougars of Washington State on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. Minnesota will then face the Florida State Seminoles on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The Seminoles are ranked fourth by *Baseball America* and ninth by *Collegiate Baseball*. In the finale against Wichita State on Sunday at 12:30 p.m., the "World Famous" Chicken will be on hand to entertain the crowd. The Shockers are ranked number one in the country by *Collegiate Baseball* after posting a remarkable 56-7 record last season.

**The Program:** The Golden Gopher baseball program is one filled with a history of success and pride. Among the facts:

- 84 winning seasons
- 36 consecutive winning seasons
- Only five losing seasons in the last 64 years
- 17 Big Ten Championships, 15 in the last 43 seasons
- 22 NCAA appearances
- Five College World Series appearances
- Three NCAA titles

**KKMS-AM 980 and Midwest Sports Channel to Broadcast Games in 1999:** The University of Minnesota announced that KKMS-AM (980) will broadcast 47 games including all of Minnesota's Big Ten Conference games. Paul Barnes will be entering his fourth year as the radio voice of the Golden Gophers.

Midwest Sports Channel will televise four games beginning with the Wichita State vs. Minnesota game in the Hormel Foods Baseball Classic March 7. Other games on MSC include the first game of the May 1 doubleheader with Illinois, the May 9 matchup with Northwestern and the Michigan State game on May 14.

## Minnesota's 1998 Record When...

Home.....	27-5
Metrodome.....	13-4
Siebert Field.....	14-1
Road.....	14-8
Neutral Site.....	4-2
Day Games.....	33-13
Night Games.....	12-2
On Turf.....	13-4
On Grass.....	32-11
Vs. Left-handed Starters.....	11-4
Vs. Right-handed Starters.....	34-11
Against Top 25 Teams.....	4-4
One-Run Games.....	6-4
Two-Run Games.....	5-5
Extra-Innings Games.....	4-1
Shutouts.....	7-1
Scoring First.....	37-5
Scoring in the First Inning.....	24-4
Opponents Score First.....	7-10
Ahead After 5 Innings.....	33-2
Behind After 5 Innings.....	7-13
Tied After 5 Innings.....	5-0
Ahead Going Into Final Inning.....	37-0
Behind Going Into Final Inning.....	2-15
Tied Going Into Final Regulation Inning.....	6-0
Doubleheaders.....	18-4
Teams Combine For Less Than 10 Runs.....	11-7
Teams Combine For Between 10-19 Runs.....	25-5
Teams Combine For 20 or More Runs.....	9-3
Scoring 5 or More Runs.....	36-5
Scoring 4 Runs or Fewer.....	7-8
Allowing 5 or More Runs.....	19-12
Allowing 4 Runs or Fewer.....	24-3
Hitting Multiple Home Runs.....	22-1
February.....	7-2
March.....	11-4
April.....	14-6
May.....	12-3
Sunday.....	10-0
Monday.....	2-0
Tuesday.....	6-0
Wednesday.....	7-1
Thursday.....	2-1
Friday.....	5-6
Saturday.....	10-6
Current Streak.....	L 2
Longest Winning Streak.....	14 (4/25 to 5/9)
Longest Home Winning Streak.....	9 (3/28 to 4/24)
Longest Road Winning Streak.....	8 (4/19 to 5/9)
Longest Losing Streak.....	3 (twice; last 4/10 to 4/11)
Longest Home Losing Streak.....	3 (3/24 to 3/28)
Longest Road Losing Streak.....	3 (4/10 to 4/11)
Largest Winning Margin.....	18 vs. Concordia (4/8)