



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Women's Intercollegiate Athletics

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For Immediate Release
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MINNESOTA TO OPEN 1996 SEASON--The 1996 Minnesota softball team will open the season this weekend in Arlington, Texas. The Gophers will play a doubleheader against UT-Arlington on Thursday before playing in the UTA/Pepsi Invitational Friday-Sunday.

ABOUT TEXAS-ARLINGTON--The Mavericks finished the 1995 campaign with a 22-34 overall record and 9-23 Southland Conference mark. Junior **Ali Sanford** returns after leading the team in batting average at .291 with 43 hits. Head coach **Anne Campbell** returns for her seventh season with a 152-181 coaching record. Campbell was an assistant coach at Minnesota for the 1988 and 1989 seasons.

ABOUT THE UTA/PEPSI TOURNAMENT--The 20-team field is divided into five pools. Minnesota is in Pool E with Oregon State, Tulsa and Sam Houston State. On Friday, the Gophers will play Tulsa at 11:15 a.m., and Oregon State at 1:30 p.m. On Saturday, Minnesota will play Sam Houston State at 1:30 p.m. with double elimination play beginning Saturday afternoon and concluding Sunday. Other teams competing include Utah, Louisiana Tech, Northwestern, Texas A&M, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

ABOUT OREGON STATE--The Beavers are coached by **Kirk Walker** who has a 13-41 record in one season. Junior **Amy Warner** returns this season after being a second team all-Pac-10 pick.

ABOUT SAM HOUSTON STATE--The LadyKats are coached by **Marty Blower** who holds a 155-127 record at the school. Sophomore **Lisa Johnson** returns this season after hitting .276 last season to help lead Sam Houston State to a 19-33 record.

ABOUT TULSA--Tulsa finished the 1995 season with a 10-35 record. Head coach **Pattie Holthaus** enters her fourth season with a 28-119 coaching record. The Golden Hurricanes are led by sophomore pitcher **Angela Fuller** who set a school record last season with 10 strikeouts in a game.

ALL-AMERICAN RETURNS--Junior all-American **RACHEL NELSON** (GOOD THUNDER, MN/MAPLE RIVER) is the top returning player for Minnesota this season. Nelson was a third team NSCA all-American selection last season. She led the team with a .380 batting average, 76 hits, 36 runs, 13 stolen bases and three triples. Nelson was a first team all-Mideast Region and all-Big Ten Conference selection.

HEAD COACH LISA BERNSTEIN--Minnesota head coach **Lisa Bernstein** returns for her fifth season at the helm of the softball program. She has a 111-124-1 record in four seasons as a head coach.

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PITCHING STAFF RETURNS WITH NEWCOMER--The entire pitching staff from the 1995 season returns for the 1996 campaign. Leading the team is junior **JENNIFER JOHNSON** (DIAMOND, CA) who posted an 11-18 record with a 2.60 ERA, four shutouts and 106 strikeouts. She also led the Big Ten Conference with five saves, ranking her third in the nation. Sophomore **WENDY LOGUE** (MILAN, IL/ROCKBRIDGE) had a 9-6 record with a 2.61 ERA and two shutouts. Junior **JENNY BAUER** (COTTAGE GROVE, MN/PARK) pitched in 20 games and recorded a 7-5 record with a 3.07 ERA and 31 strikeouts. Newcomer **STEPH KLAVITER** (NEW ULM, MN/CATHEDRAL) brings a wealth of talent to the Gopher pitching staff after recording an 89-8 high school record. She pitched 44 shutouts and 19 no-hitters, struckout 988 batters and led her team to three straight state championships.

RETURNING PLAYERS-- Eight other players return for the 1996 season. Sophomore **AMBER HEGLAND** (FARMINGTON, MN) will move to the outfield after playing at second base last season. She was a second team all-Mideast Region and all-Big Ten selection after leading the team with 32 RBI. Junior catcher **ANN BARTHOLMEY** (AUSTIN, MN) returns for her third season and has a .971 career fielding percentage. Sophomore **LARUA PETERS** (COTTAGE GROVE, MN/PARK) will see most of her time at second base. Junior **JODI HALVORSON** (RICHFIELD, MN) will start at third base again this season after leading the team with a .992 fielding percentage. Junior **RENEE SBROCCO** (ROCHESTER, MN/MAYO) will play in rightfield this year after appearing in 27 games last year. Other returners included sophomore outfielder **CHANTELL JERNELL** (MINNETONKA, MN/HOPKINS), senior **JENNY LOPEZ** (FORT COLLINS, CO) and junior outfielder **JENNIFER FOX** (AUSTIN, MN).

ROAD TRIP TEAM--Minnesota will spend the first seven weeks of the season on the road. The Gophers will play in four tournaments, beginning with the UTA/Pepsi Invitational this weekend. Next weekend, the Gophers will travel to Raleigh, N.C., to play in the Triangle Classic. Minnesota will play in the Troy Cox Invitational at New Mexico State from Feb. 29-March 2, before taking a week off for finals. The team then travels to Southern California for the PONY Tournament hosted by Cal State Fullerton. Minnesota opens Big Ten Conference play at Indiana, March 30-31, before returning home to open the season against Mankato State on April 4.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE--Minnesota will travel to North Carolina next week for a doubleheader on Feb. 22, against North Carolina before competing in the Triangle Classic on Feb. 23-25.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA 1996 SOFTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	B/T	Elig.	Major/Interest	Hometown/High School
1	Rachel Nelson	OF	L/R	Jr.	Kinesiology	Good Thunder, MN/Maple River
2	Stephanie Midthun	OF	L/R	Fr.	Pre-Physical Therapy	Rio Rancho, NM/Cibola
4	Jenny Lopez	2B	S/R	Sr.	ICP	Fort Collins, CO/Fort Collins
5	Shannon Beeler	SS	R/R	Fr.	Undecided	Shelton, WA/Shelton
6	Renee Sbrocco	OF/C	R/R	Jr.	Psychology	Rochester, MN/Mayo
7	Stephanie Klaviter	P	R/R	Fr.	Undecided	New Ulm, MN/Cathedral
9	Amber Hegland	IF	L/R	So.	Pre-Kinesiology	Farmington, MN/Farmington
11	Jenny Bauer	P/1B	R/R	Jr.	Kinesiology	Cottage Grove, MN/Park
12	Laura Peters	IF	S/R	So.	Undecided	Cottage Grove, MN/Park
14	Ann Bartholmey	C	R/R	Jr.	Kinesiology	Austin, MN/Austin
16	Lara Severson	C/OF	R/R	Fr.	Criminal Justice	LeSueur, MN/LeSueur
17	Tracy Carey	OF	R/R	Jr.	Undecided	Richfield, MN/Richfield
18	Wendy Logue	P/1B	R/R	So.	Sports Psychology	Milan, IL/Rockridge
19	Erin Brophy	IF	R/R	Fr.	Psychology	Crystal, MN/Robbinsdale
20	Jennifer Fox	OF	R/R	Jr.	Kinesiology	Austin, MN/Austin
21	Jodi Halvorson	IF	R/R	Jr.	Kinesiology	Richfield, MN/Richfield
22	Chantell Jernell	OF	R/R	So.	Pre-Kinesiology	Minnetonka, MN/Hopkins
23	Jennifer Johnson	P	R/R	Jr.	Human Ecology	Diamond Bar, CA/Diamond Bar

Head Coach: Lisa Bernstein (5th year)

Assistant Coaches: Julie Standerling (5th year)

Jennifer McGuinness (1st year)

Alphabetical/Pronunciation Guide

Jenny Bauer (Bower)

Ann Bartholmey (BAR-Thol-me)

Shannon Beeler

Erin Brophy (BRO-fee)

Jennifer Fox

Jodi Halvorson (HAL-ver-son)

Amber Hegland

Chantell Jernell (GER-nell)

Jennifer Johnson

Stephanie Klaviter (CLUH-viter)

Wendy Logue (Low-g)

Jenny Lopez

Stephanie Midthun (MID-tune)

Rachel Nelson

Laura Peters

Renee Sbrocco (Sa-BROCK-o)

Lara Severson (SEE-ver-son)

2/8/96 SID