



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

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January 26, 1998

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THIS WEEK IN GOPHER SPORTS

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Tues, Jan. 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✕ Basketball vs. Wisconsin Williams Arena ESPN (live) WCCO-AM (830) 6:30 p.m. |
| Fri, Jan. 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✕ Hockey at Michigan Tech Houghton, Mich. KSTP-AM (1500) 6:05 p.m. ✕ Swimming/ Diving at Triple Duals Madison, Wis. 6 p.m. |
| Sat, Jan. 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✕ Basketball at Indiana Bloomington, Ind. CBS (live) WCCO-AM (830) Noon |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sat, Jan. 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✕ Gymnastics at Ohio State Columbus, Ohio 7:30 p.m. ✕ Hockey at Michigan Tech Houghton, Mich. KSTP-AM (1500) 4:05 p.m. ✕ Swimming/ Diving at Triple Duals Madison, Wis. Noon ✕ Wrestling at Wisconsin Madison, Wis. 7 p.m. |
|---------------------|---|

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Men's Athletics received tremendous support over the weekend as a total paid attendance of 45,257 people came to see hockey's sweep of Minnesota-Duluth, basketball's 76-53 win over Ohio State, and wrestling's attendance record-breaking dual against Iowa. The breakdown is as follows:

Two-day hockey attendance: 19,571

Basketball attendance: 14,402

Wrestling attendance: 11,284

WEEKLY RELEASES

The University of Minnesota Men's Media Relations Office will be producing five separate releases during the 1997-98 academic year. Football, basketball, hockey and baseball information will be covered in sport-specific weekly releases, while information on "Olympic sports" will appear each Monday in this release. Please refer any questions to the Men's Media Relations office at (612) 625-4090.

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:

Tuesday, January 27:

Senior guard **SAM JACOBSON** previews the Indiana game.

Wednesday, January 28:

Head Minnesota Basketball Coach **CLEM HASKINS** and Head Wisconsin Basketball Coach **DICK BENNETT** postgame comments

Thursday, January 29:

Head Hockey Coach **DOUG WOOG** previews the Michigan Tech series.

Friday and Saturday, January 30-31:

Junior hockey center **WYATT SMITH** previews the Michigan Tech series.

GYMNASTICS

THIS WEEK: The Golden Gophers travel to Columbus, Ohio, for a matchup with No. 4 Ohio State, Saturday, Jan. 31. The dual meet will begin at 6:30 p.m., CDT.

LAST ACTION: Minnesota equalled last year's seventh-place finish at the Windy City Invitational, Jan. 17. The Golden Gophers' 213.850 team points were 14.20 points behind first-place Iowa. Ohio State, Minnesota's next opponent, finished in third-place with 222.850 points. The Buckeyes defeated No.7 Illinois last weekend by a score of 226.80 to 223.05.

FLASHBACK: Last season, the Golden Gophers nearly upset No. 1 Ohio State at the Sports Pavilion. The Buckeyes escaped with a 228.75-228.50 victory. The 228.50 points was Minnesota's highest team total for 1997.

INJURY FRONT: The Golden Gophers have been slowed by a rash of injuries to key contributors. **DAN BOOTS (JR,** Pearland, Texas), **TODD GUILBEAU (FR,** Houston, Texas) and **BOB HUBBARD (SR,** Phoenix, Ariz.) were unable to participate in the last meet and their status for the Ohio State dual is still uncertain.

STRONG START: Senior co-captain **GEORGE BEATTY (Aberdeen, N.J.)** will lead the Golden Gophers' effort this weekend in Columbus, Ohio. Beatty scored a career-high 9.750

in Minnesota's near-upset of the top-ranked Buckeyes last season. Beatty captured a third-place finish on the pommel horse, seventh-place on the parallel bars and a 12th-place performance on the horizontal bar at the season-opening Windy City Invitational (1/17).

FANG WINS VAULT: Sophomore **LINDSEY FANG (Allentown, Pa.)** tied for first place with a career-high vault of 9.650 at the Windy City Invitational, Jan. 17. With all of the Golden Gopher injuries this season, Fang was Minnesota's lone entrant in the all-around competition. He matched last year's 18th-place finish in the all-around.

NATIONAL RANKINGS: The Golden Gophers enter the 1998 season ranked ninth in the preseason poll. Minnesota finished seventh in the final 1997 rankings.

COACH ROETHLISBERGER: Head Coach Fred Roethlisberger is in his 27th year at the helm of the University of Minnesota Gymnastics program. Roethlisberger has led his team to 11 Big Ten Championships during his tenure and has a 170-68-1 (.713) career record.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Senior co-captains Bob Hubbard (Phoenix, Ariz.) and George Beatty will be counted on to lead the young Golden Gopher squad this season. The three-year letterwinners, along with **MICHAEL MAMAKOS (Huntington, N.Y./UCLA),** are the only seniors on this year's roster.



SCOREBOARD

1998 MEN'S GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Alumni Meet | L 213.90-221.85 |
| Jan. 17 | Windy City Invitational | 7th/213.85 |
| Jan. 31 | Ohio State | Columbus, Ohio |
| Feb. 7 | Illinois | Sports Pavilion |
| Feb. 13 | Michigan State | East Lansing, Mich. |
| Feb. 14 | Michigan | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| Feb. 27 | Nebraska | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 1 | Iowa | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 7 | Illinois-Chicago | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 20-21 | Big Ten Championships | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| April 4 | NCAA East Regionals | Amherst, Mass. |
| April 16-18 | NCAA Championships | University Park, Pa. |

GOPHER FLASHES

HOME OPENER: The Golden Gophers host No. 7 Illinois at the Sports Pavilion, Feb. 7. The Fighting Illini turned in an impressive performance in the Windy City Invitational, Jan. 17, with a second-place finish. Illinois edged out perennial power and No. 3 Ohio State by 0.950 points. Sixth-ranked Nebraska, second-ranked Iowa and 13th-ranked Illinois-Chicago are upcoming home opponents for Minnesota.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Minnesota finished fourth at the 1997 Big Ten Championships. This season, the University of Michigan will host the event in Ann Arbor, Mich., March 20-21. The Golden Gophers last won the Big Ten Championship in 1995 when current assistant coach Brian Yee. Yee, an All-American that year, finished second in the all-around and went on to finish seventh at the NCAA Championships.

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Golden Gophers are looking to get back to the NCAA Championships in University Park, Pa., April 16-18, for the first time since 1993. The NCAA East Regionals are set for April 4 in Amherst, Mass.

SWIMMING & DIVING

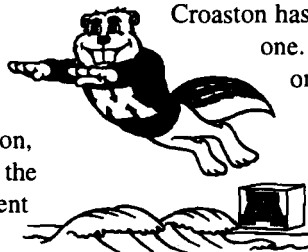
THIS WEEK: After dominating the Nebraska Triangular in Lincoln, Neb., Friday and Saturday, Jan. 23-24, the Golden Gophers (5-1 overall, 1-1 Big Ten) look to tackle another triple dual meet. Thirteenth-ranked Minnesota will swim against No. 21 Purdue and No. 25 Wisconsin in Madison, Wis., Friday and Saturday, Jan. 30-31.

BISHOP'S BEST: Sophomore distance freestyler **BILL BISHOP** (Barrington, Ill.) has captured 10 titles in the 16 events he has swam this season, including two of the three events he participated in at the Nebraska Triangular. Bishop was the only double-event winner at that meet as he took the winner's podium in the 500-yard freestyle (4:34.97) and 1,000-yard freestyle (9:23.18). Bishop has competed in five different events this season, notching an NCAA consideration time in the 1,650-yard freestyle in November (15:29.78). He currently holds Minnesota's 1,000-yard and 1,650-yard freestyle records set last season.

MASTER MASSURA: Freshman **ALEX MASSURA** (Belo Horizonte, Brazil) is the only Golden Gopher to swim across all disciplines: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and the individual medley. Short of getting on the diving

board, the 1996 Olympian has led the Maroon and Gold swimming in eight different stroke categories. A specialist in the sprint free and backstroke, he has garnered first place in 12 of the 18 events he has swam in. Massura also joins the Golden Gophers' top 800-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard medley relay.

DIVER DAN: Another impressive freshman, diver **DAN CROASTON** (Champlin, Minn.), has quietly made a big splash. Croaston has won EVERY event he has competed in except one. At the Nebraska Triangular, Croaston finished second on the 1-meter springboard, but rebounded to post an NCAA diving standard score of 336.75 (six dives) on the 3-meter springboard.



NUMBER CRUNCHING: In its six dual meets this season, Minnesota has been out scoring its opponents by an average of 77 points. The latest point differentials included a 253-111 drubbing of 20th-ranked Texas A&M and 230-140 defeat of 16th-ranked Nebraska at the Nebraska Triangular (1/23-24). Incidentally, the Golden Gophers and Cornhuskers tied for 12th with 109 points at last season's NCAA Championship.

RANKINGS: Minnesota is ranked 13th in the nation according to the CSCAA Speedo America Top 25 Poll (Jan. 15). The highest the Golden Gophers have been ranked is 12th when the poll debuted November 13.

SCOREBOARD

OVERALL RECORD: 5-1; BIG TEN RECORD: 1-1
TOP INDIVIDUAL EVENT TIMES
(1997-98)

50 FREE — 20.38, Ty Bathurst (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 FREE — 45.16, Ty Bathurst (1st, Minn. Invite)
200 FREE — 1:39.52*, Alex Massura (1st, at Iowa)
500 FREE — 4:29.15, Bill Bishop (exb., Minn. Invite)
1000 FREE — 9:21.53, Bill Bishop (1st, vs. UNC)
1650 FREE — 15:29.78, Bill Bishop (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 BACK — 48.88#*, Alex Massura (1st, vs. UNC)
200 BACK — 1:45.53#*, Alex Massura (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 BREAST — 55.79*, Ty Bathurst (1st, Minn. Invite)
200 BREAST — 2:03.90, Chris Wood (1st, vs. UNC)
100 FLY — 48.54, Martin Zielinski (1st, Minn. Invite)
200 FLY — 1:50.07, Martin Zielinski (1st, Minn. Invite)
200 IM — 1:51.40, Jono McLeod (1st, Minn. Invite)
400 IM — 3:56.77, Bill Bishop (1st, Minn. Invite)

* personal best
+ Minnesota Varsity Record
Minnesota Freshman Record

GOPHER FLASHES

LAST ACTION: Minnesota swept the Nebraska Triangular, defeating 20th-ranked Texas A&M 253-111 and 16th-ranked Nebraska 230-140 Friday and Saturday, Jan. 23-24, in Lincoln, Neb. The wins improved the Golden Gophers' record to 5-1 in dual meet action.

The lone double-winner was sophomore **BILL BISHOP** (Barrington, Ill.) who took the 500-yard and 1,000-yard freestyle titles. Minnesota captured 12 of the 21 events with seven individuals grabbing first-place finishes.

TIES TO MADTOWN: Eight swimmers and divers call Wisconsin home sweet home, the sight of Minnesota's upcoming Big Ten triple dual meet. Of the eight, four are freshmen, while two are Madison, Wis. natives. Diver **MATT NINNEMAN** and breaststroker **CHRIS WOOD** are local "Madtown" products. Minnesota's first-year assistant coach Jack Pettinger was the Wisconsin Badgers' head swimming and diving coach for 24 years (1969-1993), amassing a 224-87 record while the UW skipper.

TENNIS

THIS WEEK: Minnesota is off until Saturday, Feb. 14, when the team travels to Lawrence, Kan., to face 24th-ranked Kansas. The Maroon and Gold are coming off play at the Big Ten Singles Championships, Saturday through Monday, Jan. 24-26, in East Lansing, Mich.

UPSETTING THE CHAMP: The Golden Gophers' No. 1 singles player **TOM CHICOINE** (Neenah, Wis.) may have been left out of the seedings for the Big Ten Singles Championships, January 24-26, but he made his presence felt. The highest-ranked U.S. high school player ever recruited by Minnesota, Chicoine defeated Purdue's Evan Hays 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the main draw Saturday to advance to a meeting with third-seeded Gavin Sontag of Illinois. Chicoine defeated Sontag, the defending Big Ten Singles champ, 6-4, 6-4 before bowing out to Michigan State's Trey Eubanks, the eighth seed, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5.

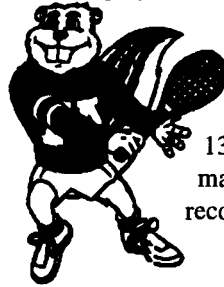
Chicoine defeated Sontag at the Big Ten Team Championship in April, 1997 for his 50th career victory.

OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN: Just a sophomore, team captain **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** (Ottawa, Ontario) exuded his leadership skills, advancing as far as the Big Ten Singles Championships' quarterfinals. Michalowski, who figures into the lineup as the Maroon and Gold's No. 3 singles player, upended

two of the championships' seeded players, defeating Michigan's 13th-seeded Will Farah 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the second round before defeating seventh-seeded Jamie Gordon of Purdue, 6-4, 6-4 in the third round. The team's most improved player a year ago fell to Illinois' second-seeded Oliver Freelove 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the quarterfinal round.

Michalowski advanced the furthest of any Golden Gopher since **Russ Loel** won the title in 1995.

DOUBLE FIGURES: Minnesota's starting lineup has four players with double digits in the win column. Tom Chicoine leads all Golden Gopher winning percentages with a 14-7 record, followed by freshman **JORGE DUENAS** (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) who holds a 14-8 record. Martin Michalowski carries a 13-8 record, while fellow Canadian countryman freshman **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) brings a 10-9 record to the court.



ON THE RECORD: Speaking of records, freshman **JON SVENSSON** (Kristianstad, Sweden) and junior **MARTIN KRISTOFFERSEN** (Portsgrunn, Norway) are the only two U of M players with undefeated dual match records. Svensson, the Golden Gophers' No. 6 singles player, is 3-0, with a win at No. 5 singles. Kristoffersen, seventh in the singles lineup, holds a 1-0 record following his win in the match against Ohio State Sunday, Jan. 18 at No. 6 singles. He also advanced to the finals of the Nos. 7 and 8 back draw, before pulling out of the Big Ten Singles Championships.

SCOREBOARD

| Singles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tom Chicoine | 14-7 | 1-2 | 13-5 | 1-2 | | | | | |
| Adam Selkirk | 5-10 | 1-1 | 4-9 | | 1-1 | | | | |
| M. Michalowski | 13-8 | 1-2 | 12-6 | | 1-0 | 0-2 | | | |
| Jorge Duenas | 14-8 | 2-1 | 12-7 | | | 1-0 | 1-1 | | |
| Tyson Parry | 10-9 | 2-1 | 8-8 | | | | 0-1 | 2-0 | |
| Jon Svensson | 9-8 | 3-0 | 6-8 | | | | | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| M. Kristoffersen | 7-7 | 1-0 | 6-7 | | | | | | 1-0 |
| Ed Marques | 2-8 | | 2-8 | | | | | | |
| Voke Okoh | 0-2 | | 0-2 | | | | | | |

| Doubles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 |
|------------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| Michalowski/Parry | 12-5 | 1-2 | 11-3 | 1-2 | | |
| Chicoine/Duenas | 7-7 | 2-1 | 5-6 | | 2-1 | |
| Selkirk/Svensson | 6-3 | 2-0 | 4-3 | | | 2-0 |
| Kristoffersen/Svensson | 3-1 | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 1-0 |
| Marques/Dvorak | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |
| Marques/Okoh | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |

GOPHER FLASHES

RANKINGS: The University of Minnesota is ranked No. 48 in the nation according to the ITA's fall rankings (Dec. 9). The next rankings will be available Feb. 9 and can be accessed through the internet at: www.tennisonline.com

TRACK & FIELD

THIS WEEK: Fifteenth-ranked Minnesota competes in the Nebraska Triangular Saturday, Jan. 31, in Lincoln, Neb. Scheduled to appear are Nebraska, Minnesota and Kent.

HOP, SKIP, JUMPING TOWARDS A RECORD:

Sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) immediately proved why he was the 1997 Big Ten Freshman of the Year with his sparking spring at the Minnesota Invitational, Saturday, Jan. 24 at the U of M Field House. The All-American high jumper shattered his own school indoor record and set a Big Ten record when he leapt 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) in his first competition of the season. The previous conference mark was 7-5 (2.26m) set by Strand in 1997, which placed him second at the NCAA Indoor Championships and Paul Piwinski of Michigan State in 1983. In addition to breaking Minnesota's indoor record with the NCAA automatic qualifying jump, he smashed the Field House and Minnesota Invitational records by three inches. It is the highest leap in the nation among collegians this season. His old record, 7-5 (2.26m), placed him second at last year's NCAA Indoor Championships.



distance teams have improved in 1998. At the Minnesota Invitational (1/24), the Golden Gophers took three of the five mid-distance and distance events they competed in, while placing second in the other two events. Freshman **TOM GERDING** (Waconia, Minn) won his second straight 600-meter run with the season's best time of 1:19.16, while freshman **JOSH BRANG** (Winona, Minn.) won the mile run in 4:10.42. Brang caught and passed the leader, Houston Barber of Marquette, in the final 400 meters to win the event. Junior transfer **ERIC PIERCE** (Forest Lake, Minn.) won the 3,000-meter run in 8:32.94 to round out the trio of distance victories.

TURF VS. TRACK: Sophomore **FRED RODGERS** (Hamilton, Ohio) splits his athletic calendar between football in the fall and track during the winter and spring. Rodgers, a cornerback during the fall, joined the Golden Gopher sprint contingent for the first time at the Minnesota Invitational. Rodgers posted the fastest qualifying time in the preliminary races of the 55-meter dash, Saturday (6.51). Rodgers, backed by the support of his football teammates, placed second in the finals with a time of 6.48, .06 off the mark from the winner, Tony Simmons of Wisconsin. Simmons posted a 6.52 time in the prelims.

GOING THE DISTANCE: Minnesota's mid-distance and

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDOOR PERFORMANCES

55m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.48 (1/24)
55m High Hurdles -- Niles Deneen%, 7.54, (1/24)
600m Hurdles -- Yet to be competed in this season
200m Dash -- Steve Burkholder, 22.68 (1/10)
400m Dash -- Bob Quade, 50.49 (1/10)
600m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 1:19.16 (1/24)
800m Run -- Nate Clay, 1:54.77\$ (1/24)
Mile Run -- Josh Brang, 4:10.42 (1/24)
3,000m Run -- Nate Clay, 8:30.27\$ (1/10)
5,000m Run -- Yet to be competed in this season
High Jump -- Staffan Strand, 7-6 1/2 (2.30)!&@^\$ (1/24)
Pole Vault -- Vesa Rantanen, 17-4 3/4* (5.30m) (1/10)
Long Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 2-7 1/4 (6.89m) (1/17)
Triple Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 49-0 1/4 (14.91) (1/17)
Shot Put -- Chad Yenchesky, 59-4 1/4 (18.08m)*\$ (1/24)
Weight Throw -- Mark Fahey, 48-4 3/4 (14.75m) (1/17)
Pentathlon -- Jesse Madsen%, 3,289 (1/24)
Heptathlon -- Yet to be competed in this season

Key:

* NCAA Provisional

! NCAA Automatic

& Minnesota School Record

@ Field House Record

^ Big Ten Record

\$ Personal Best

U of M Freshman Record

% competed unattached

GOPHER FLASHES

UNDER CONSIDERATION: Three Golden Gophers have already made consideration performances for the NCAA Indoor Championships, March 13-14, in Indianapolis, Ind. Sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) automatically qualified with his record-breaking high jump of 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) at the Minnesota Invitational, while junior **VESA RANTANEN** (Virrat, Finland) vaulted an NCAA consideration height of 17-4 3/4 (5.30m) at the Badger Track Classic (1/10) and senior **CHAD YENCHESKY** (DePere, Wis.) threw a career-best and NCAA consideration shot put of 59-4 1/4 (18.08m) for first place at the Minnesota Invitational.

LATEST RANKINGS: Minnesota is tied for 15th in the nation with North Carolina according to Trackwire's latest top 25 poll posted January 21. Arkansas leads the pack, while the only other Big Ten school, Michigan, sits at ninth.

WRESTLING

THIS WEEK: The No. 2 Golden Gophers (13-1 overall, 0-1 Big Ten) travel to Madison, Wis., to take on the Wisconsin Badgers (6-5, 0-3) in a dual meet Saturday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. in the UW Field House. Minnesota is looking for its first win in a Big Ten Conference dual meet after losing to Iowa 20-12 last Friday at Williams Arena. Last weekend, the Badgers defeated Northern Iowa 25-20 in the UW Field House Jan. 23, and lost to Iowa 39-3 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena Jan. 24.

IN THE SERIES: Minnesota leads the series with Wisconsin 46-28-1. The Golden Gophers won the last meeting between the two teams with a 28-9 victory at Williams Arena, Feb. 2, 1997.

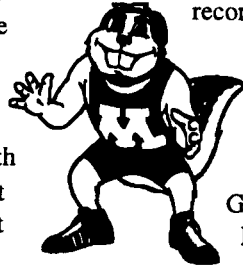
PROBABLE LINEUP VS. WISCONSIN BADGERS

- 118 — **BRETT LAWRENCE** (Fr., Sandpoint, Idaho)
- 126 — **PAT CONNORS** (Jr., Longview, Wash.) -OR- **BART GOLYER** (So., Cedar, Minn.)
- 134 — **TROY MARR** (Jr., Wyoming, Minn.)
- 142 — **JASON DAVIDS** (Sr., Forest Lake, Minn.)
- 150 — **CHAD KRAFT** (Jr., Lakefield, Minn.)
- 158 — **JOSH HOLIDAY** (Jr., Anaheim, Calif.)

- 167 — **ZAC TAYLOR** (Sr., Sandpoint, Idaho) -OR- **DELANEY BERGER** (So., Mandan, N.D.)
- 177 — **BRANDON EGGUM** (So., Sidney, Mont.)
- 190 — **TIM HARTUNG** (Jr., Durand, Wis.)
- Hwt — **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (Sr., Orangeburg, S.C.)

IOWA DOWNS MINNESOTA IN FRONT OF RECORD CROWD:

The Golden Gophers lost to the No. 3 Iowa Hawkeyes 20-12 Friday, Jan. 23, in front of a school-record 11,284 fans at Williams Arena. The attendance mark surpasses the old record set Feb. 3, 1980, when 9,225 fans turned out at Williams Arena to watch the Iowa State Cyclones defeat the Golden Gophers 19-18 at Williams Arena.



Junior **CHAD KRAFT** remained unbeaten for the Golden Gophers, decisioning Iowa's Jamie Heidt 4-0. Kraft is now 13-0 on the season. Senior **JASON DAVIDS**, ranked No. 1 in the country at 142 pounds, lost his first match of the season to No. 4 Jeff McGinness in a 6-2 decision. Davids is now 23-1 on the season. Sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, ranked fifth in nation at 177 pounds, also fell for the first time this season in a hard-fought 8-7 loss to Iowa's Paul Jenn to fall to 21-1 on the year.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG**, ranked No. 3 in the country at 190 pounds, avenged his loss to No. 2 Lee Fullhart of Iowa at the National Duals, soundly decisioning him to improve to 21-1 on the season.

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

| Wt. | Name | Overall | Total | Dual | Big Ten | Pins |
|-----|------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|------|
| 118 | Brett Lawrence | 14-6 | 14-6 | 9-5 | 0-1 | 3 |
| | Leroy Vega | 11-2 | 11-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Julio Alaniz | 6-4 | 6-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 126 | Bart Golyer | 17-2 | 16-1 | 6-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Pat Connors | 17-4 | 9-4 | 5-3 | 1-0 | 4 |
| 134 | Chad Erikson | 11-3 | 11-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Ty Friederichs | 11-7 | 11-7 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Pat Connors | | 8-0 | 4-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Bart Golyer | | 1-1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Krebs | 11-6 | 11-6 | 2-1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Troy Marr | 21-5 | 7-3 | 3-2 | 0-1 | 2 |
| 142 | Jason Davids | 23-1 | 23-1 | 13-1 | 0-1 | 13 |
| | Joe Calavitta | 8-2 | 8-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Troy Marr | | 14-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 150 | Chad Kraft | 13-0 | 13-0 | 12-0 | 1-0 | 2 |
| | Brad Pike | 15-4 | 15-4 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Eddie Pak | 5-6 | 5-6 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Troy Marr | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 158 | Tim Kinsella | 13-2 | 13-2 | 1-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Jesse Krebs | 6-5 | 6-5 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Holiday | 20-1 | 20-1 | 11-1 | 1-0 | 4 |
| 167 | Delaney Berger | 15-1 | 15-1 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Zac Taylor | 22-3 | 22-3 | 10-2 | 0-1 | 7 |
| | Mike Cuperus | 14-2 | 14-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 5 |
| | Matt Kraft | 6-2 | 6-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 177 | Brandon Eggum | 21-1 | 21-1 | 12-1 | 0-1 | 6 |
| | Kenneth Howard | 3-3 | 3-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| 190 | Tim Hartung | 21-1 | 21-1 | 13-1 | 0-1 | 15 |
| | Owen Elzen | 7-4 | 7-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 4 |
| HWT | Shelton Benjamin | 21-4 | 21-4 | 9-3 | 0-1 | 7 |
| | Brent Boeshans | 13-4 | 13-4 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 1 |

GOPHER FLASHES

- No. 3 Iowa 20, No. 2 Minnesota 12**
Friday, Jan. 23, 1998 — Williams Arena
- 118 - No. 12 Eric Juergens (IA) maj. dec. No. 19 Brett Lawrence (UM) 18-4
 - 126 - No. 13 Pat Connors (UM) dec. No. 8 Doug Schwab (IA) 6-3
 - 134 - No. 1 Mark Ironside (IA) maj. dec. No. 7 Troy Marr (UM) 17-6
 - 142 - No. 4 Jeff McGinness (IA) dec. No. 1 Jason Davids (UM) 6-2
 - 150 - No. 1 Chad Kraft (UM) dec. Jamie Heidt (IA) 4-0
 - 158 - No. 9 Josh Holiday (UM) dec. Ben Uker (IA) 9-3
 - 167 - No. 1 Joe Williams (IA) dec. No. 5 Zac Taylor (UM) 6-5
 - 177 - Paul Jenn (IA) dec. No. 5 Brandon Eggum (UM) 8-7
 - 190 - No. 3 Tim Hartung (UM) dec. No. 2 Lee Fullhart (IA) 6-1
 - Hwt - No. 9 Wes Hand (IA) dec. No. 6 Shelton Benjamin (UM) 7-3

WRESTLING

HAWKEYES SNAP GOPHERS' WINNING

STREAK: With their 20-12 victory over Minnesota, the Iowa Hawkeyes snapped the Golden Gophers' 13-match winning streak. In a streak going back to last season, the Golden Gophers had won 18 straight dual meets and 18 of their last 20. In fact, Minnesota had not lost a dual meet since Oklahoma State defeated Minnesota 26-10 last Jan. 31 in Stillwater, Okla.

MINNESOTA SOLIDIFIES HOLD ON SECOND IN NATIONAL POLLS:

The Golden Gopher wrestling team remained second for the third straight week in the January 22 National Wrestling Coaches Association/*Amateur Wrestling News* rankings, trailing Oklahoma State by only three points. The Golden Gophers also received two first-place votes in the latest poll. That is Minnesota's highest ranking of the season and its highest since the team slipped to second in the country in the final poll of the 1993-94 season after holding the No. 1 spot for two weeks that year. The Golden Gophers had been third in every poll this season prior to the January 8 ranking.

SEVEN 20-MATCH WINNERS IN LINEUP:

Seven Golden Gophers in the starting lineup have won at least 20 matches this season. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** (142) leads the team with a 23-1 record. Senior **ZAC TAYLOR** (167) is second with a 22-3 record on the season. Other 20-match winners include junior **TROY MARR** (134) at 21-5, sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** (177) is 21-1, junior **TIM HARTUNG** (190) is 21-1, senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (hwt) is 21-4 and junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** (158) is 20-1.

LATEST INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS: Individually, two-time All-Americans **JASON DAVIDS** and **CHAD KRAFT** are the top-ranked wrestlers in their weight classes in the Jan. 22 Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (IWA) rankings. Davids is ranked first at 142 lbs. after placing third at the 1997 NCAA Championships. Kraft, a junior from Lakefield, Minn., is the top ranked wrestler at 150 after his third-place showing at the NCAA meet. Defending Big Ten champion and 1997 All-American **TIM HARTUNG** is ranked second at 190.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include senior All-American **SHELTON BENJAMIN** who is sixth at heavy-weight, senior **ZAC TAYLOR** who is ranked fifth at 167, junior All-American **PAT CONNORS** who is 13th at 126, junior **TROY MARR** who is the seventh-ranked wrestler at 134, junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** who is ninth at 158 pounds and sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** who is fifth at 177 pounds. Freshman **BRETT LAWRENCE** made his first appearance in the rankings on Jan. 2 and is currently listed as the nation's 19th-ranked wrestler at 118.

IN THE CONFERENCE: Ten Minnesota wrestlers are ranked in the Jan. 19 Big Ten Conference Wrestling Coaches poll, including two athletes who are ranked No. 1 in their weight class. No other Big Ten school had all 10 of its starters listed in the poll.

Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is ranked No. 1 at 142 pounds by the coaches and junior **CHAD KRAFT** is No. 1 at 150 pounds.

Davids and Kraft are also both ranked No. 1 in the nation at their respective weights.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include freshman **BRETT LAWRENCE**, who is tied for fifth at 118 pounds; junior **PAT CONNORS**, fourth at 126; junior **TROY MARR**, third at 134; junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, second at 158 pounds; senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, fourth at 167; sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, third at 177; junior **TIM HARTUNG**, second at 190; and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, second at heavyweight.

HOLDING THEM SCORELESS: Minnesota's 49-0 victory over two-time NAIA national champion Missouri Valley College Saturday at the National Duals marked the team's fifth shutout of the season. Minnesota's other shutouts came against Mankato State (38-0), Truman State (57-0), Augustana (53-0) and San Francisco State (46-0). The Golden Gophers have lost only one match in three other duals this season (Fresno State 45-3, Nebraska 43-3, West Virginia 33-3).

PIN CITY: Through 14 dual meets this season, Minnesota's wrestlers have won 38 matches by pinning their opponents, including Benjamin's dramatic fall in 2:16 over Iowa's Wes Hand to give the Golden Gophers the National Duals title. Minnesota recorded a remarkable eight wins by fall in a 57-0 win over Truman State on Dec. 5, 1997. Last year through 14 duals, Minnesota had only recorded 19 match wins by pin.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG** is the team leader with eight pins in dual meets. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is second with six. Hartung is also the overall team leader with 15 pins overall, and Davids is second with 13.



SPORTS NEWS

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

For Immediate Release

January 27, 1998

GALYAN'S GOPHER PRO-ALUMNI GAME SET FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT THE METRODOME

The University of Minnesota baseball team will play the Galyan's Gopher Pro-Alumni baseball game on Sunday, February 8, at 1 p.m. For the past six years, former Golden Gopher greats have joined together to take on the current Maroon and Gold squad in an event that introduces today's players to the program's past stars.

"Our professional alumni game is really an opportunity to celebrate our tradition," Head Coach John Anderson said. "But it's also for the players. When we can bring back the Paul Molitors, Terry Steinbachs, Denny Neagles, Dan Wilsons, you bring back people who represent the values you try to build your program on. They are real people, and our players get opportunities to meet them and to understand who they are and why it's so special to be part of our family at the University of Minnesota."

The Golden Gophers will honor a very special part of Minnesota's baseball tradition at this year's game when the team retires the jersey of longtime volunteer assistant coach Herb "Ike" Isakson. Isakson, who retired from active coaching following last season, dedicated 34 years to the Golden Gopher baseball team as a volunteer coach. An honorary "M" letterwinner, Isakson will also be presented with the Distinguished Service award from the Department of Men's Athletics and have his number put up on the walls of Siebert Field later this season.

"Ike has been the one constant," Anderson said. "He started with (former Golden Gopher Head Coach) Dick Siebert and has coached with me every game I have coached at the University of Minnesota. He has been truly unselfish. His rewards have not been monetary, but his rewards have been the game, working with the players and being a part of our tradition. We talk about our baseball family, and Golden Gopher baseball has been Ike's family throughout the years."

Fans attending the game will receive a 1998 Minnesota Baseball schedule poster, and drawings for autographed baseballs and other prizes will be held throughout the game.

Tickets for the game are \$6 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-8080 or 1-800-UGOPHER. A two-for-one ticket coupon is available at Galyan's Trading Company's metro area locations in Minnetonka, Richfield or Woodbury. Those coupons can be redeemed at the ticket gates on the day of the game. All proceeds benefit the Dick Siebert Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Galyan's Gopher Pro-Alumni Game Activities — Sunday, February 8

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 10:30-11:15 a.m. | Golden Gopher batting practice |
| 11:15-Noon | Pro-Alumni batting practice |
| 11:45 a.m. | Gates open |
| Noon | Clear Field |
| 12:05 p.m. | Pro-Alumni Infield/Outfield |
| 12:15 p.m. | Golden Gopher Infield/Outfield |
| 12:30 p.m. | Groundscrew |
| 12:45 p.m. | Herb Isakson No. 5 Retirement Ceremony |
| 1 p.m. | Pro-Alumni Introductions |
| 1:12 p.m. | National Anthem |
| 1:14 p.m. | Ceremonial First Pitch |
| 1:15 p.m. | First Pitch |

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

January 28, 1998

MINNESOTA MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD 13TH IN THE NATION BY *TRACKWIRE*

The University of Minnesota men's track and field team is ranked 13th in the nation according to *Trackwire's* top 25 poll released Wednesday, Jan. 28. It is the highest the Golden Gophers have been ranked this season after debuting at No. 15 in the December preseason poll.

The Arkansas Razorbacks lead the poll for the third straight week, followed by South Carolina and Stanford. Michigan is the highest-ranked Big Ten team at fourth, followed by Minnesota at No. 13.

The Golden Gophers' next competition is at the Nebraska Triangular Saturday, Jan. 31 in Lincoln, Neb.

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 a white letter "M" on the chest, and it has its right arm raised in a fist. The mascot is also holding a football in its left hand. The entire title and mascot graphic are set against a background of horizontal lines.

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

TO: Media Representatives
FROM: Marc Ryan, Director of Media Relations
RE: Football National Signing Day
DATE: January 29, 1998

Just a reminder that the national college football signing day is **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**. University of Minnesota Coach Glen Mason will hold a news conference at 3:30 p.m. in the Football Team Meeting Room. The list of Golden Gopher signees along with bio information will be released at that time.

For those media outlets that will be unable to attend, a taped version of the entire news conference can be heard on the Golden Gopher Hotline anytime after 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and all day Thursday. The phone number to call is (612) 625-7887.

The entire news release will also be available on the Golden Gopher web site home page. The web site address is: <http://www.gophersports.com>

If you have any questions, feel free to call the Men's Athletics Media Relations Office at (612) 625-4090.

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

January 29, 1998

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOOTBALL COACHES CLINIC SET FOR
APRIL 3-4**

Alex Gibbs, assistant head coach/offensive line coach for the 1998 Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, and Earle Bruce, former Ohio State and Colorado State head coach, will headline the speakers at the University of Minnesota football coaches clinic set for April 3-4.

Registration will be held from 8-9:30 a.m. in the Gibson-Nagurski Football Complex on Friday, April 3. Cost is \$25.00 per coach, which includes lunch on Friday. For more information please contact the football office at (612) 624-6004.



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

University of Minnesota • Bierman Field Athletic Building • 516 15th Avenue Southeast • Minneapolis, Minn. 55455
 Phone: 612.625.4090 • Fax: 612.625.0359 • Director: Marc Ryan • Assistant Directors: Bill Crumley and Brad Ruitter

February 2, 1998

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THIS WEEK IN GOPHER SPORTS

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|
| Wed, Feb. 4 | ☐ Basketball | at Illinois Champaign, Ill. MSC (live) WCCO-AM (830) 7 p.m. | Sat, Feb. 7 | ☐ Basketball | vs. Michigan Williams Arena CBS (live) WCCO-AM (830) 1 p.m. |
| | ☐ Golf | at Alumni Meet Phoenix, Ariz. All Day | | ☐ Gymnastics | vs. Illinois Sports Pavilion 1 p.m. |
| Fri, Feb. 6 | ☐ Hockey | vs. Wisconsin Mariucci Arena MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 7:35 p.m. | Sun, Feb. 8 | ☐ Hockey | vs. Wisconsin Target Center MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 7:05 p.m. |
| | ☐ Swimming/ Diving | vs. Minnesota Challenge U of M Aquatic Center 6 p.m. | | ☐ Swimming/ Diving | vs. Minnesota Challenge Aquatic Center Noon/6 p.m. |
| | ☐ Track/Field | at Iowa State Classic Ames, Iowa All Day | | ☐ Track/Field | at Iowa State Classic Ames, Iowa All Day |
| Sat, Feb. 7 | ☐ Wrestling | at Penn State University Park, Pa. 7:30 p.m. | ☐ Baseball | vs. Pro-Alumni Game Metrodome 1 p.m. | |
| | ☐ Golf | at Alumni Meet Phoenix, Ariz. All Day | ☐ Wrestling | at Ohio State Columbus, Ohio 2 p.m. | |

WEEKLY RELEASES

The University of Minnesota Men's Media Relations Office will be producing five separate releases during the 1997-98 academic year. Football, basketball, hockey and baseball information will be covered in sport-specific weekly releases, while information on "Olympic sports" will appear each Monday in this release. Please refer any questions to the Men's Media Relations office at (612) 625-4090.

GOPI'ER 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:

Tuesday, February 3:
Head Minnesota Basketball Coach **CLEM HASKINS'** weekly press conference

Wednesday, February 4:
Head Hockey Coach **DOUG WOOG** previews the Wisconsin series

Thursday, February 5:
Senior captain **CASEY HANKINSON** previews the Wisconsin series.

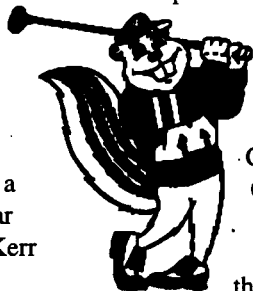
Friday, February 6:
Head Baseball Coach **JOHN ANDERSON** previews the opening of the 1998 baseball season and the pro-alumni game

Saturday and Sunday, February 7-8:
Head Basketball Coach **CLEM HASKINS'** and Head Michigan Basketball Coach **BRIAN ELLERBE'S** postgame comments

GOLF

THIS WEEK: The University of Minnesota golf team returns from a three-moth hiatus with its annual Alumni Team Challenge Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7 at Pinnacle Peak in Phoenix, Ariz. The competition, which will feature six current Golden Gophers against six Minnesota alumni, will serve as a warm up for Minnesota heading into a tough winter schedule.

FLASHBACK: ReliaStar Invitational: Less than one month after suffering a stroke, senior **ROB KERR** (Pointe Claire, Quebec) jumped out to a three-shot lead after one day of play to lead the Golden Gophers in Minnesota's host invitational, Sept. 14-15. The Golden Gophers trailed by two strokes after the first day but shot a 282 in the final day to capture its second straight ReliaStar crown at Dellwood Hills Golf Club in Dellwood, Minn. Kerr took medalist honors, finishing with a 7-under par 209.



Northern Intercollegiate: **ROBB KERR** led Minnesota again, capturing his second title in as many tournaments at the Northern Intercollegiate at the Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing, Mich., Sept. 27-28. His victory was fueled by a 7-under par 65 in the second round. The Golden Gophers, who had three golfers finish with identical 223 score cards, tied for second place.

Nike Northwest Classic: Minnesota received leadership on the links from junior **BILL THOMPSON** (Wayzata, Minn.) who finished seven strokes off the leader with a 1-over par 217 at the par-72 course in Corvallis, Ore., Oct. 6-7. The Golden Gophers took 13th in the Nike Northwest Classic's highly competitive field.

Coca-Cola Classic: The U of M ended its fall season with a second place finish at the Coca-Cola Classic in Las Cruces, N.M., Oct. 10-11. Sophomore **MARTIN LeMESURIER** (Hampshire, England) turned in a three-round total of 219 to lead Minnesota with his 12th-place finish. LeMesurier finished one stroke ahead of fellow Golden Gopher **BILL THOMPSON**.

RANKINGS: Minnesota began the season ranked eighth in the country according to the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings. Throughout the fall, the Golden Gophers dropped to ninth before holding at 33rd in the last poll released December 10.

The Golden Gophers are second in District 4 heading into the winter, while **ROB KERR** is the highest-rated player in the nation at 44th.

SCOREBOARD

TOP FIVE GOLFERS FROM THE FALL SCHEDULE

| | TOURNAMENT | SCORES | PAR | FINAL/FINISH |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1. Rob Kerr | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 70/68/71 | 216 | 209/1st out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 74/65/71 | 216 | 210/1st out of 90 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Nike Northwest Classic | 75/76/75 | 216 | 226/T56th out of 110 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Coca-Cola Classic | 73/79/70 | 216 | 222/T19th out of 111 |
| Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 867 | Average: 72.3 | | |
| 2. Bill Thompson | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 71/73/71 | 216 | 215/T6th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 76/72/75 | 216 | 223/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 72/74/71 | 216 | 217/T10th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 71/73/76 | 216 | 220/T13th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Strokes: 875 | Average: 72.9 | | |
| Fall Rounds: 12 | | | | |
| 3. M. Le Mesurier | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 78/74/70 | 216 | 222/T32nd out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 72/78/73 | 216 | 223/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 79/73/75 | 216 | 227/T59th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 72/74/73 | 216 | 219/12th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Strokes: 891 | Average: 74.3 | | |
| Fall Rounds: 12 | | | | |
| 4. Jeff Barney | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 71/73/70 | 216 | 214/T4th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 79/78/75 | 216 | 232/T53rd out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 78/76/74 | 216 | 228/T70th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Strokes: 674 | Average: 74.9 | | |
| Fall Rounds: 9 | | | | |
| 5. Andy Komor | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 72/71/72 | 216 | 215/T6th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 74/73/76 | 216 | 233/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 76/79/82 | 216 | 237/T99th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Strokes: 674 | Average: 74.9 | | |
| Fall Rounds: 9 | | | | |

GOPHER FLASHES

1998 MEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Feb. 6-7 | Alumni Challenge | Phoenix, Ariz. |
| Feb. 15-16 | Bridges All-America | Bay St. Louis, Mo. |
| Feb. 23-24 | Puerto Rico Challenge | Rio Mar, Puerto Rico |
| March 23-24 | Georgia Tech Invitational | Atlanta, Ga. |
| March 28-29 | Dr. Pepper Intercollegiate | Denton, Texas |
| April 10-11 | Marshall Invitational | Huntington, W.V. |
| April 25-26 | King Cobra Firestone | Akron, Ohio |
| May 2-3 | Wolverine Invitational | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| May 8-10 | Big Ten Championships | East Lansing, Mich. |
| May 13-15 | NCAA Central Regionals | TBA |
| May 24-30 | NCAA Championships | Albuquerque, N.M. |

GYMNASTICS

THIS WEEK: The No. 16 Golden Gophers open their home season with a dual meet against the seventh-ranked Fighting Illini of the University of Illinois, Saturday, Feb. 7. The meet is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion.

LAST ACTION: Minnesota lost to the second-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes 226.350-217.950, Jan. 31, in Columbus, Ohio.

Illinois scored an impressive victory over No. 7 Michigan and No. 3 Penn State in Champaign, Ill. last weekend.

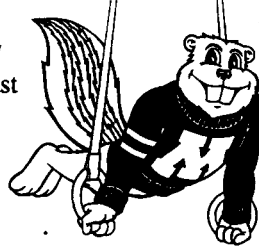
FLASHBACK: Last season, Minnesota and Illinois did not meet in a dual competition, but competed against each other at the Big Ten Championships, March 22-23. The Golden Gophers edged out the Fighting Illini for fourth place by .250 points.

INJURY FRONT: The Golden Gophers have been slowed by a rash of injuries to key contributors. **DAN BOOTS** (JR, Pearland, Texas), **TODD GUILBEAU** (FR, Houston, Texas) and **BOB HUBBARD** (SR, Phoenix, Ariz.) were unable to participate in the meet at Ohio State and their status for the Illinois dual is still uncertain. Of the three, Hubbard has the best chance at returning at some point in the season.

THE SPECIALIST: Junior **JASON KROB** (St. Charles,

Mo.) turned in the Golden Gophers' top performance with a first-place finish on the pommel horse with a score of 9.750. Last season, Krob finished the year ranked 15th in the country in that event. A two-year letterwinner, Krob is looking to improve on his fifth-place finish last year at the NCAA East Regional Championships in the pommel horse competition.

ALL-AROUND GUY: Sophomore **LINDSEY FANG** (Allentown, Pa.) has been the only Golden Gopher to compete in the all-around competition this season. Against Illinois, Fang finished second on the pommel horse with a 9.500 and third with a 9.250 on the horizontal bar. He finished fourth in the all-around with a 55.150.



COACH ROETHLISBERGER: Head Coach Fred Roethlisberger is in his 27th year at the helm of the University of Minnesota Gymnastics program. Roethlisberger has led his team to 11 Big Ten Championships during his tenure and has a 170-69-1 (.713) career record.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Senior co-captains Bob Hubbard (Phoenix, Ariz.) and George Beatty will be counted on to lead the young Golden Gopher squad this season. The three-year letterwinners, along with **MICHAEL MAMAKOS** (Huntington, N.Y./UCLA), are the only seniors on this year's roster.

SCOREBOARD

1998 MEN'S GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Alumni Meet | * L 213.90-221.85 |
| Jan. 17 | Windy City Invitational | 7th/213.85 |
| Jan. 31 | Ohio State | L 217.95-226.35 |
| Feb. 7 | Illinois | Sports Pavilion |
| Feb. 13 | Michigan State | East Lansing, Mich. |
| Feb. 14 | Michigan | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| Feb. 27 | Nebraska | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 1 | Iowa | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 7 | Illinois-Chicago | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 20-21 | Big Ten Championships | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| April 4 | NCAA East Regionals | Amherst, Mass. |
| April 16-18 | NCAA Championships | University Park, Pa. |

*Exhibition

GOPHER FLASHES

HOME OPENER: The Golden Gophers host No. 7 Illinois at the Sports Pavilion, Saturday, Feb. 7. The Fighting Illini turned in an impressive performance in the season-opening Windy City Invitational, Jan. 17, with a second-place finish. Illinois edged out perennial power and No. 2 Ohio State by 0.950 points. Sixth-ranked Nebraska, second-ranked Iowa and 13th-ranked Illinois-Chicago are upcoming home opponents for Minnesota.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Minnesota finished fourth at the 1997 Big Ten Championships. This season, the University of Michigan will host the event in Ann Arbor, Mich., March 20-21. The Golden Gophers last won the Big Ten Championship in 1995 when current assistant coach Brian Yee, an All-American selection that year, finished second in the all-around and went on the finish 7th at the NCAA Championships.

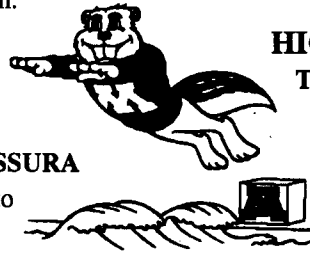
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Golden Gophers are looking to get back to the NCAA Championships in University Park, Pa., April 16-18, for the first time since 1993. The NCAA East Regionals are set for April 4 in Amherst, Mass.

SWIMMING & DIVING

THIS WEEK: Minnesota wrapped up the toughest part of its schedule in style as the Golden Gophers (7-1 overall, 3-1 Big Ten) won their last two triangular meets. Now the U of M hosts the Minnesota Invitational, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, at the Aquatic Center. Friday's action gets underway at 6 p.m., while Saturday competition will be at noon and 6 p.m. The Invitational will be Minnesota's final event of the season before the Big Ten Championships, February 26-28.

MASTER MASSURA: Freshman **ALEX MASSURA** (Belo Horizonte, Brazil) is the only Golden Gopher to swim across all disciplines: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and the individual medley. Short of getting on the diving board, the 1996 Olympian has led the Maroon and Gold swimming in eight different stroke categories. A specialist in the sprint free and backstroke, he has garnered first place in 14 of the 20 events he has swam in. Massura also joins the Golden Gophers' top 800-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard medley relay.

At the triple duals in Madison, Wis., Jan. 30-31, Massura won both the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke, including posting another NCAA consideration time in the 100-yard backstroke (49.32). He has been the Golden Gophers' best swimmer since the start of the new year.



DIVER DAN: Another impressive freshman, diver **DAN CROASTON** (Champlin, Minn.), has quietly made a big splash. Croaston has won EVERY event he has competed in except one. At the Nebraska Traingular, Croaston finished fourth on the 1-meter springboard, but rebounded to post an NCAA diving standard score of 336.75 (six dives) on the 3-meter springboard. At that meet, Croaston ousted two divers who finished in the top eight of the NCAA Championships on the 3-meter springboard.

HIGH FLYIN': Junior butterfly specialist **MARTIN ZIELINSKI** (Bloomington, Minn.) has turned on the jets to close out the season. Zielinski captured the 100-yard butterfly with an NCAA consideration time of 48.46, Saturday at the Triple Duals. It was his best time in the event this season. Zielinski leads the Big Ten top times list in the 100-yard butterfly and is among the top 10 in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard butterfly.

NUMBER CRUNCHING: In its eight dual meets this season, Minnesota has been out scoring its opponents by an average of 76 points. The latest point differentials included a 219-116 drubbing of Wisconsin and 194-154 defeat of Purdue at the Triple Duals (1/30-31).

SCOREBOARD

OVERALL RECORD: 7-1; BIG TEN RECORD: 3-1
TOP INDIVIDUAL EVENT TIMES
(1997-98)

50 FREE — 20.16[^], Ty Bathurst (prelim, Minn. Invite)
100 FREE — 44.93[^], Alex Massura (split time, vs. UNC)
200 FREE — 1:39.52*, Alex Massura (1st, at Iowa)
500 FREE — 4:29.15, Bill Bishop (exb., Minn. Invite)
1000 FREE — 9:21.53, Bill Bishop (1st, vs. UNC)
1650 FREE — 15:29.78[^], Bill Bishop (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 BACK — 48.88^{#*^}, Alex Massura (1st, vs. UNC)
200 BACK — 1:45.53^{#*^}, Alex Massura (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 BREAST — 55.79^{*^}, Ty Bathurst (1st, Minn. Invite)
200 BREAST — 2:03.90, Chris Wood (1st, vs. UN[^])
100 FLY — 48.46[^], Martin Zielinski (1st, Triple Duals)
200 FLY — 1:49.80, Yoav Meiri (1st, Triple Duals)
200 IM — 1:51.40, Jono McLeod (1st, Minn. Invite)
400 IM — 3:56.77, Bill Bishop (1st, Minn. Invite)

* personal best
[^] NCAA consideration
! NCAA automatic
+ Minnesota Varsity Record
Minnesota Freshman Record

GOPHER FLASHES

HOW SWEEP IT IS: The 13th-ranked Golden Gophers have swept their last two triangular dual meets, making a favorable impression on the swimming and diving world. After dominating the Nebraska Triangular, Jan. 23-24, Minnesota followed with a 219-116 victory over Wisconsin and a 194-154 defeat of Purdue at the Triple Duals in Madison, Wis., Jan. 30-31. The U of M captured 10 of 19 events, including two of four relay races. Minnesota has won seven straight dual meets since suffering a loss to Iowa in its first meet of the year. The Golden Gophers have also won every invitational they have competed in.

UP NEXT: Following the Minnesota Invitational, the Golden Gophers will take time off to prepare for the Big Ten Championships, Feb. 26-28. Minnesota will host the conference championships with preliminary events at noon and finals at 7 p.m. each day. Minnesota finished second to Michigan at last season's championships.

RANKINGS: Minnesota is ranked 13th in the nation for the second straight poll according to the CSCAA Speedo America Top 25 Poll (Jan. 29). The highest the Golden Gophers have been ranked is 12th when the poll debuted November 13.

TRACK & FIELD

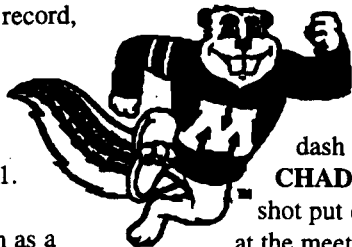
THIS WEEK: Thirteenth-ranked Minnesota competes at the Iowa State Classic, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7, in Ames, Iowa.

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST: For the second straight track and field meet, a Minnesota school indoor record fell. Last week sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) broke his own indoor high jump record, this week at the Nebraska Triangular, Jan. 31, a track record was broken. Senior **NILES DENEEN** (St. Paul, Minn.) shattered a nine-year-old record in the 55-meter hurdles taking first place with an NCAA provisional time of 7.31. The old record, held by Rich Benoy, was 7.45.

It was Deneen's first competition of the season as a Golden Gopher after he won the 55-meter hurdles competing unattached at the Minnesota Invitational, Jan. 24.

HONOR ROLL: Sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) was named *Trackwire's* Athlete of the Week for the week ending Jan. 30. Strand earned the distinction after breaking his own school indoor record and setting a Big Ten record when he leapt 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) at the Minnesota Invitational, Jan. 24. The previous conference mark was 7-5

(2.26m) set by Strand in 1997, which placed him second at the NCAA Indoor Championships, and Paul Piwinski of Michigan State in 1983. In addition to breaking Minnesota's indoor record with the NCAA automatic qualifying jump, he smashed the Field House and Minnesota Invitational records by three inches. It is the highest leap in the nation among collegians this season, second currently in the world and seventh all-time on the collegiate list.



HAPPENING IN THREES: Three Minnesota track and field athletes took first-place honors at the Nebraska Triangular, Jan. 31. **NILES DENEEN** led the trio with his record-breaking 55-meter hurdle time, while two-sport athlete **FRED RODGERS** (Hamilton, Ohio) won the 55-meter dash with a season-best time of 6.33 and senior thrower **CHAD YENCHESKY** (DePere, Wis.) took first with a shot put of 56-05 1/4 (17.20m). Minnesota took third place at the meet.

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Sixteen of Minnesota's performances are listed among the top 10 performances in the Big Ten Conference as of January 30. Both **STAFFAN STRAND** and **VESA RANTANEN** (Jr., Virrat, Finland) lead the conference in their respective events. Strand holds the best height in the high jump (7-6 1/2; 2.30m), while Rantanen has the highest vault of the year (17-4 3/4; 5.30m).

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDOOR PERFORMANCES

55m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.33 (1/31)
55m High Hurdles -- Niles Deneen, 7.31* & \$ (1/31)
600m Hurdles -- Yet to be competed in this season
200m Dash -- Steve Burkholder, 22.19 (1/31)
400m Dash -- Adam Freed, 50.03 (1/31)
600m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 1:19.16# (1/24)
800m Run -- Nate Clay, 1:54.77\$ (1/24)
Mile Run -- Josh Brang, 4:10.42 (1/24)
3,000m Run -- Nate Clay, 8:30.27\$ (1/10)
5,000m Run -- Yet to be competed in this season
High Jump -- Staffan Strand, 7-6 1/2 (2.30)! & @ ^ \$ (1/24)
Pole Vault -- Vesa Rantanen, 17-4 3/4* (5.30m) (1/10)
Long Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 2-7 1/4 (6.89) (1/17)
Triple Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 49-0 1/4 (14.9) (1/17)
Shot Put -- Chad Yenchesky, 59-4 1/4 (18.08m)* \$ (1/24)
Weight Throw -- Mark Fahey, 48-4 3/4 (14.75m) (1/17)
Pentathlon -- Jesse Madsen%, 3,289 (1/24)
Heptathlon -- Yet to be competed in this season

Key:

* NCAA Provisional

! NCAA Automatic

& Minnesota School Record

@ Field House Record

^ Big Ten Record

\$ Personal Best

U of M Freshman Record

% competed unattached

GOPHER FLASHES

UNDER CONSIDERATION: Four Golden Gophers have already made consideration performances for the NCAA Indoor Championships, March 13-14, in Indianapolis, Ind. Sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) automatically qualified with his record-breaking high jump of 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) at the Minnesota Invitational, while junior **VESA RANTANEN** (Virrat, Finland) vaulted an NCAA consideration height of 17-4 3/4 (5.30m) at the Badger Track Classic (1/10) and senior **CHAD YENCHESKY** (DePere, Wis.) threw a career-best and NCAA consideration shot put of 59-4 1/4 (18.08m) for first place at the Minnesota Invitational. **NILES DENEEN** was the latest the Golden Gopher to provisionally qualify for the NCAAs with his record time of 7.31 in the 55-meter hurdles.

LATEST RANKINGS: Minnesota is 13th in the nation according to *Trackwire's* latest top 25 poll posted January 29. Arkansas leads the pack, while the only other Big Ten school, Michigan, is tied for fifth.

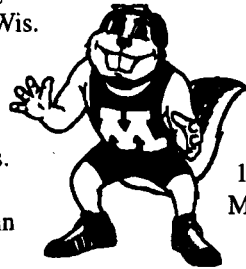
WRESTLING

THIS WEEK: The third-ranked Golden Gophers (14-1, 1-1 Big Ten) head east to take on the fourth-ranked Penn State Nittany Lions (12-3, 5-1 Big Ten) and the Ohio State Buckeyes (10-8-1, 1-3 Big Ten) in dual meets Friday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in University Park, Pa., and Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio. Minnesota is looking to start another winning streak after picking up its first Big Ten win, defeating the Wisconsin Badgers 25-11 last Saturday in Madison, Wis.

IN THE SERIES: Penn State holds a 5-3 advantage in the series with Minnesota, however, the Golden Gophers have won the last three meetings. Last season, Minnesota picked up two wins over the Nittany Lions at the National Duals and defeated Penn State again 28-7 at the Sports Pavilion Feb. 9. The Golden Gophers lead the series with the Buckeyes 27-10-3 and have won the last four meetings. Most recently, Minnesota downed Ohio State 23-16 in the Sports Pavilion on Feb. 23, 1997, to end the regular season.

PROBABLE LINEUP VS. PENN STATE AND OHIO STATE

- 118 — **BRETT LAWRENCE** (Fr., Sandpoint, Idaho)
 126 — **PAT CONNORS** (Jr., Longview, Wash.) -OR-
BART GOLYER (So., Cedar, Minn.)
 134 — **TROY MARR** (Jr., Wyoming, Minn.)



- 142 — **JASON DAVIDS** (Sr., Forest Lake, Minn.)
 150 — **CHAD KRAFT** (Jr., Lakefield, Minn.) -OR-
BRAD PIKE (Fr., Brownsdale, Minn.)
 158 — **JOSH HOLIDAY** (Jr., Anaheim, Calif.)
 167 — **ZAC TAYLOR** (Sr., Sandpoint, Idaho) -OR-
DELANEY BERGER (So., Mandan, N.D.)
 177 — **BRANDON EGGUM** (So., Sidney, Mont.)
 190 — **TIM HARTUNG** (Jr., Durand, Wis.)
 Hwt — **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (Sr., Orangeburg, S.C.)

NO. 3 GOPHERS DEFEAT BADGERS 25-11:

The No. 3 Golden Gopher wrestling team used technical falls from senior **JASON DAVIDS** and junior **TIM HARTUNG** to defeat the Wisconsin Badgers 25-11 late Saturday night in Madison, Wis., to gain Minnesota's first Big Ten win of the season.

Daids, ranked No. 3 in the nation at 142 pounds, improved to 24-1 on the season with his 19-3 victory over UW's Dusty Coufal in just 3:38. Hartung, the nation's second-ranked wrestler at 190, scored four near falls in his 18-0 victory over Wisconsin's Joe Terrill. Junior Chad Kraft, ranked No. 1 at 150 pounds, remained unbeaten on the season with a 10-5 victory over UW's Cory Wallman at 158 pounds to improve to 14-0 on the year.

Continued next page

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

| Wt. | Name | Overall | Total | Dual | Big Ten | Pins |
|-----|------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|------|
| 118 | Brett Lawrence | 15-6 | 15-6 | 10-5 | 1-1 | 3 |
| | Leroy Vega | 11-2 | 11-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Julio Alaniz | 6-4 | 6-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 126 | Bart Golyer | 17-3 | 16-2 | 6-1 | 0-1 | 3 |
| | Pat Connors | 17-4 | 9-4 | 5-3 | 1-0 | 4 |
| 134 | Chad Erikson | 11-3 | 11-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Ty Friederichs | 11-7 | 11-7 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Pat Connors | | 8-0 | 4-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Bart Golyer | | 1-1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Krebs | 11-6 | 11-6 | 2-1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| 142 | Troy Marr | 22-5 | 8-3 | 4-2 | 1-1 | 2 |
| | Jason Davids | 24-1 | 24-1 | 14-1 | 1-1 | 13 |
| | Joe Calavitta | 8-2 | 8-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Troy Marr | | 14-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 150 | Chad Kraft | 14-0 | 13-0 | 12-0 | 1-0 | 2 |
| | Brad Pike | 15-5 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 3 | |
| | Eddie Pak | 5-6 | 5-6 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Troy Marr | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 158 | Tim Kinsella | 13-2 | 13-2 | 1-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Jesse Krebs | 6-5 | 6-5 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Holiday | 20-1 | 20-1 | 11-1 | 1-0 | 4 |
| | Chad Kraft | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0 |
| 167 | Delaney Berger | 15-1 | 15-1 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Zac Taylor | 22-4 | 22-4 | 10-3 | 0-2 | 7 |
| | Mike Cuperus | 14-2 | 14-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 5 |
| | Matt Kraft | 6-2 | 6-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 177 | Brandon Eggum | 22-1 | 22-1 | 13-1 | 1-1 | 6 |
| | Kenneth Howard | 3-3 | 3-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| 190 | Tim Hartung | 22-1 | 22-1 | 14-1 | 2-0 | 15 |
| | Owen Elzen | 7-4 | 7-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 4 |
| HWT | Shelton Benjamin | 22-4 | 22-4 | 10-3 | 1-1 | 7 |
| | Brent Boeshans | 13-4 | 13-4 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 1 |

GOPHER FLASHES

No. 3 Minnesota 25, Wisconsin 11

Saturday, Jan. 31, 1998 • Madison, Wis.

- 118 - No. 20 Brett Lawrence (UM) dec. Brian Slater (UW) 4-1
 126 - No. 3 Eric Jetton (UW) tech. fall Bart Golyer (UM) 23-7, 6:54
 134 - No. 5 Troy Marr (UM) dec. Grant Hoerr (UW) 8-6
 142 - No. 3 Jason Davids (UM) tech. fall Dusty Coufal (UW) 19-3, 3:38
 150 - No. 18 Don Pritzlaff (UW) dec. Brad Pike (UM) 6-3
 158 - No. 1 Chad Kraft* (UM) dec. Cory Wallman (UW) 10-5
 167 - No. 9 Kole Clauson (UW) dec. No. 5 Zac Taylor (UM) 5-4
 177 - No. 7 Brandon Eggum (UM) dec. Steve Alf (UW) 8-2
 190 - No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) tech. fall Joe Terrill (UW) 18-0, 5:39
 Hwt - No. 7 Shelton Benjamin (UM) dec. No. 16 Aaron Stark* (UW) 9-4
 * Note: Kraft is ranked No. 1 in the nation at 150 pounds, and Stark is ranked 16th at 190.

WRESTLING

MINNESOTA SETS SCHOOL MARK FOR ATTENDANCE:

The Golden Gophers set a school record this year when 11,284 fans turned out to watch Iowa defeat Minnesota 20-12 on Jan. 23. The attendance mark surpasses the old record set Feb. 3, 1980, when 9,225 fans watched Iowa State defeat the Golden Gophers 19-18 at Williams Arena. The NCAA record for attendance at a dual meet was set Feb. 22, 1992, when 15,291 fans watched Iowa defeat Iowa State 29-8 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City.

ROAD WARRIORS: The Golden Gophers have won six dual meets on the road this season, most recently defeating the Wisconsin Badgers 25-11 in Madison, Wis., Jan. 31. In addition, the Golden Gophers won two duals at Jackson (Minn.) High School and four at the National Duals in Iowa City for a grand total of 12 dual meets won in places other than Minneapolis this season.

MINNESOTA SLIPS TO THIRD IN NATIONAL POLLS:

The Golden Gopher wrestling team slipped to third in the January 29 National Wrestling Coaches Association/*Amateur Wrestling News* rankings after holding the No. 2 spot for three weeks. The Golden Gophers started the season in third and moved to second in the Jan. 8 ranking before slipping back to third this week.

SEVEN 20-MATCH WINNERS IN LINEUP:

Seven Golden Gophers in the starting lineup have won at least 20 matches this season. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** (142) leads the team with a 24-1 record. Five wrestlers are tied with 22 wins in junior **TROY MARR** (134) at 22-5, senior **ZAC TAYLOR** (167) at 22-4, sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** (177) at 22-1, junior **TIM HARTUNG** (190) at 22-1 and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (HWT) at 22-4. Junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** is Minnesota's other 20-match winner with a 20-1 record on the season.

LATEST INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS: Individually, two-time All-American **CHAD KRAFT** is the top-ranked wrestler in the nation at 150 pounds in the Jan. 29 Intermat/*W.I.N.* rankings. Defending Big Ten champion and 1997 All-American **TIM HARTUNG** is ranked second at 190. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** slipped to third at 142 pounds after holding the top spot all season.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include junior **TROY MARR** who is the fifth-ranked wrestler at 134, senior **ZAC TAYLOR** who is ranked fifth at 167, senior All-American **SHELTON BENJAMIN** who is seventh at heavyweight, sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** who is seventh at 177 pounds, junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** who is 10th at 158 pounds and junior All-American **PAT CONNORS** who is 11th at 126. Freshman **BRETT LAWRENCE** made his first appearance in the rankings on Jan. 2 and is currently listed as the nation's 20th-ranked wrestler at 118 pounds.

IN THE CONFERENCE: Ten Minnesota wrestlers are ranked in the Jan. 19 Big Ten Conference Wrestling Coaches poll, including two athletes who are ranked No. 1 in their weight

class. No other Big Ten school had all 10 of its starters listed in the poll.

Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is ranked No. 1 at 142 pounds by the coaches, and junior **CHAD KRAFT** is No. 1 at 150 pounds. Davids and Kraft, both two-time All-Americans, are also both ranked No. 1 in the nation at their respective weights.


Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include freshman **BRETT LAWRENCE**, who is tied for fifth at 118 pounds; junior **PAT CONNORS**, fourth at 126; junior **TROY MARR**, third at 134; junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, second at 158 pounds; senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, fourth at 167; sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, third at 177; junior **TIM HARTUNG**, second at 190; and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, second at heavyweight.

HOLDING THEM SCORELESS: Minnesota's 49-0 victory over two-time NAIA national champion Missouri Valley College Saturday at the National Duals marked the team's fifth shutout of the season. Minnesota's other shutouts came against Mankato State (38-0), Truman State (57-0), Augustana (53-0) and San Francisco State (46-0). The Golden Gophers have lost only one match in three other duals this season (Fresno State 45-3, Nebraska 43-3, West Virginia 33-3).

PIN CITY: Through 15 dual meets this season, Minnesota's wrestlers have won 38 matches by pinning their opponents, including **SHELTON BENJAMIN'S** dramatic fall in 2:16 over Iowa's Wes Hand to give Minnesota its National Duals title. Minnesota recorded a remarkable eight wins by fall in a 57-0 win over Truman State on Dec. 5, 1997. Last year through 15 duals, Minnesota had only recorded 19 match wins by pin.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG** is the team leader with eight pins in dual meets. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is second with six. Hartung is also the overall team leader with 15 pins overall, and Davids is second with 13.

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

February 3, 1998

GOAL LINE CLUB LUNCHEON SET FOR THURSDAY

Bloomington's Thunderbird Hotel will host the first Goal Line Club luncheon of the 1998 season at noon Thursday. Midwest Sports Channel's Mike Max will serve as emcee of the program and University of Minnesota Head Football Coach Glen Mason will be the featured speaker. Tickets are \$13 per person. Please call Patty at the Thunderbird Hotel at 854-3411 for more information.



SPORTS NEWS

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

For Immediate Release

February 4, 1998

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOOTBALL PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT SIGNEES

Head Football Coach Glen Mason announced today that 25 student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to attend the University of Minnesota and play football for the Golden Gophers.

The list, which includes players from 10 different states from around the country, is highlighted by seven signees from Minnesota. It includes 20 high school seniors, three junior college transfers and two Division I-A transfers.

"I couldn't be more excited with this group," Mason said. "We had some specific needs that we wanted to fill and I think we were successful in accomplishing that goal on both sides of the ball. Keeping Minnesota's best high school players at home is a top priority, so it is especially gratifying that seven of the state's very best have decided to stay right here and play for the Golden Gophers."

| Name | Pos. | Hgt. | Wgt. | Hometown (Last School) |
|-------------------|------|------|------|--|
| Asad Abdul-Khaliq | QB | 6-2 | 190 | Elizabeth, N.J. (Elizabeth HS) |
| Jason Andraschko | FB | 6-3 | 235 | Menomonie, Wis. (Menomonie HS) |
| Marvin Baugus | TE | 6-7 | 240 | Fort Worth, Texas (Eastern Hills HS) |
| Jack Brewer | WR | 6-1 | 181 | Grapevine, Texas (SMU) |
| Arland Bruce | RB | 5-10 | 190 | Olathe, Kan. (Hutchinson CC) |
| Marlon Colbert | LB | 6-3 | 220 | Detroit, Mich. (Pershing HS) |
| Terrence Floyd | OL | 6-5 | 315 | Akron, Ohio (Hutchinson CC) |
| Byron Gettis | QB | 6-2 | 215 | Centreville, Ill. (Cahokia HS) |
| Clorenzo Griffin | CB | 5-10 | 183 | Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Hutchinson CC) |
| Preston Gruening | PK/P | 5-10 | 170 | Schofield, Wis. (D.C. Everest HS) |
| Ryan Iversen | LB | 6-3 | 210 | Eden Prairie, Minn. (Eden Prairie HS) |
| Ron Johnson | WR | 6-3 | 200 | Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King HS) |
| Jake Kuppe | OL | 6-7 | 305 | Minnetonka, Minn. (Minnetonka HS) |
| Germaine Landrum | DE | 6-3 | 230 | Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King HS) |
| Mike Lehan | RB | 6-1 | 185 | Hopkins, Minn. (Hopkins HS) |
| Jermaine Mays | WR | 6-0 | 171 | Miami, Fla. (Jackson HS) |
| Astein Osei | LB | 6-2 | 215 | Bolingbrook, Ill. (Romeoville HS) |
| Joe Palke | OL | 6-5 | 270 | Roseville, Minn. (Mounds View HS) |
| Tellis Redmon | RB | 6-0 | 185 | Grapevine, Texas (Colleyville Heritage HS) |
| Karon Riley | DE | 6-4 | 250 | Detroit, Mich. (SMU) |
| Keldrick Scott | CB | 5-10 | 170 | Denton, Texas (Denton HS) |
| Chris Smith | DT | 6-4 | 290 | Bronx, N.Y. (Lehman HS) |
| Marvin Spencer | RB | 6-1 | 215 | Coon Rapids, Minn. (Blaine HS) |
| Dave Sykora | DE | 6-6 | 270 | Bloomington, Minn. (Jefferson HS) |
| Robert Williams | RB | 6-3 | 235 | Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Cooper HS) |

(Bios follow)

Asad Abdul-Khaliq, 6-2, 190, QB, Elizabeth, N.J. (Elizabeth HS)

PrepStar All-America choice as a senior in '97 when he completed 116 of 173 passing attempts (67 percent) for 1,679 yards and 20 touchdowns, with just two interceptions...third-team all-state choice and a first-team all-county selection in both '96 and '97...named the Watchung Conference Player of the Year as a senior...averaged 42.3 yards as the team's punter...calls winning the state championship his most memorable sports thrill...also a two-year letterwinner in basketball...cousin of Syracuse star receiver Quinton Spotwood...high school coach was Jerry Moore...son of Qasim Abdul-Khaliq.

Jason Andraschko, 6-3, 235, FB, Menomonie, Wis. (Menomonie HS)

Collected *USA Today* All-America honors as a senior in '97 when he registered 14 sacks to help lead the school to the state title with a perfect 14-0 record...two-way player who was named to the all-state team at both defensive tackle and tight end as a senior...honored as the all-Northwest Wisconsin Player of the Year...named to the all-Midwest team by both *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar*...had 26 receptions for 452 yards and nine touchdowns during final prep campaign...played fullback in short yardage situations and scored five touchdowns on the ground...all-state choice at defensive tackle as a junior...three-time all-conference selection...helped lead the school to the '95 state crown as a sophomore... Menomonie racked up an impressive 38-2 record during his three-year career...finished with 43 career sacks...three-year letterwinner in wrestling...honor roll student...high school coach was Joe LaBuda...son of Matt and Teresa Andraschko.

Marvin "Scooter" Baugus, 6-7, 240, TE, Fort Worth, Texas (Eastern Hills HS)

Had 31 receptions for 432 yards and six touchdowns in '97 en route to being named to the *PrepStar* All-America team...also named all-state and to the *SuperPrep* all-Southwest team during final prep campaign...four-time all-conference choice...fine all-around athlete who registered seven career sacks at defensive end, averaged 41.8 yards per punt and served as the team's placekicker...also lettered on the school's soccer, basketball and baseball squads...high school coach was Don Morland...son of Marvin C. Baugus.

Jack Brewer, 6-1, 181, WR, Grapevine, Texas (SMU)

Transferred to the U of M after one season at Southern Methodist University...will have to sit out the '98 season and then have three years of eligibility remaining...candidate for freshman All-America honors in '97 when he had 19 receptions for 352 yards and four touchdowns for the Mustangs...had five receptions for 112 yards, including a 77-yarder, in SMU's 31-9 win over Arkansas...all-state selection as a senior in '96 when he helped lead Grapevine High School to a perfect 15-0 record and the Texas 4A state title...had 48 receptions for 776 yards and nine touchdowns during final prep campaign...two-way player who recorded 180 career tackles as a strong safety... speedster who also returned punts and kicks in high school...four-year letterwinner in track...Texas Relays prep triple jump champion who has a leap of 51-4 to go along with a 400 meter time of 47.9 to his credit... cousin of fellow Golden Gopher signee Tellis Redmon...high school coach was Mike Sneed...son of Eddie and Rosa Brewer.

Arland Puce, 5-10, 190, RB, Olathe, Kan. (Hutchinson CC)

Named one of *PrepStar's* Top 100 junior college transfers for the '97 season...has two seasons of eligibility remaining...junior college teammate of fellow Golden Gopher signees Terrence Floyd and Clorenzo Griffin...rushed for 997 yards on 240 carries and scored 10 touchdowns last fall and gaining 1,200 yards as a freshman in '96...*Blue Chip* Top 100 choice and the Gatorade player of the year in the state as a senior at Olathe North High School in '95 when he rushed for 1,696 yards and scored 29 touchdowns...ran for over 3,000 yards and scored 50 touchdowns during prep career...two-time all-conference selection...had four career interceptions playing in the defensive backfield...also returned kickoffs and punts...basketball and track letterwinner during prep career...honor roll student...junior college coach was Martin Harrell...high school coach was Gene Wier.

Marlon Colbert, 6-3, 220, LB, Detroit, Mich. (Pershing HS)

Registered 104 tackles, had 22 tackles for loss, recovered four fumbles and intercepted four passes at outside linebacker as a senior in '97...named Top 50 in the Midwest by the *Detroit News*...all-state and all-conference selection...had four sacks in one game as a senior...also handled the team's punting chores...versatile athlete who was an all-city selection in volleyball...also competed on the school's basketball, baseball and track & field teams...high school teammate of Golden Gopher freshman defensive back Jimmy Henry...National Honor Society member...high school coach was Stephon Thompson...son of George and Joann Colbert.

Terrence Floyd, 6-5, 315, OL, Akron, Ohio (Hutchinson CC)

Had 44 pancake blocks from his offensive guard position in '97...two-way player who also played defensive end...runs a sub 5.0 second 40 which is outstanding for a player of his size...has three seasons of eligibility remaining...junior college teammate of fellow Golden Gopher signees Arland Bruce and Clorenzo Griffin...started his collegiate career by redshirting under Coach Mason at Kansas in '96...two-time all-state selection during his prep career at Firestone High School...*Blue Chip* magazine prep All-America choice as a senior in '95 when he helped lead the school to the Akron public school city crown and a 9-2 overall record...three-time all-conference selection...named the defensive player of the year in the conference during final prep campaign...all-city and third-team all-state choice as a senior in basketball when he averaged 20 points and 11 rebounds per game...also collected three letters in track & field...honor roll student who received the prestigious Harold K. Stubbs memorial scholarship for academic excellence as a senior...junior college coach was Martin Harrell...high school coach was Robert Black...son of Yvette and Reggie Floyd, who was his high school basketball coach and a former football/basketball standout at the University of Akron.

Byron Gettis, 6-2, 215, QB, Centreville, Ill. (Cahokia HS)

Two-time all-state selection who completed 66 of 115 passing attempts for 1,371 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior in '97...fine runner who also gained 535 yards on 48 rushing attempts (11.1 yard average) and scored seven touchdowns on the ground...threw for nearly 3,000 yards and 30 touchdowns his last two seasons...two-way player who also collected 49 tackles, 11 pass breakups and three interceptions at strong safety during final prep campaign...four-year letterwinner on the gridiron...all-state performer in baseball as well...multi-talented athlete who is also a three-year letterwinner in basketball...high school coach was Rob Elen...son of Earlie and Letha Gettis.

Clorenzo Griffin, 5-10, 183, CB, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Hutchinson CC)

Collected 47 tackles, eight pass breakups, recovered two fumbles, blocked two field goals and had one interception in '97...redshirted the '96 season...has three seasons of eligibility remaining...junior college teammate of fellow Golden Gopher signees Arland Bruce and Terrence Floyd...earned all-state honors in '95 as a senior at Boyd Anderson High School...registered 97 tackles, 10 pass breakups, three fumble recoveries and three interceptions during final prep campaign...lightning-quick performer who also averaged 17.7 yards and scored four touchdowns on kickoff returns and 9.7 yards and scored one touchdown on punt returns...helped lead the school to the state track & field team title in '94 and '96...member of the 4 x 100 meter relay which captured the state title in '96 with a fine clocking of 41.4...junior college coach was Martin Harrell...high school coach was Selwyn Brown...son of Tony Tennyson and Loretta Gore.

Preston Gruening, 5-10, 170, PK/P, Schofield, Wis. (D.C. Everest HS)

Parade magazine and *PrepStar* All-America choice as a senior in '97...also named to *SuperPrep's* all-Midwest region team...collected first-team all-state honors as a punter and second-team laurels as a placekicker during final prep campaign...averaged 45.2 yards per punt, which includes an outstanding 41.5 yard net punting average, as a senior...very good "pooch" punter...had nine punts land inside the 10-yard line in '97...also has a strong leg with 11 boots over 50 yards and two over 60 yards...21 of his 32 punts as a senior were not returned...28 of his kickoffs were touchbacks as

a senior and 63 over his career...struggled with snapper and holder problems as a senior, and as a result, made just one of five field goal attempts and 39 of 41 PATs...connected on 9 of 14 field goal attempts and a perfect 58 of 58 PATs as a junior in '96...made 142 of 149 career PATs and 16 of 26 career field goal attempts...has a 46-yard field goal to his credit...three-year letterwinner who helped lead the school to three straight conference titles and to the Division I state title game as a junior in '96...set all-time WIAA playoff records with a 70-yard punt and a 45.2 yard average in the state championship game...school charted an impressive 42-4 overall record during his career...standout baseball player who will serve as team captain in '98...ranked number one academically in a senior class of 410 students with a perfect 4.0 GPA...already accepted in the University of Minnesota's prestigious Carlson School of Management...high school coach was Wayne Steffenhagen...son of Faye and Scott Gruening, a former punter at the University of Dayton.

Ryan Iversen, 6-3, 210, LB, Eden Prairie, Minn. (Eden Prairie HS)

Honored as the Associated Press Minnesota Player of the Year as a senior in '97...*SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* All-America choice...two-time all-state selection who helped lead the Eagles to back-to-back state titles in '96 and '97...calls that his most memorable sports thrill...caught the winning TD pass in both state title games...led the Class 5A champions to a perfect 13-0 record as a senior with 142 tackles while playing the first half of the season at strong safety and the last half at linebacker...picked off nine passes on the season when the Eagles finished 14-0 overall and captured the state Class AA title as a junior...finished with 17 career receptions and seven touchdowns through the air...registered 270 tackles and 13 interceptions during his career...one of the state's finest basketball players as well and a candidate for the state's coveted "Mr. Basketball" award in '98...averaging 28 points, 13 rebounds, 7 assists and 7 steals per game on the hardwood...four-time Lake Conference all-academic team selection...high school teammate of Golden Gopher lineman Derek Burns...high school coach was Mike Grant...son of Judy and Jeff Busch.

Ron Johnson, 6-3, 200, WR, Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King HS)

USA Today and *PrepStar* All-America selection as a senior in '97 after finishing with 49 receptions for 1,006 yards and eight touchdowns...all-Midwest *SuperPrep* choice...named to the *Detroit Free Press* all-state team after averaging a whopping 20.5 yards per catch during final prep campaign...also registered 62 tackles, broke up 14 passes and had three interceptions as a defensive back...standout sprinter and hurdler on the school's track & field team...plays second base and catcher on the baseball team in the spring...honor roll student...high school teammate of fellow Golden Gopher signee Germaine Landrum...high school coach was James Reynolds...son of Donna and Ron Johnson, who played professionally for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Jake Kuppe, 6-7, 305, OL, Minnetonka, Minn. (Minnetonka HS)

PrepStar All-America choice as a senior in '97...named to *SuperPrep's* all-Midwest region team as well...honorable mention all-state selection and a first-team all-conference and all-metro choice during final prep campaign...played both ways for the Skippers...collected 40 tackles along the defensive line as a senior...three-year letterwinner who helped lead the school to an impressive 18-4 mark his final two seasons...standout performer on the school's basketball and track & field teams and a candidate for postseason honors this year in both sports...recently surpassed 1,000 points in his career on the hardwood...calls that his most memorable sports thrill...has a best of 54 feet in the shot put to his credit...honor roll student...National Honor Society member...high school teammate of Golden Gopher tight end Rob LaRue...high school coach was Myles Ginther...son of Rachel and Kris Kuppe.

Germaine Landrum, 6-3, 230, DE, Detroit, Mich. (Martin Luther King HS)

Dominant player for Martin Luther King High School as a senior in '97 when he racked up 142 tackles, 22 tackles for loss, eight sacks, three fumble recoveries and four interceptions...collected honorable mention all-city honors...two-way player who also scored 12 touchdowns rushing as a senior...fine all-around athlete who was named team MVP as a forward on the school's basketball

team...earned all-state honors in track & field...high school teammate of fellow Golden Gopher signee Ron Johnson...high school coach was James Reynolds...son of George and Mary Landrum.

Mike Lehan, 6-1, 185, RB, Hopkins, Minn. (Hopkins HS)

All-state selection as a senior in '97 after he rushed for 1,490 yards on 213 carries (7.0 yard average) and scored 25 touchdowns...*SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* all-Midwest region choice...two-time all-conference selection who gained 1,100 yards and scored 10 touchdowns as a junior in '96...also dangerous as a punt/kick return man...averaged 20.5 yards and scored two touchdowns returning punts...averaged 25.0 yards per kick return...has earned all-conference honors twice as a sprinter/horizontal jumper on the school's track & field team...high school coach was Ken MacDonald...guardians are Jim and Judy Nordstrom.

Jermaine Mays, 6-0, 171, WR, Miami, Fla. (Jackson HS)

All-state selection as a senior in '97 when he had 53 receptions for 941 yards and scored four touchdowns in just seven games before suffering a broken collarbone...*SuperPrep* all-Dixie team selection...also collected all-county and all-city honors...selected to play in the prestigious Florida vs. Georgia all-star game...speed merchant who has the ability to make the big play anytime he gets his hands on the ball...standout sprinter on the school's track & field team...high school coach was Joe Redmond...son of Dennis and Franch Mays.

Astein Osei, 6-2, 215, LB, Bolingbrook, Ill. (Romeoville HS)

Two-way starter at both linebacker and tight end who was named to the all-Midwest lists by both *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar*...honorable mention all-state selection as a senior...two-time all-conference and all-area choice...three-year letterwinner who racked up 100-plus tackles in each of his three varsity seasons...had 21 receptions and scored five touchdowns during final prep campaign...two-year captain and team MVP in '97...has also lettered on the school's wrestling and track & field teams...honor student...high school coach was Jim Boudouris...grandson of Carol and Roland Wesley.

Joe Palke, 6-5, 270, OL, Roseville, Minn. (Mounds View HS)

Three-year starter at offensive tackle who collected all-state honors as a senior in '97...*PrepStar* all-Midwest region selection...paved the way for a pair of 1,000-yard rushers during final prep campaign...two-way player who was named the Twin Cities Suburban Conference's American Division Defensive Player of the year in '97 when he registered 49 tackles, including 39 solos, had nine pass breakups, six tackles for loss, forced three fumbles and recovered five fumbles...two-time all-conference choice...two-year letterwinner as a forward on the school's basketball team...all-state performer in the shot put after finishing seventh at the state meet as a sophomore in '96 and then third in the event in '97...school record holder with an impressive heave of 59-5 to his credit...team captain in all three sports...honor roll student...'97 homecoming king...high school teammate of Golden Gopher defensive lineman Matt Anderle...high school coach was Gary Engen...son of George and Judy Palke.

Tellis Redmon, 6-0, 185, RB, Grapevine, Texas (Colleyville Heritage HS)

First-team Class 4A all-state selection as a senior in '97 when he rushed for 1,560 yards on 259 carries and scored 18 touchdowns...ranked No. 21 on the the prestigious Texas 100 list of the state's best players... caught 18 passes out of the backfield for 261 yards...had 25 tackles on the defensive side of the ball...honorable mention all-state choice as a junior in '96 when he helped lead the school to the state title...also dangerous as a kick returner during his career...member of the school's basketball and track & field teams as well...high school coach was Chris Cunningham...son of Henry Redmon.

Karon Riley, 6-4, 250, DE, Detroit, Mich. (SMU)

Transferred to the U of M after two seasons at Southern Methodist University...will have to sit out the '98 season and then will have two seasons of eligibility remaining...registered 20 tackles, including three sacks, in nine games for SMU last fall...tallied 30 tackles, including 20 solos, as a true freshman in '96 for the Mustangs...had nine tackles vs. New Mexico in '96...collected all-state, all-metro and all-city honors as a senior in '95 at Martin Luther King High School when he recorded 12 quarterback sacks and six fumble recoveries...caught 12 passes as a tight end in '95...helped lead the team to a 9-2 overall record and a berth in the city championship game as a senior...three-year letterwinner in football, basketball and track...led the school to the city basketball playoffs for the first time in 15 years in '95 when he averaged 17 points and nine rebounds per game...placed eighth in the city high jump championships despite a hamstring injury...named to the Detroit athletic all-academic team...joins former SMU teammate Jack Brewer, and former Martin Luther King High School teammates Ron Johnson and Germaine Landrum at Minnesota...high school coach was James Reynolds.

Keldrick Scott, 5-10, 170, CB, Denton, Texas (Denton HS)

All-area selection and city MVP as a senior in '97...two-way player who had 30 tackles, eight pass breakups and four interceptions as a cornerback on defense and 923 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns as a running back on offense...also played wide receiver where he had 11 receptions for a whopping 495 yards (45-yard average)...possesses great speed...four-year letterwinner in track & field...state 200 meter champion on the track...high school coach was Gary Fisher...son of Linda Scott.

Chris Smith, 6-4, 290, DT, Bronx, N.Y. (Lehman HS)

PrepStar All-America choice as a senior in '97 after recording 89 tackles, including 62 solos, eight sacks, 22 tackles for loss, eight pass breakups and four forced fumbles...rated the No. 2 defensive lineman in the East...also collected all-state honors...two-time all-city selection...has great speed for a player his size...three-year letterwinner who played on both the offensive and defensive lines during his prep career...helped the school rack up a combined record of 27-8 over three seasons...plays center on the school's basketball team...also throws the shot put in track & field...high school coach was Carmine Colosanto...son of Alle and Betty Smith.

Marvin Spencer, 6-1, 215, RB, Coon Rapids, Minn. (Blaine HS)

SuperPrep and *PrepStar* All-America choice after he rushed for 1,579 yards on 292 carries (6.7-yard average) and scored 25 touchdowns as a senior in '97...*SuperPrep* ranks him the fourth best fullback in the nation...two-time all-state selection...named the Metro Player of the Year following final prep campaign...registered 3,094 yards on 559 carries (5.5-yard average) and scored 52 touchdowns during his career...helped lead the Bengals to back-to-back state large school championship games...team went 22-5 during over his final two seasons...has only played the game for two years...standout guard/forward on the basketball team where he averages 14.3 points, 5.4 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game...high school coach was Dave Nelson...guardians are Nancy and David Tremewan.

Dave Sykora, 6-6, 270, DE, Bloomington, Minn. (Jefferson HS)

PrepStar All-America choice as a senior in '97 after he registered 81 tackles, which included 15 tackles for loss and six sacks...all-Midwest region selection by *SuperPrep*...two-time all-state and all-Metro selection for the Jaguars...two-way player who had 12 receptions as a tight end on the offensive side of the ball...three-year starter during prep career...high school coach was Stan Skjei...son of Martha Sykora.

Robert Williams, 6-3, 235, RB, Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Cooper HS)

Rushed for 1,527 yards on 199 carries (7.7-yard average) and scored 14 touchdowns as a senior in '97 en route to being named a *PrepStar* All-America choice and to the all-state team...fine receiver who had 10 receptions out of the backfield during final prep campaign...three-year letterwinner who rushed for 2,818 yards on 313 carries (9.0-yard average) and scored 25 touchdowns during his career...also had 59 career tackles and seven sacks on the defensive side of the ball...dangerous as a punt/kick returner...returned a kickoff 84 yards for a score in one game...two-year letterwinner as a center/forward on the school's basketball team...all-state performer as a sprinter/long jumper in track & field...honor roll student...high school coach was John Oelfke...his grandfather, Robert L. Williams, played basketball for the NBA's Minneapolis Lakers and the Harlem Globetrotters...son of Don and Barbara Williams.

MEDIA NOTE: For those media outlets who were unable to attend today's news conference, a taped version of the entire news conference can be heard on the Golden Gopher Hotline anytime after 4:30 p.m. (Central) today and all day Thursday. The phone number to call is (612) 625-7887. This entire news release is also available on the Golden Gopher athletics web site home page. The web site address is as follows: www.gophersports.com

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

February 6, 1998

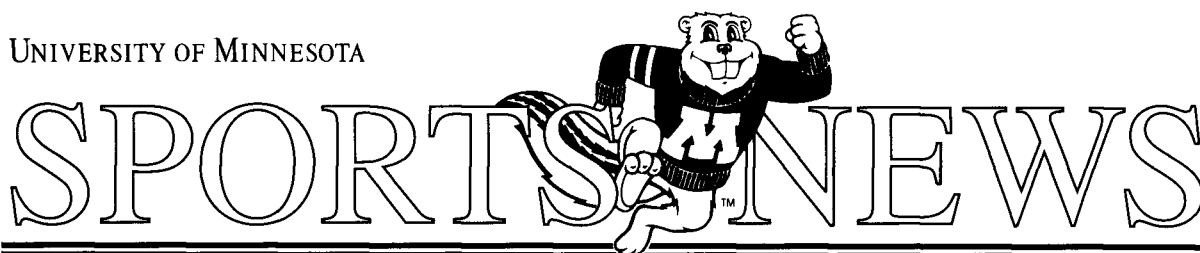
ARCHAMBAULT DISMISSED FROM GOLDEN GOPHERS FOR TEAM RULES VIOLATIONS

University of Minnesota Head Basketball Coach Clem Haskins announced today that sophomore guard Russ Archambault has been dismissed from the team for violating team rules. Archambault will retain his scholarship until the end of the current school year.

"I have very specific rules that all players in my program must adhere to," said Haskins. "Russ made some mistakes and it is unfortunate that it came to this. I will help him in any way I can and wish him the best of luck in the future."

Archambault played in 19 games this year and averaged 4.5 points per game.

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

February 7, 1998

JACOBSON CHOSEN TO COMPETE IN ESPN'S NATIONAL SLAM DUNK CHAMPIONSHIP

Senior All-America candidate Sam Jacobson has been chosen to compete in the ESPN National Slam Dunk Contest at the Final Four. Jacobson is one of the top leapers in the country and placed second at the Nike Slam Dunk Contest in Las Vegas as a high school senior. The competition will take place in San Antonio on Thursday, March 26 at Freeman Coliseum. The event will be broadcast live by ESPN with Dick Vitale and Brad Nessler hosting.

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

February 9, 1998

GOLDEN GOPHER ERIC HARRIS NAMED BIG TEN PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Golden Gopher point guard Eric Harris was named the Big Ten Player of the Week. The senior co-captain from the Bronx, N.Y. averaged 17 points per game while shooting 62 percent from three-point range last week.

Harris was instrumental in the Golden Gophers' 88-78 upset of No. 18 Michigan last Saturday. He hit his first five three-point attempts as Minnesota tied a then-conference record with 14 three-pointers. For the game Harris finished with a team-high 24 points, hitting seven of nine shots and five of six from the free-throw line. He also added three assists and two steals.

In his last three games, Harris has hit on 11 of his 18 three-point attempts (.611). He currently leads the Golden Gophers with 31 three-pointers and is ranked fifth in the Big Ten, shooting 43 percent from three-point range.

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

February 9, 1998

DEBUS HONORED AS WCHA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Senior goaltender Steve DeBus has been named WCHA Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts in last weekend's series against the University of Wisconsin in Minneapolis. The Golden Gophers swept the Badgers, giving them seven wins in their last 10 games heading into this weekend's series with defending NCAA titleholder North Dakota.

DeBus, of Rochester, Minn., posted his fifth career shutout in stopping 34 shots in Saturday's 7-0 win over the Badgers at Target Center. In Friday's game, DeBus kicked away 20 of 21 shots to lead the Golden Gophers to a 4-1 win. DeBus has allowed just two goals and stopped 85 of 87 shots in his last 180 minutes (three games) at home.

DeBus was honored by the league for the second time this season and the third time in his career. He won the league defensive player of the week award on Oct. 27 after stopping 25 of 26 shots in a 5-1 win over the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Mike Peluso of the University of Minnesota-Duluth was named Offensive Player of the Week while defenseman Jeff Panzer of the Sioux earned Rookie of the Week honors.

The Golden Gophers (12-16-0, 8-12-0) will travel to North Dakota (21-4-1, 15-4-1) this weekend for a series against the Sioux. The series is a Saturday/Sunday afternoon affair, with both games facing off at 2:05 p.m.



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

University of Minnesota • Bierman Field Athletic Building • 516 15th Avenue Southeast • Minneapolis, Minn. 55455
 Phone: 612.625.4090 • Fax: 612.625.0359 • Director: Marc Ryan • Assistant Directors: Bill Crumley and Brad Ruiter

February 9, 1998

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THIS WEEK IN GOPHER SPORTS

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Thurs., Feb. 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Basketball at Iowa Iowa City, Iowa ESPN (live) WCCO-AM (830) 6:30 p.m. | Sat., Feb. 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Hockey at North Dakota Grand Forks, N.D. MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 2:05 p.m. |
| Fri., Feb. 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Gymnastics at Michigan State East Lansing, Mich. 7 p.m. ☐ Track/Field at Husker Invitational Lincoln, Neb. All Day ☐ Wrestling vs. Michigan State Sports Pavilion MSC (live) 7:30 p.m. | Sun., Feb. 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Tennis at Kansas Lawrence, Kan. 6:30 p.m. ☐ Wrestling vs. Michigan Sports Pavilion 7:30 p.m. ☐ Baseball vs. Nebraska Metrodome 7 p.m. |
| Sat., Feb. 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Basketball at Michigan State East Lansing, Mich. MSC (live) WCCO-AM (830) 7 p.m. ☐ Gymnastics at Michigan Ann Arbor, Mich. 2 p.m. | Mon., Feb. 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Hockey at North Dakota Grand Forks, N.D. MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 2:05 p.m. ☐ Golf at Bridges All-American Bay St. Louis, Miss. All Day |

WEEKLY RELEASES

The University of Minnesota Men's Media Relations Office will be producing five separate releases during the 1997-98 academic year. Football, basketball, hockey and baseball information will be covered in sport-specific weekly releases, while information on "Olympic sports" will appear each Monday in this release. Please refer any questions to the Men's Media Relations office at (612) 625-4090.

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:

Tuesday, February 10:
Head Minnesota Basketball Coach CLEM HASKINS' weekly press conference

Wednesday, February 11:
Head Hockey Coach DOUG WOOG previews the North Dakota series.

Thursday, February 12:
Junior wrestler TIM HARTUNG previews weekend home duals against Michigan State and Michigan.

Friday, February 13:
Senior goaltender STEVE DeBUS previews the North Dakota series.

Saturday and Sunday, February 14-15:
Head Golf Coach JOHN MEANS previews the Bridges All-American Intercollegiate and start of the winter schedule.

GOLF

THIS WEEK: The Golden Gopher men's golf team tees off its winter schedule at the Bridges All-American Intercollegiate in Bay St. Louis, Miss., Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 16-17.

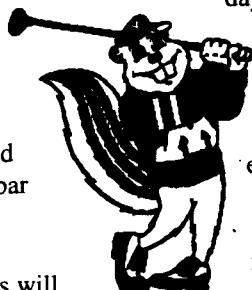
The event is hosted by Southern Mississippi at the Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic. Eighteen teams will be in attendance, while four of those 18 sit among the nation's current top 20.

Monday will feature 36 holes of play followed by 18 on Tuesday. The final round will begin at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

ABOUT THE COURSE: The Bridges Golf Resort course was designed by Arnold Palmer and is in its second year of operation. The course spans 7,059 yards and is a par 72.

PROJECTED LINEUP: The following five players will be competing for the Golden Gophers: (Each player was selected based on his score and play at the Alumni Challenge in Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 7-8)

- ROB KERR** (Sr., Pointe Claire, Quebec)
- MARTIN LeMESURIER** (So., South Hampton, England)
- BILL THOMPSON** (Jr., Wayzata, Minn.)
- ANDY KOMOR** (Jr., New Brighton, Minn.)
- ADAM DOOLEY** (Jr., Albany, Minn.)



LAST YEAR AT THE BRIDGES ALL-AMERICAN:

ROB KERR and **MARTIN LeMESURIER** led the Golden Gophers to a fourth-place finish at last season's Bridges All-American Intercollegiate in Hattiesburg, Miss., March 4. LeMesurier shot a 70 in the final round to finish fifth on the leaderboard with a three-round score of 212. Kerr fired a 74 in the final round, finishing 10th with a 54-hole total of 216.

As a team Minnesota, scored a three-round total of 875, 26 strokes off winner Oklahoma State's score. **ANDY KOMOR**, who will be back at the Bridges All-American this season, shot a 231 in the two-day tournament. Neither **ADAM DOOLEY** nor **BILL THOMPSON**, who will compete this year, participated at last season's tournament.

RANKINGS: Minnesota began the season ranked eighth in the country according to the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings. Throughout the fall, the Golden Gophers dropped to ninth before holding at 33rd in the last poll released December 10.

The Golden Gophers are second in District 4 heading into the winter, while **ROB KERR** is the highest-rated Minnesota player in the nation at 44th.

SCOREBOARD

TOP FIVE GOLFERS FROM THE FALL SCHEDULE

| | TOURNAMENT | SCORES | PAR | FINAL/FINISH |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. Rob Kerr | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 70/68/71 | 216 | 209/1st out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 74/65/71 | 216 | 210/1st out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 75/76/75 | 216 | 226/T56th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 73/79/70 | 216 | 222/T19th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 867 | Average: 72.3 | |
| 2. Bill Thompson | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 71/73/71 | 216 | 215/T6th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 76/72/75 | 216 | 223/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 72/74/71 | 216 | 217/T10th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 71/73/76 | 216 | 220/T13th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 875 | Average: 72.9 | |
| 3. M. Le Mesurier | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 78/74/70 | 216 | 222/T32nd out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 72/78/73 | 216 | 223/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 79/73/75 | 216 | 227/T59th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 72/74/73 | 216 | 219/12th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 891 | Average: 74.3 | |
| 4. Jeff Barney | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 71/73/70 | 216 | 214/T4th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 79/78/75 | 216 | 232/T53rd out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 78/76/74 | 216 | 228/T70th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Fall Rounds: 9 | Strokes: 674 | Average: 74.9 | |
| 5. Andy Komor | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 72/71/72 | 216 | 215/T6th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 74/73/76 | 216 | 233/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 76/79/82 | 216 | 237/T99th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Fall Rounds: 9 | Strokes: 674 | Average: 74.9 | |

GOPHER FLASHES

1998 MEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Feb. 6-7 | Alumni Challenge | No Scores Were Kept |
| Feb. 15-16 | Bridges All-America | Bay St. Louis, Mo. |
| Feb. 23-24 | Puerto Rico Challenge | Rio Mar, Puerto Rico |
| March 23-24 | Georgia Tech Invitational | Atlanta, Ga. |
| March 28-29 | Dr. Pepper Intercollegiate | Denton, Texas |
| April 10-11 | Marshall Invitational | Huntington, W.V. |
| April 25-26 | King Cobra Firestone | Akron, Ohio |
| May 2-3 | Wolverine Invitational | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| May 8-10 | Big Ten Championships | East Lansing, Mich. |
| May 13-15 | NCAA Central Regionals | TBA |
| May 24-30 | NCAA Championships | Albuquerque, N.M. |

GYMNASTICS

THIS WEEK: The No. 17 Golden Gophers travel to the state of Michigan for a pair of dual meets this weekend. On Friday, Feb. 13, Minnesota faces No. 7 Michigan State at 7:00 p.m. The Golden Gophers then travel to Ann Arbor, Saturday, for a matchup with No. 10 Michigan.

LAST ACTION: Minnesota lost to the third-ranked Illinois Fighting Illini 221.070-216.550, Feb. 7, at the Sports Pavilion. Michigan State was defeated by No. 5 Penn State 227.125-225.000, Feb. 7, in University Park, Pa. The Michigan Wolverines lost to the Illini 226.975-223.05 in Champaign, Ill., Jan. 31.

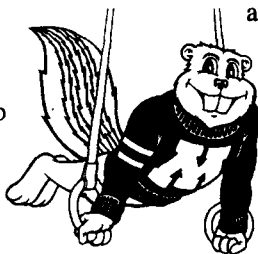
FLASHBACK: Last season, Minnesota swept Michigan and Michigan State in a triple dual at the Sports Pavilion, Feb. 8. The Golden Gophers lead the all-time series with the Spartans 27-21 and the Wolverines 26-22.

INJURY FRONT: The Golden Gophers have been slowed by a rash of injuries to key contributors. **DAN BOOTS** (Jr., Pearland, Texas), **TODD GUILBEAU** (Fr., Houston, Texas) and **BOB HUBBARD** (Sr., Phoenix, Ariz.) have been unable to compete at all this year and their chance for a return this season appear highly doubtful.

HAS A RING TO IT: Sophomore **RYAN WINTERBOURNE's** (Anaheim, Calif) previous career-best on the still rings was a 8.650 against Ohio State, Jan. 31. Against

Illinois, Winterbourne exploded with a 9.500 to capture the event title. The 9.500 is the highest score on the still rings posted by a Golden Gopher this season.

BEATTY SHINES: Senior co-captain **GEORGE BEATTY** (Aberdeen, N.J.) tied his career-high on the pommel horse and captured the event title with a 9.750 against Illinois, Feb. 7. On the season, Beatty is ranked 14th in the country on the pommel horse. Teammate **JASON KROB** (St. Charles, Mo.), ranked fourth in the country, finished second behind Beatty against Illinois, with a 9.650.



ALL-AROUND GUY: Sophomore **LINDSEY FANG** (Allentown, Pa.) has been the only Golden Gopher to compete in the all-around competition this season. Against Illinois, Fang finished second in the all-around with a score of 54.500, and took third on the vault with a 9.300. He is currently ranked ninth in the country in that event.

COACH ROETHLISBERGER: Head Coach Fred Roethlisberger is in his 27th year at the helm of the University of Minnesota Gymnastics program. Roethlisberger has led his team to 11 Big Ten Championships during his tenure and has a 170-70-1 (.713) career record.

SCOREBOARD

1998 MEN'S GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Alumni Meet | * L 213.90-221.85 |
| Jan. 17 | Windy City Invitational | 7th/213.85 |
| Jan. 31 | Ohio State | L 217.95-226.35 |
| Feb. 7 | Illinois | L 221.070-216.550 |
| Feb. 13 | Michigan State | East Lansing, Mich. |
| Feb. 14 | Michigan | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| Feb. 27 | Nebraska | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 1 | Iowa | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 7 | Illinois-Chicago | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 20-21 | Big Ten Championships | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| April 4 | NCAA East Regionals | Amherst, Mass. |
| April 16-18 | NCAA Championships | University Park, Pa. |

*Exhibition

GOPHER FLASHES

NEXT HOME ACTION: The Golden Gophers return home to the Sports Pavilion for a matchup with No. 9 Nebraska, Feb. 27. The dual with the Cornhuskers is the first of three in a row at home. On March 1, the second-ranked Iowa Hawkeyes travel north to Minneapolis for a dual. No. 11 Illinois-Chicago will be Minnesota's final regular season opponent before the Big Ten Championships, March 7.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Minnesota finished fourth at the 1997 Big Ten Championships. This season, the University of Michigan will host the event in Ann Arbor, Mich., March 20-21. The Golden Gophers last won the Big Ten Championship in 1995 led by current assistant coach Brian Yee. Yee, an All-American selection that year, finished second in the all-around and went on to finish 7th at the NCAA Championships.

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Golden Gophers are looking to get back to the NCAA Championships in University Park, Pa., April 16-18, for the first time since 1993. The NCAA East Regionals are set for April 4 in Amherst, Mass.

SWIMMING & DIVING

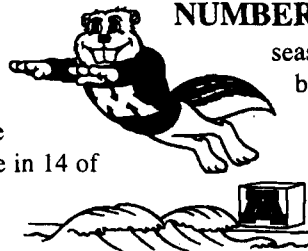
THIS WEEK: The Golden Gophers (7-1 overall, 3-1 Big Ten) are idle until hosting the Big Ten Championships, Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 26-28.

MASTER MASSURA: Freshman **ALEX MASSURA** (Belo Horizonte, Brazil) is the only Golden Gopher to swim across all disciplines: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and the individual medley. Short of getting on the diving board, the 1996 Olympian has led the Maroon and Gold swimming in eight different stroke categories. A specialist in the sprint free and backstroke, he has garnered first place in 14 of the 20 events he has swam in. Massura also joins the Golden Gophers' top 800-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard medley relay.

He has been the Golden Gophers' best swimmer since the start of the new year.

DIVER DAN: Another impressive freshman, diver **DAN CROASTON** (Champlin, Minn.), has quietly made a big splash. Croaston has won EVERY event he has competed in except one. At the Nebraska Triangular, Croaston finished fourth on the 1-meter springboard, but rebounded to post an NCAA diving standard score of 336.75 (six dives) on the 3-meter springboard. At that meet, Croaston ousted two divers who finished in the top eight of the NCAA Championships on the 3-meter springboard.

HIGH FLYIN': Junior butterfly specialist **MARTIN ZIELINSKI** (Bloomington, Minn.) has turned on the jets to close out the season. Zielinski captured the 100-yard butterfly with an NCAA consideration time of 48.46, Saturday at the Triple Duals. It was his best time in the event this season. Zielinski leads the Big Ten top times list in the 100-yard butterfly and is among the top 10 in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard butterfly.



NUMBER CRUNCHING: In its eight dual meets this season, Minnesota has been out scoring its opponents by an average of 76 points. The latest point differentials included a 219-116 drubbing of Wisconsin and 194-154 defeat of Purdue at the Triple Duals (1/30-31).

CHALLENGING THE OPPOSITION: The Golden Gophers dominated the Minnesota Challenge Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6-7 at the U of M Aquatic Center. The meet was the final tune up for the Big Ten Championships. Minnesota won 15 of the 16 events the team participated in, when **ALEX MASSURA**, **MARTIN ZIELINSKI**, and **JONO McLEOD** (Regina, Sask.) all were double event winners.

SCOREBOARD

OVERALL RECORD: 7-1; BIG TEN RECORD: 3-1
TOP INDIVIDUAL EVENT TIMES
(1997-98)

50 FREE — 20.16[^], Ty Bathurst (prelim, Minn. Invite)
100 FREE — 44.93[^], Alex Massura (split time, vs. UNC)
200 FREE — 1:39.52*, Alex Massura (1st, at Iowa)
500 FREE — 4:29.15, Bill Bishop (exb., Minn. Invite)
1000 FREE — 9:21.53, Bill Bishop (1st, vs. UNC)
1650 FREE — 15:29.78[^], Bill Bishop (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 BACK — 48.88#*[^], Alex Massura (1st, vs. UNC)
200 BACK — 1:45.53#*[^], Alex Massura (1st, Minn. Invite)
100 BREAST — 55.79*[^], Ty Bathurst (1st, Minn. Invite)
200 BREAST — 2:03.90, Chris Wood (1st, vs. UNC)
100 FLY — 48.46[^], Martin Zielinski (1st, Triple Duals)
200 FLY — 1:49.80, Yoav Meiri (1st, Triple Duals)
200 IM — 1:51.40, Jono McLeod (1st, Minn. Invite)
400 IM — 3:56.77, Bill Bishop (1st, Minn. Invite)

* personal best

[^] NCAA consideration

! NCAA automatic

+ Minnesota Varsity Record

Minnesota Freshman Record

GOPHER FLASHES

HOW SWEEP IT IS: The 13th-ranked Golden Gophers have swept their last two triangular dual meets, making a favorable impression on the swimming and diving world. After dominating the Nebraska Triangular, Jan. 23-24, Minnesota followed with a 219-116 victory over Wisconsin and a 194-154 defeat of Purdue at the Triple Duals in Madison, Wis., Jan. 30-31. The U of M captured 10 of 19 events, including two of four relay races. Minnesota has won seven straight dual meets since suffering a loss to Iowa in its first meet of the year. The Golden Gophers have also won every invitational they have competed in.

RANKINGS: Minnesota is ranked 13th in the nation for the second straight poll according to the CSCAA Speedo America Top 25 Poll (Jan. 29). The highest the Golden Gophers have been ranked is 12th when the poll debuted November 13.

TENNIS

THIS WEEK: Minnesota travels to Lawrence, Kan., to face 24th-ranked Kansas, Saturday, Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. The Maroon and Gold are coming off play at the Big Ten Singles Championships, Saturday through Monday, Jan. 24-26, in East Lansing, Mich.

BREAKING DOWN THE SERIES: Kansas and Minnesota will be breaking a deadlock in the all-time series this weekend as the Golden Gophers and Jayhawks are 5-5 when playing one another. The last time these two teams met, Kansas came away with a 7-0 victory in Minneapolis, February 15 of last season.

Kansas has won the last three meetings, with Minnesota's last win coming in 1993 when the Golden Gophers won 4-3 in Lawrence, Kan.

This match will be Minnesota's first big test of the season, as Kansas is listed among the nation's top 25. Kansas' doubles team of Enrique Abaroa and Xavier Avila are rated 12th in the nation, while Abaroa is the Jayhawks top-ranked singles player at No. 48.



carries a 13-8 record, while fellow Canadian countryman freshman **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) brings a 10-9 record to the court.

ON THE RECORD: Speaking of records, freshman **JON SVENSSON** (Kristianstad, Sweden) and junior **MARTIN KRISTOFFERSEN** (Portsgrunn, Norway) are the only two U of M players with undefeated dual match records. Svensson, the Golden Gophers' No. 6 singles player, is 3-0, with a win at No. 5 singles. Kristoffersen, seventh in the singles lineup, holds a 1-0 record following his win in the match against Ohio State,

Sunday, Jan. 18 at No. 6 singles. He also advanced to the finals of the Nos. 7 and 8 back draw, before pulling out of the Big Ten Singles Championships.

RANKINGS: The University of Minnesota is ranked No. 48 in the nation according to the ITA's fall rankings (Dec. 9). The next rankings will be available Feb. 9 and can be accessed through the internet at: www.tennisonline.com

DOUBLE FIGURES: Minnesota's starting lineup has four players with double digits in the win column. **TOM CHICOINE** (Neenah, Wis.) leads all Golden Gopher winning percentages with a 14-7 record, followed by freshman **JORGE DUENAS** (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) who holds a 14-8 record. **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** (Ottawa, Ontario)

SCOREBOARD

| Singles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tom Chicoine | 14-7 | 1-2 | 13-5 | 1-2 | | | | | |
| Adam Selkirk | 5-10 | 1-1 | 4-9 | | 1-1 | | | | |
| M. Michalowski | 13-8 | 1-2 | 12-6 | | 1-0 | 0-2 | | | |
| Jorge Duenas | 14-8 | 2-1 | 12-7 | | | 1-0 | 1-1 | | |
| Tyson Parry | 10-9 | 2-1 | 8-8 | | | | 0-1 | 2-0 | |
| Jon Svensson | 9-8 | 3-0 | 6-8 | | | | | 1-0 | 2-0 |
| M. Kristoffersen | 7-7 | 1-0 | 6-7 | | | | | | 1-0 |
| Ed Marques | 2-8 | | 2-8 | | | | | | |
| Voke Okoh | 0-2 | | 0-2 | | | | | | |

| Doubles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 |
|------------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| Michalowski/Parry | 12-5 | 1-2 | 11-3 | 1-2 | | |
| Chicoine/Duenas | 7-7 | 2-1 | 5-6 | | 2-1 | |
| Selkirk/Svensson | 6-3 | 2-0 | 4-3 | | | 2-0 |
| Kristoffersen/Svensson | 3-1 | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 1-0 |
| Marques/Dvorak | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |
| Marques/Okoh | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |

GOPHER FLASHES

MINNESOTA'S PROBABLE LINEUP AGAINST KANSAS

Singles

- No. 1 **TOM CHICOINE** (Jr., Neenah, Wis.)
- No. 2 **ADAM SELKIRK** (Jr., St. Joseph, Mo.)
- No. 3 **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** (So., Ottawa, Ontario)
- No. 4 **JORGE DUENAS** (Fr., Sto. Domingo, Dominican Reb.)
- No. 5 **TYSON PARRY** (Fr., Chatham, Ontario)
- No. 6 **JON SVENSSON** (Fr., Kristianstad, Sweden)

Doubles

- No. 1 Michalowski/Parry
- No. 2 Chicoine/Duenas
- No. 3 Selkirk/Svensson

TRACK & FIELD

THIS WEEK: Thirteenth-ranked Minnesota will have its team compete in three separate track and field meets this week-end. Some athletes will be at the Husker Invitational, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13-14, in Lincoln, Neb., while others will compete at the Husky Invitational in St. Cloud, Minn., Saturday, Feb. 14. Sophomore high jumper **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) will compete at the Millrose Games in New York, N.Y., Saturday, Feb. 14.

HONOR ROLL: Sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) was named the Big Ten Conference's Co-Athlete of the Month for his efforts during January. Strand earned the distinction after breaking his own school indoor record and setting a Big Ten record when he leapt 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) at the Minnesota Invitational, Jan. 24. The previous conference mark was 7-5 (2.26m) set by Strand in 1997, which placed him second at the NCAA Indoor Championships, and Paul Piwinski of Michigan State in 1983. In addition to breaking Minnesota's indoor record with the NCAA automatic qualifying jump, he smashed the Field House and Minnesota Invitational records by three inches. It is the highest leap in the nation among collegians this season, second currently in the world and seventh all-time on the collegiate list.

He shared the honor with Michigan's star distance runner,

Kevin Sullivan who set a Big Ten record with the nation's fastest 3,000-meter run.

FOUR-TUNATE: The University of Minnesota men's track and field team, led by senior **TYE HARVEY'S** (Jamestown, Calif.) first-place finish in the pole vault, scored four NCAA provisional standards at the Iowa State Classic, Feb. 6-7, in Ames, Iowa. Harvey vaulted 17 feet 8 1/2 inches (5.40m) to take Minnesota's only title at the meet.

Also scoring NCAA provisional performances were sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND**, who took fourth in the high jump (7-02.5; 2.19m), senior **NILES DENEEN**, who placed third in the 55-meter hurdles (7.33) and the Distance Medley Relay Team which finished fifth (9.48.09).

Senior **CHAD YENCHESKY** (DePere, Wis.) took third in the shot put with a distance of 57 feet 5 inches (17.50m).



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Thirty-two Minnesota performances are among the Big Ten's top 15 performances across 18 events. Two Golden Gopjers are aloft the conference competition. **NILES DENEEN** (St. Paul, Minn.) leads the Big Ten with his Minnesota school indoor record time of 7.31 in the 55-meter hurdles, while **STAFFAN STRAND'S** 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) record-breaking high jump is tops in the conference.

Three Golden Gophers have the Big Ten's second-best performances.

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDOOR PERFORMANCES

55m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.33 (1/31)
55m High Hurdles -- Niles Deneen, 7.31*!&\$ (1/31)
600m Hurdles -- Yet to be competed in this season
200m Dash -- Steve Burkholder, 22.06 (2/7)
400m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 47.91!\$# (2/7)
600m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 1:19.16# (1/24)
800m Run -- Jason Owen, 1:53.14 (2/7)
Mile Run -- Sami Valtonen, 4:06.58 (2/7)
3,000m Run -- Nate Clay, 8:30.27\$ (1/10)
5,000m Run -- Tony Riter, 14:50.4\$ (2/7)
High Jump -- Staffan Strand, 7-6 1/2 (2.30)!&@^\$ (1/24)
Pole Vault -- Tye Harvey, 17-8 (5.40m)* (2/7)
Long Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 2-7 1/4 (6.89m) (1/17)
Triple Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 49-0 1/4 (14.91) (1/17)
Shot Put -- Chad Yenchesky, 59-4 1/4 (18.08m)*\$ (1/24)
Weight Throw -- Ben Meyer, 52-00 1/2 (15.86m) (2/7)
Pentathlon -- Jesse Madsen%, 3,289 (1/24)
Heptathlon -- Yet to be competed in this season

Key:

* NCAA Provisional

! NCAA Automatic

& Minnesota School Record

@ Field House Record

^ Big Ten Record

\$ Personal Best

U of M Freshman Record

% competed unattached

GOPHER FLASHES

THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT: Assistant Track and Field Coach in charge of the distance runners **STEVE PLASENCIA** took second in the 5,000-meter run, competing unattached. Plasencia, *Runner's World's* top male master's runner for 1997, finished the race in 14:07.17. If Plasencia still had collegiate eligibility he would have provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships.

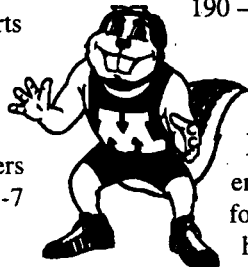
LATEST RANKINGS: Minnesota is 12th in the nation according to *Trackwire's* latest top 25 poll posted February 3. Arkansas leads the pack, while the only other Big Ten school in the poll, Michigan, is tied for 19th.

WRESTLING

THIS WEEK: The No. 3 Golden Gophers (15-2, 2-2 Big Ten) return home this weekend for a pair of dual meets against ranked Big Ten opponents from the state of Michigan. The Golden Gophers play host to No. 10 Michigan State on Friday night in a match that will be broadcast live on Midwest Sports Channel. The next evening, Minnesota will honor its three graduating seniors on "Senior Night" as the team battles No. 13 Michigan. Both matches start at 7:30 p.m. in the Sports Pavilion.

IN THE SERIES: Michigan State leads the all-time series with Minnesota 30-19. The Golden Gophers knocked off the Spartans earlier this season with a 31-7 victory in the semifinals of the Cliff Keen National Duals. In that match, Michigan State picked up wins at 118 and 126 pounds, but the Golden Gophers claimed every other weight class.

Michigan holds a 24-15-2 advantage in the series. The Wolverines won the last meeting between the two teams almost two years ago to the day, an 18-14 victory in the Sports Pavilion on Feb. 18, 1996. In 1995, the two teams battled to a 19-19 tie on Feb. 11 in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Golden Gophers' last win in the series came during their school-record 18-match winning streak in 1993-94, a 24-13 victory at the Sports Pavilion Feb. 11.



PROBABLE LINEUP VS. THIS WEEKEND

- 118 — **BRETT LAWRENCE** (Fr., Sandpoint, Idaho)
- 126 — **PAT CONNORS** (Jr., Longview, Wash.)
- 134 — **TROY MARR** (Jr., Wyoming, Minn.)
- 142 — **JASON DAVIDS** (Sr., Forest Lake, Minn.)
- 150 — **CHAD KRAFT** (Jr., Lakefield, Minn.)
- 158 — **JOSH HOLIDAY** (Jr., Anaheim, Calif.)
- 167 — **ZAC TAYLOR** (Sr., Sandpoint, Idaho)
- 177 — **DELANEY BERGER** (So., Mandan, N.D.)
- 190 — **TIM HARTUNG** (Jr., Durand, Wis.)
- Hwt — **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (Sr., Orangeburg, S.C.)

DOWN THE HOMESTRETCH: This weekend's dual meets mark the final home action of the season for the Golden Gophers. After this weekend, Minnesota hits the road for duals at Northwestern (2/20) and No. 11 Purdue (2/22) to conclude the regular season. The team will then travel to the Big Ten Championships in University Park, Pa., March 7-8, and the NCAA Championships in Cleveland, Ohio, March 19-21.

FOND FAREWELL: Saturday's match with Michigan will be the last home dual for Minnesota's three seniors: **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, **JASON DAVIDS** and **ZAC TAYLOR**.

continued next page

SCOREBOARD

| Wt. | Name | TOP INDIVIDUAL RECORDS | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| | | Overall | Total | Dual | Big Ten | Pins |
| 118 | Brett Lawrence | 16-7 | 16-7 | 11-6 | 2-2 | 3 |
| | Leroy Vega | 11-2 | 11-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Julio Alaniz | 6-4 | 6-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 126 | Bart Golyer | 18-4 | 17-3 | 7-2 | 1-2 | 6 |
| | Pat Connors | 17-4 | 9-4 | 5-3 | 1-0 | 4 |
| 134 | Chad Erikson | 11-3 | 11-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Ty Friederichs | 11-7 | 11-7 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Pat Connors | | 8-0 | 4-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Bart Golyer | | 1-1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Krebs | 11-6 | 11-6 | 2-1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| 142 | Troy Marr | 24-5 | 10-3 | 6-2 | 1-1 | 2 |
| | Jason Davids | 25-2 | 25-2 | 15-2 | 2-2 | 14 |
| | Joe Calavitta | 8-2 | 8-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Troy Marr | | 14-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 150 | Chad Kraft | 15-1 | 14-1 | 13-1 | 2-1 | 2 |
| | Brad Pike | 15-5 | 15-5 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 3 |
| | Eddie Pak | 5-6 | 5-6 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Troy Marr | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 158 | Tim Kinsella | 13-2 | 13-2 | 1-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Jesse Krebs | 6-5 | 6-5 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Holiday | 21-2 | 21-2 | 12-2 | 2-1 | 4 |
| | Chad Kraft | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0 |
| 167 | Delaney Berger | 15-1 | 15-1 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Zac Taylor | 23-5 | 23-5 | 11-4 | 1-3 | 7 |
| | Mike Cuperus | 14-2 | 14-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 5 |
| | Matt Kraft | 6-2 | 6-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 177 | Brandon Eggum | 22-2 | 22-2 | 14-2 | 1-2 | 6 |
| | Kenneth Howard | 3-3 | 3-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| 190 | Tim Hartung | 24-1 | 24-1 | 16-1 | 4-0 | 16 |
| | Owen Elzen | 7-4 | 7-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 4 |
| HWT | Shelton Benjamin | 24-4 | 24-4 | 12-3 | 3-1 | 8 |
| | Brent Boeshans | 13-4 | 13-4 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 1 |

GOPHER FLASHES

No. 5 Penn State 21, No. 3 Minnesota 13
Fri., Feb. 6, 1998 — University Park, Pa.

- 118 - No. 8 Jeremy Hunter (PSU) pinned Brett Lawrence (UM), 6:06
- 126 - No. 7 Jason Betz (PSU) dec. Bart Golyer (UM) 4-2
- 134 - No. 5 Troy Marr (UM) dec. No. 19 Biff Walizer (PSU) 2-1 tiebreaker
- 142 - No. 7 Jamarr Billman (PSU) dec. No. 3 Jason Davids (UM) 9-3
- 150 - No. 3 Clint Musser (PSU) dec. No. 1 Chad Kraft (UM) 3-1
- 158 - No. 10 Josh Holiday (UM) dec. No. 6 John Lange (PSU) 7-2
- 167 - No. 8 Glenn Pritzlaff (PSU) dec. No. 6 Zac Taylor (UM) 7-2
- 177 - No. 13 Rob Neidlinger (PSU) dec. No. 7 Brandon Eggum (UM) 4-3
- 190 - No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) maj. dec. Brett Calabretta (PSU) 16-5
- Hwt - No. 7 Shelton Benjamin (UM) dec. Mark Janus (PSU) 12-9

No. 3 Minnesota 34, Ohio State 9
Sun., Feb. 8, 1998 • Columbus, Ohio

- 118 - Brett Lawrence (UM) dec. Matt Fratta (OSU) 5-2
- 126 - Bart Golyer (UM) dec. Robbie Archer (OSU) 4-2
- 134 - No. 5 Troy Marr (UM) dec. Brian Baughman (OSU) 8-5
- 142 - No. 3 Jason Davids (UM) pinned Brian Roskovich (OSU) 4:54
- 150 - No. 1 Chad Kraft (UM) dec. Peter Rogers (OSU) 7-3
- 158 - Dan DiCesare (OSU) dec. No. 10 Josh Holiday (UM) 4-3 (2ot)
- 167 - No. 6 Zac Taylor (UM) major dec. Sean Salmon (OSU) 20-6
- 177 - Pat Feldman (OSU) won by forfeit
- 190 - No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) pinned Donovan True (OSU) 1:36
- Hwt - No. 7 Shelton Benjamin (UM) pinned Matt Mondalek (OSU) 4:43

WRESTLING

NO. 3 GOPHERS SPLIT WEEKEND DUALS: The No. 3 Golden Gopher wrestling team went 1-1 last weekend on its trip east. Minnesota lost at No. 5 Penn State 21-13 Friday night but rebounded two days later with a commanding 34-9 victory at Columbus, Ohio, Sunday afternoon.

Against Penn State, junior **TIM HARTUNG** picked up his 23rd win of the season with a 16-5 major decision over Penn State's Brett Calabretta. Senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN** and juniors **TROY MARR** and **JOSH HOLIDAY** posted Minnesota's other wins in the meet in Bryce Jordan Center.

Minnesota used three pins and a major decision to defeat Ohio State 34-9 Sunday at French Field House in Columbus, Ohio. Minnesota lost only two matches, including a defeat in double overtime and a forfeit, to secure its 15th win.

Senior **JASON DAVIDS** and Hartung led Minnesota's attack. Davids, ranked No. 3 at 142 pounds, pinned Ohio State's Brian Roskovich in 4:54. Hartung, the nation's No. 2-ranked wrestler at 190 pounds, took only 1:36 to stick Ohio State's Donovan True. Hartung is the team leader in falls with 16 pins, and Davids is second with 14.

Benjamin posted his eighth pin of the year, downing Matt Mondalek in 4:43. Freshman **BRETT LAWRENCE**, juniors **BART GOLYER**, Marr and **CHAD KRAFT** and senior **ZAC TAYLOR** also notched wins in the effort.

MINNESOTA SETS SCHOOL MARK FOR ATTENDANCE:

The Golden Gophers set a school record this year when 11,284 fans turned out to watch Iowa defeat Minnesota 20-12 on Jan. 23. The attendance mark surpasses the old record set Feb. 3, 1980, when 9,225 fans watched Iowa State defeat the Golden Gophers 19-18 at Williams Arena. The NCAA record for attendance at a dual meet was set Feb. 22, 1992, when 15,291 fans watched Iowa defeat Iowa State 29-8 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City.

VS. RANKED OPPONENTS: The Golden Gophers have a 6-2 mark against ranked opponents heading into this weekend's matches with No. 10 Michigan State and No. 13 Michigan. Most recently, Minnesota knocked off No. 3 Iowa on Feb. 18 to win the National Duals.

ROAD WARRIORS: The Golden Gophers have won seven dual meets on the road this season, most recently defeating the Ohio State Buckeyes 34-9 in Columbus on Feb. 8. In addition, the Golden Gophers won two duals at Jackson (Minn.) High School and four at the National Duals in Iowa City for a grand total of 13 dual meets won in places other than Minneapolis this season.

MINNESOTA SLIPS TO THIRD IN NATIONAL POLLS:

The Golden Gopher wrestling team held onto third for the second week in the Feb. 5 NWCA/Amateur Wrestling News rankings after holding the No. 2 spot for three weeks before. The Golden Gophers started the season in third and moved to second in the Jan. 8 ranking before slipping to third two weeks ago.

SEVEN 20-MATCH WINNERS IN LINEUP: Seven Golden Gophers in the starting lineup have won at least 20 matches this season. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** (142) leads the team with a 25-2 record. Three wrestlers are tied with 24 wins in junior **TROY MARR** (134) at 24-5, junior **TIM HARTUNG** (190) at 24-1 and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (HWT) at 24-4. Other 20-match winners include senior **ZAC TAYLOR** (167) at 23-5, sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** (177) at 22-2 and junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** at 21-2.

LATEST RANKINGS: Individually, two-time All-American **CHAD KRAFT** is the top-ranked wrestler in the nation at 150 pounds in the Feb. 4 Intermat/W.I.N. rankings. Defending Big Ten champion and 1997 All-American **TIM HARTUNG** is ranked second at 190. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** slipped to third at 142 pounds two weeks ago after holding the top spot all season.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include junior **TROY MARR** who is the fifth-ranked wrestler at 134, senior **ZAC TAYLOR** who is ranked sixth at 167, senior All-American **SHELTON BENJAMIN** who is seventh at heavyweight, sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** who is seventh at 177 pounds, junior All-American **PAT CONNORS** who is ninth at 126 and junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** who is 10th at 158 pounds.

IN THE CONFERENCE: Eight Minnesota wrestlers are ranked in the Feb. 2 Big Ten coaches poll, including two who are ranked No. 1 in their weight class.

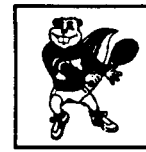
Junior **CHAD KRAFT** has been ranked No. 1 at 150 pounds all season, and junior **TIM HARTUNG** moved into first last week after posting a sterling 4-0 mark in Big Ten dual-meet action.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include senior **JASON DAVIDS**, second at 142; junior **TROY MARR**, fourth at 134; junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, second at 158 pounds; senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, fourth at 167; sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, third at 177; and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, tied for third at heavyweight.

HOLDING THEM SCORELESS: Minnesota's 49-0 victory over two-time NAIA national champion Missouri Valley College Saturday at the National Duals marked the team's fifth shutout of the season. Minnesota's other shutouts came against Mankato State (38-0), Truman State (57-0), Augustana (53-0) and San Francisco State (46-0). The Golden Gophers have lost only one match in three other duals this season (Fresno State 45-3, Nebraska 43-3, West Virginia 33-3).

PIN CITY: Through 17 dual meets this season, Minnesota's wrestlers have won 41 matches by pinning their opponents, including **SHELTON BENJAMIN'S** dramatic fall in 2:16 over Iowa's Wes Hand to give Minnesota its National Duals title. Minnesota recorded a remarkable eight wins by fall in a 57-0 win over Truman State on Dec. 5, 1997. Last year through 17 duals, Minnesota had only recorded 21 match wins by pin.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG** is the team leader with nine pins in dual meets. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is second with seven. Hartung is also the overall team leader with 16 pins overall, and Davids is second with 14.



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

University of Minnesota • Bierman Field Athletic Building • 516 15th Avenue Southeast • Minneapolis, Minn. 55455
 Phone: 612.625.4090 • Fax: 612.625.0359 • Director: Marc Ryan • Assistant Directors: Bill Crumley and Brad Ruiter

February 16, 1998

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THIS WEEK IN GOPHER SPORTS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Mon.-Tues., Feb. 16-17 | ☐ Golf | at Bridges All-American Bay St. Louis, Miss. All Day | Sat., Feb. 21 | ☐ Baseball | vs. San Diego State San Diego, Calif. 9 p.m. |
| Wed., Feb. 18 | ☐ Basketball | vs. Penn State Williams Arena MSC (live) WCCO-AM (830) 7 p.m. | Sun., Feb. 22 | ☐ Hockey | vs. Alaska-Anchorage Mariucci Arena MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 7 p.m. |
| Fri., Feb. 20 | ☐ Baseball | vs. Washington San Diego, Calif. Noon | Mon., Feb. 23 | ☐ Tennis | at Iowa Iowa City, Iowa 11:30 a.m. |
| | ☐ Hockey | vs. Alaska-Anchorage Mariucci Arena KSTP-AM (1500) 7:35 p.m. | | ☐ Wrestling | at Purdue West Lafayette, Ind. Noon |
| | ☐ Track/Field | vs. Snowshoe Open U of M Field House 6 p.m. | | ☐ Golf | at Puerto Rico Challenge Rio Mar, P.R. All Day |
| | ☐ Wrestling | at Northwestern Evanston, Ill. 7 p.m. | | ☐ Golf | at Puerto Rico Challenge Rio Mar, P.R. All Day |

WEEKLY RELEASES

The University of Minnesota Men's Media Relations Office will be producing five separate releases during the 1997-98 academic year. Football, basketball, hockey and baseball information will be covered in sport-specific weekly releases, while information on "Olympic Sports" will appear each Monday in this release. Please refer any questions to the Men's Media Relations office at (612) 625-4090.

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:

Tuesday, February 17:
 Head Minnesota Basketball Coach **CLEM HASKINS'** weekly press conference

Wednesday, February 18:
 Head Hockey Coach **DOUG WOOG** previews the Alaska-Anchorage series.

Thursday, February 19:
 Head Minnesota Basketball Coach **CLEM HASKINS'** and Head Penn State Basketball Coach

JERRY DUNN's postgame comments

Friday, February 20:
 Senior hockey forward **RYAN KRAFT** previews the Alaska-Anchorage series.

Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22:
 Head Hockey Coach **DOUG WOOG's** Alaska-Anchorage postgame comments

GOLF

THIS WEEK: The Golden Gopher men's golf team tees off its winter schedule at the Bridges All-American Intercollegiate in Bay St. Louis, Miss., Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 16-17.

The event is hosted by Southern Mississippi at the Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic. Eighteen teams will be in attendance, while four of those 18 sit among the nation's current top 20.

Monday will feature 36 holes of play followed by 18 on Tuesday. The final round will begin at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

ABOUT THE COURSE: The Bridges Golf Resort course was designed by Arnold Palmer and is in its second year of operation. The course spans 7,059 yards and is a par 72.

PROJECTED LINEUP: The following five players will be competing for the Golden Gophers: (Each player was selected based on his score and play at the Alumni Challenge in Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 7-8)

ROB KERR (Sr., Pointe Claire, Quebec)

MARTIN LeMESURIER (So., South Hampton, England)

BILL THOMPSON (Jr., Wayzata, Minn.)

ANDY KOMOR (Jr., New Brighton, Minn.)

ADAM DOOLEY (Jr., Albany, Minn.)



LAST YEAR AT THE BRIDGES ALL-AMERICAN:

ROB KERR and **MARTIN LeMESURIER** led the Golden Gophers to a fourth-place finish at last season's Bridges All-American Intercollegiate in Hattiesburg, Miss., March 4. LeMesurier shot a 70 in the final round to finish fifth on the leaderboard with a three-round score of 212. Kerr fired a 74 in the final round, finishing 10th with a 54-hole total of 216.

As a team Minnesota, scored a three-round total of 875. 26 strokes off winner Oklahoma State's score. **ANDY KOMOR**, who will be back at the Bridges All-American this season, shot a 231 in the two-day tournament. Neither **ADAM DOOLEY** nor **BILL THOMPSON**, who will compete this year, participated at last season's tournament.

RANKINGS: Minnesota began the season ranked eighth in the country according to the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings. Throughout the fall, the Golden Gophers dropped to ninth before holding at 33rd in the last poll released December 10.

The Golden Gophers are second in District 4 heading into the winter, while **ROB KERR** is the highest-rated Minnesota player in the nation at 44th.

SCOREBOARD

TOP FIVE GOLFERS FROM THE FALL SCHEDULE

| | TOURNAMENT | SCORES | PAR | FINAL/FINISH |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. Rob Kerr | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 70/68/71 | 216 | 209/1st out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 74/65/71 | 216 | 210/1st out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 75/76/75 | 216 | 226/T56th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 73/79/70 | 216 | 222/T19th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 867 | Average: 72.3 | |
| 2. Bill Thompson | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 71/73/71 | 216 | 215/T6th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 76/72/75 | 216 | 223/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 72/74/71 | 216 | 217/T10th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 71/73/76 | 216 | 220/T13th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 875 | Average: 72.9 | |
| 3. M. Le Mesurier | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 78/74/70 | 216 | 222/T32nd out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 72/78/73 | 216 | 223/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 79/73/75 | 216 | 227/T59th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Coca-Cola Classic | 72/74/73 | 216 | 219/12th out of 111 |
| Oct. 10-11 | Fall Rounds: 12 | Strokes: 891 | Average: 74.3 | |
| 4. Jeff Barney | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 71/73/70 | 216 | 214/T4th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 79/78/75 | 216 | 232/T53rd out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 78/76/74 | 216 | 228/T70th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Fall Rounds: 9 | Strokes: 674 | Average: 74.9 | |
| 5. Andy Komor | ReliaStar Collegiate Invite | 72/71/72 | 216 | 215/T6th out of 65 |
| Sept. 14-15 | Northern Collegiate Invite | 74/73/76 | 216 | 233/T18th out of 90 |
| Sept. 27-28 | Nike Northwest Classic | 76/79/82 | 216 | 237/T99th out of 110 |
| Oct. 6-7 | Fall Rounds: 9 | Strokes: 674 | Average: 74.9 | |

GOPHER FLASHES

1998 MEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Feb. 6-7 | Alumni Challenge | No Scores Were Kept |
| Feb. 15-16 | Bridges All-America | Bay St. Louis, Mo. |
| Feb. 23-24 | Puerto Rico Challenge | Rio Mar, Puerto Rico |
| March 23-24 | Georgia Tech Invitational | Atlanta, Ga. |
| March 28-29 | Dr. Pepper Intercollegiate | Denton, Texas |
| April 10-11 | Marshall Invitational | Huntington, W.V. |
| April 25-26 | King Cobra Firestone | Akron, Ohio |
| May 2-3 | Wolverine Invitational | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| May 8-10 | Big Ten Championships | East Lansing, Mich. |
| May 13-15 | NCAA Central Regionals | TBA |
| May 24-30 | NCAA Championships | Albuquerque, N.M. |

GYMNASTICS

THIS WEEK: The No. 17 Golden Gophers (0-4 overall and in the Big Ten) are idle this weekend.

LAST ACTION: Minnesota was defeated in a pair of dual meets by No. 8 Michigan State and No. 11 Michigan, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13-14 in Michigan. The Spartans set a new school record with their 228.425 team points, while the Wolverines captured their first win of the season.

THE SILVER LINING: Despite still being on the hunt for the year's elusive first win, optimism remains for the rest of Minnesota's season. The Golden Gophers have improved on their team score in every dual meet this season. In light of injuries, Minnesota's youth contingent has stepped up. Seven out of the 11 gymnasts who posted scores in the Michigan dual are underclassmen.

INJURY FRONT: The Golden Gophers have been hampered by a rash of injuries to key contributors. **DAN BOOTS** (JR, Pearland, Texas), **TODD GUILBEAU** (FR, Houston, Texas) and **BOB HUBBARD** (SR, Phoenix, Ariz.) will remain sidelined the remainder of the season.

WINTER HEATING UP: Sophomore **RYAN WINTERBOURNE** (Anaheim, Calif) has been one of the young guys



developing quickly with all of the injuries. Winterbourne captured two third-place finishes against Michigan State. He followed up his team and career-high 9.500 on the still rings against Illinois with a 9.400 against the Spartans. Those two scores are the highest posted in that event by a Golden Gopher this season. Winterbourne also captured third place with a career-high 9.400 on the parallel bars.

LEADING THE WAY: Senior co-captain **GEORGE BEATTY** (Aberdeen, N.J.) continued his winning ways last weekend. Beatty captured two individual event titles against the University of Michigan. Beatty's 9.750 on the pommel horse was just enough to defeat teammate **JASON KROB** (St. Charles, Mo.) who scored a 9.725. Beatty and Krob are both ranked seventh in the country in that event. Beatty also captured the event title with a career-high tying 9.750 on the parallel bars.

COACH ROETHLISBERGER: Head Coach Fred Roethlisberger is in his 27th year at the helm of the University of Minnesota Gymnastics program. Roethlisberger has led his team to 11 Big Ten Championships during his tenure and has a 170-71-1 (.712) career record.

SCOREBOARD

1998 MEN'S GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Alumni Meet | * L 213.90-221.85 |
| Jan. 17 | Windy City Invitational | 7th/213.85 |
| Jan. 31 | Ohio State | L 217.95-226.35 |
| Feb. 7 | Illinois | L 221.070-216.550 |
| Feb. 13 | Michigan State | L 221.75-228.425 |
| Feb. 14 | Michigan | L 222.575-226.85 |
| Feb. 27 | Nebraska | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 1 | Iowa | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 7 | Illinois-Chicago | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 20-21 | Big Ten Championships | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| April 4 | NCAA East Regionals | Amherst, Mass. |
| April 16-18 | NCAA Championships | University Park, Pa. |

*Exhibition

GOPHER FLASHES

NEXT HOME ACTION: The Golden Gophers return home to the Sports Pavilion for a matchup with No. 9 Nebraska, Feb. 27. The dual with the Cornhuskers is the first of three in a row at home. On March 1, the second-ranked Iowa Hawkeyes travel north to Minneapolis for a dual. No. 11 Illinois-Chicago will be Minnesota's final regular season opponent before the Big Ten Championships, March 7.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Minnesota finished fourth at the 1997 Big Ten Championships. This season, the University of Michigan will host the event in Ann Arbor, Mich., March 20-21. The Golden Gophers last won the Big Ten Championship in 1995 led by current assistant coach Brian Yee. Yee, an All-American selection that year, finished second in the all-around and went on to finish 7th at the NCAA Championships.

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Golden Gophers are looking to get back to the NCAA Championships in University Park, Pa., April 16-18, for the first time since 1993. The NCAA East Regionals are set for April 4 in Amherst, Mass.

TENNIS

THIS WEEK: The 48th-ranked Golden Gophers (3-1 overall; 1-0 Big Ten) head to Iowa City, Iowa for a dual match with the Iowa Hawkeyes Saturday, Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m.

BREAKING DOWN THE SERIES: Minnesota leads the all-time series with Iowa 46-29, and has won the last six meetings. Iowa has not beaten Minnesota since 1991 when the Hawkeyes took thematch 5-4 in Bloomington, Minn.

FLASHBACK: Minnesota won the doubles point and four of six singles matches last season in a 5-2 win over Iowa in Rochester, Minn., last season. Junior **ADAM SELKIRK** (St. Joseph, Mo.) defeated Ulf Jentler at No. 3 singles 6-3, 6-4, while sophomore **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** (Ottawa, Ontario) and junior **MARTIN KRISTOFFERSEN** (Portsgrunn, Norway) were victorious at Nos. 5 and 6 singles respectively.

UNDER PRESSURE: Freshman **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) proved he is ready to compete at the collegiate level after leading the Golden Gophers to a 4-3 upset of No. 24 Kansas Saturday, Feb. 14. Parry's No. 5 singles match was the decisive point for Minnesota who had won the doubles point against the Jayhawks and were down in the singles matches, 3-2. Whoever won at No. 5 would take the match. Fittingly it came down to two freshman, Parry and Jayhawk Ed Dus. Parry battled through the first set, taking it 7-6 with a 9-7 tie break.

Parry dropped the second set 5-7, but bounced back to win the third and final set 6-2.

DOUBLE FIGURES: Minnesota's starting lineup features five of its six singles players with double digits in the win column. **TOM CHICOINE** (Neenah, Wis.) carries a 14-8 record, followed by freshman **JORGE DUENAS** (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) who holds a 14-9 record. **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** also carries a 14-8 record, while fellow Canadian countryman freshman **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) brings an 11-9 record to the court. Freshman **JON SVENSSON** (Kristianstad, Sweden) is 10-8.



ON THE RECORD: Speaking of records, freshmen **JON SVENSSON** and **TYSON PARRY** and junior **MARTIN KRISTOFFERSEN** are the only three U of M players with undefeated position dual match records. Svensson is 3-0 at No. 6 singles, and has one win at No. 5 singles. Kristoffersen, seventh in the singles lineup, holds a 1-0 record at No. 6 singles.

Parry carries a 3-0 record at No. 5 singles. Both Svensson and Kristoffersen have yet to lose a dual match this season.

ADAM SELKIRK and Svensson also have one of two undefeated doubles records. The pair is 3-0 in dual matches and have competed at No. 3 all season. Kristoffersen and Svensson are also unbeaten, posting a 1-0 record at No. 3 singles.

SCOREBOARD

| Singles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tom Chicoine | 14-8 | 1-3 | 13-5 | 1-3 | | | | | |
| Adam Selkirk | 5-11 | 1-2 | 4-9 | | 1-2 | | | | |
| M. Michalowski | 14-8 | 2-2 | 12-6 | | 1-0 | 1-2 | | | |
| Jorge Duenas | 14-9 | 2-2 | 12-7 | | | 1-0 | 1-2 | | |
| Tyson Parry | 11-9 | 3-1 | 8-8 | | | | 0-1 | 3-0 | |
| Jon Svensson | 10-8 | 4-0 | 6-8 | | | | | 1-0 | 3-0 |
| M. Kristoffersen | 7-7 | 1-0 | 6-7 | | | | | | 1-0 |
| Ed Marques | 2-8 | | 2-8 | | | | | | |
| Voke Okoh | 0-2 | | 0-2 | | | | | | |

| Doubles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 |
|------------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| Michalowski/Parry | 12-6 | 1-3 | 11-3 | 1-3 | | |
| Chicoine/Duenas | 8-7 | 3-1 | 5-6 | | 3-1 | |
| Selkirk/Svensson | 7-3 | 3-0 | 4-3 | | | 3-0 |
| Kristoffersen/Svensson | 3-1 | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 1-0 |
| Marques/Dvorak | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |
| Marques/Okoh | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |

GOPHER FLASHES

AT THE STARTING GATE: The Golden Gophers have begun the 1998 season 3-1. It is the first time this team has been 3-1 to start the year since its fourth consecutive Big Ten Championship season in 1995, when Minnesota opened the year 3-1 and went on to win its next four straight matches. In fact, during the Golden Gophers' four conference championship seasons between 1992-1995, Minnesota started the season at least 3-1 through four matches every year except 1992. That year Golden Gophers were 1-2 before putting together an eight-match win streak. In 1993 the team started 12-0 before its first loss. In 1996 Minnesota was 0-4 after its first four matches and in 1997, the Golden Gophers were 1-3 to start.

MINNESOTA'S PROBABLE LINEUP AGAINST IOWA

Singles

- No. 1 **TOM CHICOINE** (Jr., Neenah, Wis.)
- No. 2 **ADAM SELKIRK** (Jr., St. Joseph, Mo.)
- No. 3 **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** (So., Ottawa, Ontario)
- No. 4 **JORGE DUENAS** (Fr., Sto. Domingo, Dominican Reb.)
- No. 5 **TYSON PARRY** (Fr., Chatham, Ontario)
- No. 6 **JON SVENSSON** (Fr., Kristianstad, Sweden)

Doubles

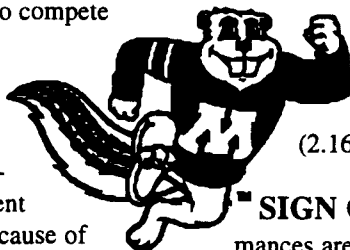
- No. 1 Michalowski/Parry
- No. 2 Chicoine/Duenas
- No. 3 Selkirk/Svensson

TRACK & FIELD

THIS WEEK: Eleventh-ranked Minnesota hosts the Snowshoe Open, Friday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the U of M Field House. It will be the Golden Gophers' final competition prior to the Big Ten Indoor Championships at West Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 28-29.

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND: Sophomore high jumper **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden) had an impressive outing as the only Minnesota athlete to compete in the prestigious Chase Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York, N.Y., Friday, Feb. 13. Strand tied for second place with Norway's Steiner Hoen, representing Asics, when he leaped 7-2 1/2 (2.20m). Nike representative Charles Lefrancois from Canada won the event with an indential height, but claimed the title because of fewer missed attempts throughout the competition.

SPLITTING SUCCESS: The Golden Gopher track and field team divided itself into thirds over the weekend of Feb. 13-14. Although all slices were not equal, the result was the same: success. Besides Strand's second-place finish at the Chase Millrose Games, four Minnesota track and field athletes took first place at the St. Cloud State Husky Invitational, Friday, Feb. 13, and three athletes scored NCAA provisional performances at the Husker Invitational in Lincoln, Neb., Friday and Saturday,



Feb. 13-14.

Taking first-place honors in St. Cloud, Minn., were freshmen **MARK FAHEY** (Scandia, Minn.) in the shot put (51-11 1/4, 15.83m), **BEN MEYER** in the 35-lb. weight throw (54-10; 16.71m) and sophomore **JOSH BRANG** (Winona, Minn.) who captured the 800-meter run (1:56.29). Junior **BENJAMIN JENSEN** (Mandal, Norway) also won the 60-meter hurdles in 9.03.

Senior hurdler **NILES DENEEN** (St. Paul, Minn.) led the Golden Gopher contingent in Nebraska, winning the 55-meter hurdles and tying his own school record with an NCAA provisional time of 7.31. The other two NCAA provisional qualifiers were junior high jumpers Wil Kurth and Tyler McCormick who placed in a tie for fifth with identical leaps of 7-01 (2.16m)

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Thirty Minnesota performances are among the Big Ten's top 15 performances across 18 events. Two Golden Gophers are aloft the conference competition. **NILES DENEEN** leads the Big Ten with his Minnesota school indoor record time of 7.31 in the 55-meter hurdles, while **STAFFAN STRAND's** 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) record-breaking high jump is tops in the conference.

Two Golden Gophers have the Big Ten's second-best performances.

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDOOR PERFORMANCES

55m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.33 (1/31)
 60m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.53 (2/13)
 55m Hurdles -- Niles Deneen, 7.31*!&\$ (1/31, 2/13)
 60m Hurdles -- Benjamin Jensen, 8.03 (2/13)
 200m Dash -- Steve Burkholder, 22.06 (2/7)
 400m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 47.91\$# (2/7)
 500m Dash -- Adam Freed, 1:05.90 (2/13)
 600m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 1:19.16# (1/24)
 800m Run -- Jason Owen, 1:53.14 (2/7)
 Mile Run -- Sami Valtonen, 4:06.58 (2/7)
 3,000m Run -- Nate Clay, 8:30.27\$ (1/10)
 5,000m Run -- Tony Riter, 14:50.4\$ (2/7)
 High Jump -- Staffan Strand, 7-6 1/2 (2.30)!&@\$ (1/24)
 Pole Vault -- Tye Harvey, 17-8 (5.40m)* (2/7)
 Long Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 2-7 1/4 (6.89m) (1/17)
 Triple Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 49-0 1/4 (14.91) (1/17)
 Shot Put -- Chad Yenchesky, 59-4 1/4 (18.08m)*\$ (1/24)
 Weight Throw -- Ben Meyer, 54-10 (16.71m) (2/13)
 Pentathlon -- Jesse Madsen%, 3,289 (1/24)
 Heptathlon -- Yet to be competed in this season

Key:

* NCAA Provisional

! NCAA Automatic

& Minnesota School Record

@ Field House Record

^ Big Ten Record

\$ Personal Best

U of M Freshman Record

GOPHER FLASHES

THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT: Assistant Track and Field Coach in charge of the distance runners **STEVE PLASENCIA** claimed the mile run title at the St. Cloud State Husky Invitational, Friday, Feb. 13, with a time of 4:17.88. Plasencia took second in the 5,000-meter at the Iowa State Classic, Feb. 6-7 with an NCAA provisional time of 14:07.17.

LATEST RANKINGS: Minnesota is 11th in the nation according to *Trackwire's* latest top 25 poll posted February 12. Arkansas leads the pack, while four other Big Ten schools in addition to Minnesota are ranked. Michigan leads the conference in a four-way tie for third in the nation, followed by Illinois at 15th, Iowa in a three-way tie for 16th and Wisconsin in a four-way tie for 23rd.

SEVEN-UP: Minnesota has scored seven provisionally qualifying performances for the NCAA Indoor Championship in Indianapolis, Ind., March 13-14. **STAFFAN STRAND** has automatically qualified with his 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) high jump at the Minnesota Invitational (1/24) and twice qualified provisionally in the event. **NILES DENEEN** has qualified provisionally twice over in the 55-meter hurdles (7.31; 7.33). Senior **TYE HARVEY** (Jamestown, Calif.) and junior **VESA RANTANEN** (Virrat, Finland) have qualified in the pole vault and senior **CHAD YENCHESKY** (DePere, Wis.) qualified in the shot put.

WRESTLING

THIS WEEK: The No. 4 Golden Gophers (17-2, 4-2 Big Ten) hit the road for a pair of dual meets to end the regular season. Minnesota travels to Evanston, Ill., to take on the Northwestern Wildcats at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, and to West Lafayette, Ind., to take on the No. 9 Purdue Boilermakers, Sunday, Feb. 22 at noon.

IN THE SERIES: Minnesota leads the series with the Wildcats 30-17-1. Last year, the Golden Gophers used a pin and five major decisions to defeat the Wildcats 35-3 on Dec. 6, 1996, in Williams Arena. Since J Robinson took over as head coach, Minnesota has posted a 7-3-1 mark against the Wildcats.

The Golden Gophers also lead the all-time series against Purdue with a 36-16-2 edge. The two teams have not met since the 1994-95 season when Minnesota defeated Purdue 35-3 on Jan. 22, 1995, in the Sports Pavilion. Under Robinson, the Golden Gophers are 6-2 vs. the Boilermakers.



PROBABLE LINEUP VS. THIS WEEKEND

- 118 — **BRETT LAWRENCE** (Fr., Sandpoint, Idaho)
- 126 — **PAT CONNORS** (Jr., Longview, Wash.) -OR- **BART GOLYER** (Jr., Cedar, Minn.)
- 134 — **TROY MARR** (Jr., Wyoming, Minn.)
- 142 — **JASON DAVIDS** (Sr., Forest Lake, Minn.)
- 150 — **CHAD KRAFT** (Jr., Lakefield, Minn.)
- 158 — **JOSH HOLIDAY** (Jr., Anaheim, Calif.)
- 167 — **ZAC TAYLOR** (Sr., Sandpoint, Idaho)

- 177 — **BRANDON EGGUM** (So., Sidney, Mont.) -OR- **DELANEY BERGER** (So., Mandan, N.D.)
- 190 — **TIM HARTUNG** (Jr., Durand, Wis.)
- Hwt — **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (Sr., Orangeburg, S.C.)

NEXT UP, BIG TENS: After this weekend's travels, Minnesota will take a week off to prepare for the Big Ten Championships, which will be held at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center in University Park, Pa., March 7-8. The Golden Gophers look to become the first team in 24 years to unseat the Iowa Hawkeyes for the conference championship. The last team to win the Big Ten title other than the Hawkeyes was Michigan, which edged Iowa in 1973. The Golden Gophers have won four conference championships with the last coming in 1959.

NO. 4 GOPHERS EARN WEEKEND SWEEP:

Minnesota closed out the home slate last weekend with wins over No. 11 Michigan State and No. 13 Michigan. The Golden Gophers cruised to a 39-6 victory over the Spartans Friday night and then overcame an early 10-0 deficit to defeat the Wolverines 27-10 Saturday.

Against Michigan State, junior **BART GOLYER** pin of No. 6 Pat McNamara in 5:47 at 126 pounds turned the tide for the Golden Gophers. Michigan State senior David Morgan, ranked No. 1 in the country at 118 pounds, put the Spartans ahead early with a pin of freshman Brett Lawrence in 4:16, but Golyer evened the score in the next match. Junior **TROY MARR** put the Golden Gophers ahead for good with a hard-fought 5-4 decision over No. 20 Issac Miller.

Minnesota then cruised to the 39-6 victory on the strength of

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

| Wt. | Name | Overall | Total | Dual | Big Ten | Pins |
|-----|------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|------|
| 118 | Brett Lawrence | 16-9 | 16-9 | 11-8 | 2-4 | 3 |
| | Leroy Vega | 11-2 | 11-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Julio Alaniz | 6-4 | 6-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 126 | Bart Golyer | 19-5 | 18-4 | 8-3 | 2-3 | 7 |
| | Pat Connors | 17-4 | 9-4 | 5-3 | 1-0 | 4 |
| 134 | Chad Erikson | 11-3 | 11-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Ty Friederichs | 11-7 | 11-7 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Pat Connors | | 8-0 | 4-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Bart Golyer | | 1-1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Krebs | 11-6 | 11-6 | 2-1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Troy Marr | 25-6 | 11-4 | 7-3 | 4-2 | 2 |
| 142 | Jason Davids | 27-2 | 27-2 | 17-2 | 4-2 | 14 |
| | Joe Calavitta | 8-2 | 8-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Troy Marr | | 14-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 150 | Chad Kraft | 17-1 | 16-1 | 15-1 | 4-1 | 2 |
| | Brad Pike | 15-5 | 15-5 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 3 |
| | Eddie Pak | 5-6 | 5-6 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Troy Marr | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 158 | Tim Kinsella | 13-2 | 13-2 | 1-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Jesse Krebs | 6-5 | 6-5 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Holiday | 23-2 | 23-2 | 14-2 | 4-1 | 4 |
| | Chad Kraft | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0 |
| 167 | Delaney Berger | 17-1 | 15-1 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Zac Taylor | 25-5 | 25-5 | 13-4 | 3-3 | 7 |
| | Mike Cuperus | 14-2 | 14-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 5 |
| | Matt Kraft | 6-2 | 6-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 177 | Brandon Eggum | 22-2 | 22-2 | 14-2 | 1-2 | 6 |
| | Kenneth Howard | 3-3 | 3-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Delaney Berger | | 2-0 | 2-0 | 2-0 | 0 |
| 190 | Tim Hartung | 26-1 | 26-1 | 18-1 | 6-0 | 17 |
| | Owen Elzen | 7-4 | 7-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 4 |
| HWT | Shelton Benjamin | 26-4 | 26-4 | 14-3 | 5-1 | 8 |
| | Brent Boeshans | 13-4 | 13-4 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 1 |

GOPHER FLASHES

No. 4 Minnesota 39, No. 11 Michigan State 6 Friday, Feb. 13, 1998 — Sports Pavilion

- 118 - No. 1 David Morgan (MSU) pinned Brett Lawrence (UM) 4:16
- 126 - Bart Golyer (UM) pinned No. 6 Pat McNamara (MSU) 5:47
- 134 - No. 7 Troy Marr (UM) dec. No. 20 Issac Miller (MSU) 5-4
- 142 - No. 7 Jason Davids tech. fall Nick Curry (MSU) 21-6, 4:57
- 150 - No. 3 Chad Kraft (UM) major dec. David Hughes (MSU) 16-5
- 158 - No. 10 Josh Holiday (UM) dec. No. 20 Greg DeGrand (MSU) 8-2
- 167 - No. 9 Zac Taylor (UM) by injury default
- 177 - Delaney Berger (UM) major dec. James Brimm (MSU) 12-1
- 190 - No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) major dec. Nick Muzashvili (MSU) 12-3
- Hwt - No. 7 Shelton Benjamin (UM) major dec. Matt Lamb (MSU) 15-3

No. 4 Minnesota 27, No. 13 Michigan 10 Saturday, Feb. 14, 1998 — Sports Pavilion

- 118 - No. 18 Chris Viola (MICH) major dec. Brett Lawrence (UM) 16-2
- 126 - No. 17 Joe Warren dec. Bart Golyer (UM) 6-2
- 134 - No. 13 Damion Logan (MICH) dec. No. 7 Troy Marr (UM) 10-6
- 142 - No. 7 Jason Davids (UM) major dec. Corey Grant (MICH) 13-4
- 150 - No. 3 Chad Kraft (UM) dec. No. 4 Bill Lacure (MICH) 3-1
- 158 - No. 10 Josh Holiday (UM) major dec. Jason Rawls (MICH) 16-5
- 167 - No. 9 Zac Taylor (UM) dec. No. 4 Jeff Catrabone (MICH) 2-1
- 177 - Delaney Berger (UM) major dec. Joe DeGain (MI) 14-6
- 190 - No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) pinned Ryan Balcom (MI) 2:43
- Hwt - No. 7 Shelton Benjamin (UM) dec. No. 2 Airron Richardson 3-1

WRESTLING

major decisions in four of the last six weight classes led by sophomore **DELANEY BERGER** at 177 pounds and junior **TIM HARTUNG**, the nation's second-ranked wrestler at 190, who each picked up their fourth major decisions this year.

The next night, Minnesota used big upset wins from seniors **ZAC TAYLOR** and **SHELTON BENJAMIN** to earn its 17th victory of the season and to win its third straight Big Ten meet. Taylor, the nation's ninth-ranked wrestler at 167 pounds, defeated Michigan's No. 4 Jeff Catrabone 2-1, and Benjamin, the nation's seventh-ranked heavyweight, defeated No. 2 Airron Richardson 3-1 to ensure the victory for the Golden Gophers.

Michigan jumped out to an early 10-0 lead with wins in the first three weight classes. Senior **JASON DAVIDS**, ranked seventh in the nation at 142 pounds, put the Golden Gophers on the board with a 13-4 major decision over Michigan's Corey Grant to record his team-leading 27th victory of the season.

DAVIDS ONE DUAL-MEET WIN AWAY FROM TYING SCHOOL MARK:

Two-time All-American **JASON DAVIDS** is just one win away from tying the all-time school record for dual-meet wins. Davids is 17-2 in dual action this season and 77-12-0 for his career. The current leader is Willy Short (1989-1994) who finished his career with a 78-18-2 mark in dual-meet action.

On pace to have his third consecutive 30-win season, Davids is also nearing the top of school lists for all-time career victories and pins. He is currently in fourth place in career wins with a 123-24-0 record and in third place for career pins with 35.

DENTING THE RECORD BOOK:

Several other Golden Gophers are also climbing their way into Minnesota's record book. Senior **ZAC TAYLOR** is currently eighth all time with a career record of 112-29-0.

In just three seasons, juniors **TIM HARTUNG** and **CHAD KRAFT** have also moved their way into the Golden Gopher record book. Hartung is in 16th place with a career mark of 84-21-0. Kraft is now 21st with a career mark of 77-17-0. Hartung is also nearing the top of the school list for career pins. He is currently in fourth with 33 career wins by fall, including a team-leading 17 this season.

MINNESOTA SETS SCHOOL MARK FOR ATTENDANCE:

The Golden Gophers set a school record this year when 11,284 fans turned out to watch Iowa defeat Minnesota 20-12 on Jan. 23. The attendance mark surpasses the old record set Feb. 3, 1980, when 9,225 fans watched Iowa State defeat the Golden Gophers 19-18 at Williams Arena. The NCAA record for attendance at a dual meet was set Feb. 22, 1992, when 15,291 fans watched Iowa defeat Iowa State 29-8 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City.

VS. RANKED OPPONENTS: The Golden Gophers have an 8-2 mark against ranked opponents heading into this weekend's matches with Northwestern and No. 9 Purdue. Most recently, Minnesota knocked off No. 10 Michigan State 39-6 and No. 13 Michigan 27-10 last weekend at the Sports Pavilion.

ROAD WARRIORS: The Golden Gophers have won seven dual meets on the road this season, most recently defeating the Ohio State Buckeyes 34-9 in Columbus on Feb. 8. In addition, the Golden Gophers won two duals at Jackson (Minn.) High School and four at the National Duals in Iowa City, Iowa, for a grand total of 13 dual meets won in places other than Minneapolis this season.

MINNESOTA SLIPS TO FOURTH IN NATIONAL POLLS:

The Golden Gophers slipped to fourth place in

the Feb. 12 NWCA/*Amateur Wrestling News* rankings after holding the No. 3 spot for two weeks before. It is the lowest ranking for the Golden Gophers which started the season in third and moved to second on Jan. 8. The team spent three weeks in second and the past two in third before slipping to fourth Feb. 12.

SEVEN 20-MATCH WINNERS IN LINEUP:

Seven Golden Gophers in the starting lineup have won at least 20 matches this season. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** (142) leads the team with a 27-2 record. Two wrestlers are tied with 26 wins in junior **TIM HARTUNG** (190) at 26-1 and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (HWT) at 26-4. Other 20-match winners include junior **TROY MARR** (134) at 25-6, senior **ZAC TAYLOR** (167) at 25-5, junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** at 23-2 and sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** (177) at 22-2.

LATEST RANKINGS: Individually, All-American and defending Big Ten champion **TIM HARTUNG** is the top-ranked Golden Gopher in the Feb. 11 Intermat/*W.I.N.* rankings. Hartung is ranked second at 190 pounds.

Junior **CHAD KRAFT**, a two-time All-American who took third at the NAAs last year, is ranked third at 150 pounds after a tough loss to Penn State's then No. 3-ranked Clint Musser last weekend. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** slipped from third to seventh in the latest rankings at 142 pounds after holding the top spot for most of the year.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include junior **TROY MARR** who is the seventh-ranked wrestler at 134, senior All-American **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, seventh at heavyweight, junior All-American **PAT CONNORS**, seventh at 126, senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, ninth at 167, junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, 10th at 158 and sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, 13th at 177.

IN THE CONFERENCE: Eight Minnesota wrestlers are ranked in the Feb. 2 Big Ten Coaches poll, including two who are ranked No. 1 in their respective weight classes.

Junior **CHAD KRAFT** has been ranked No. 1 at 150 pounds all season, and junior **TIM HARTUNG** moved into first last week after posting a sterling 4-0 mark in Big Ten dual-meet action.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include senior **JASON DAVIDS**, second at 142; junior **TROY MARR**, fourth at 134; junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, second at 158 pounds; senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, fourth at 167; sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, third at 177; and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, tied for third at heavyweight.

HOLDING THEM SCORELESS: Minnesota's 49-0 victory over two-time NAIA national champion Missouri Valley College at the National Duals marked the team's fifth shutout of the season. Minnesota's other shutouts came against Mankato State (38-0), Truman State (57-0), Augustana (53-0) and San Francisco State (46-0). The Golden Gophers have lost only one match in four other duals this season (Fresno State 45-3, Nebraska 43-3, West Virginia 33-3, Michigan State 39-6).

PIN CITY: Through 19 dual meets this season, Minnesota's wrestlers have won 43 matches by pinning their opponents, including **SHELTON BENJAMIN**'s dramatic fall in 2:16 over Iowa's Wes Hand to give Minnesota its National Duals title. Minnesota recorded a remarkable eight wins by fall in a 57-0 win over Truman State on Dec. 5, 1997. Last year through 19 duals, Minnesota had only recorded 22 match wins by pin.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG** is the team leader with 10 pins in dual meets. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is second with seven. Hartung is also the overall team leader with 17 pins overall, and Davids is second with 14.



SPORTS NEWS

Bierman Field Athletic Building 516 15th Avenue Southeast Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-4090 Fax 625-0359
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 17, 1998

KERR MEDALIST AT BRIDGES ALL-AMERICAN Golden Gophers Finish Third In 18-Team Event

University of Minnesota senior Rob Kerr fired an even-par round of 72 to hold off the competition and capture medalist honors in the Bridges All-American Tournament at The Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Kerr's opening round 69 in the rain-shortened event left him five strokes behind first-day leader Jaime Acevedo of Georgia State. Acevedo stumbled to an 82 in day two to open the door for Kerr's win.

Kerr won for the third time in five outings during the 1997-98 season. He captured titles previously in Minnesota's own ReliaStar Invitational in September, followed by a first-place finish at the Northern Collegiate Invite in East Lansing, Mich. Both wins came during the fall season.

The Golden Gophers as a team finished third in the 36-hole event, 13 shots behind champion Southeastern Louisiana and two strokes behind second place Northwestern. Kerr, listed 44th in the latest national individual rankings, finished ahead of five golfers ranked ahead of him in the MasterCard Individual ratings. The Golden Gophers are ranked 33rd in the nation.

Junior Andy Komor from New Brighton, Minn. was the other Golden Gopher top 20 finisher in the event, shooting rounds of 74-74 to end 36 holes in a tie for 18th place. The Golden Gophers will be back in action next Monday and Tuesday at the Rio Mars River Course in the Puerto Rico Golf Classic.

Bridges All-American/Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic

Par: 72 Yardage: 7,059

Arnold Palmer Designed Course

36 Hole Tournament Totals

| Teams | Scores |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Southeastern Louisiana | 286-288--574 |
| Northwestern | 292-293--585 |
| Minnesota | 286-301--587 |
| Kansas | 288-301--589 |
| Alabama-Birmingham | 293-299--592 |
| Georgia State | 282-311--593 |
| South Alabama | 288-307--595 |
| Florida State | 296-303--599 |
| Southwestern Louisiana | 304-298--602 |
| Arkansas State | 301-304--605 |
| Indiana | 296-311--607 |
| Vanderbilt | 299-312--611 |
| UNC-Charlotte | 295-316--611 |
| Arkansas-Little Rock | 301-313--614 |
| Oral Roberts | 301-315--616 |
| Southern Mississippi | 305-313--618 |
| Middle Tennessee State | 297-330--627 |
| Texas Tech | 310-324--634 |

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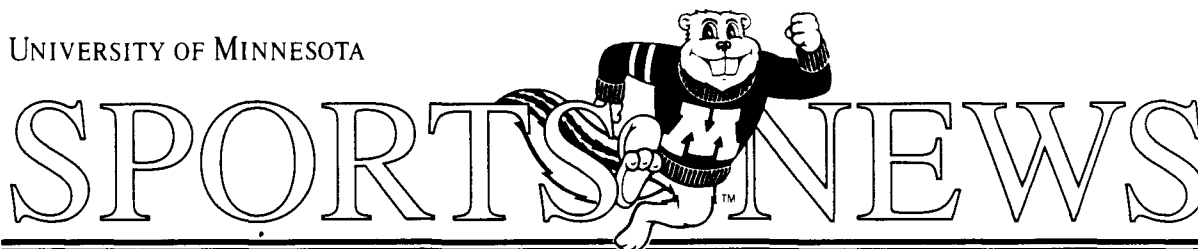
Bridges All-American
Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic
Par: 72 Yardage: 6,841
Arnold Palmer Designed Course
Individual Scores - Top 10

| Player | School | Scores |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Rob Kerr | Minnesota | 69-72--141 |
| 2. Paul Dickinson | UAB | 69-73--142 |
| Jess Daley | Northwestern | 69-73--142 |
| Grant White | SE Louisiana | 70-72--142 |
| 5. Ryan Vermeer | Kansas | 72-71--143 |
| Jacque Chevallier | SE Louisiana | 71-72--143 |
| 7. Ryan Felty | Florida State | 69-75--144 |
| Alan Morgan | South Alabama | 69-75--144 |
| 9. George McNeill | Florida State | 71-74--145 |
| Daniel Escalera | Georgia State | 72-73--145 |
| Billy Carreto | SE Louisiana | 74-71--145 |

Other Golden Gopher Scores

| Player | Scores (Place) |
|---------------|-------------------|
| James McLean | 71-83--154 (T-50) |
| Adam Dooley | 72-79--151 (T-35) |
| Andy Komor | 74-74--148 (T-18) |
| Bill Thompson | 76-76--152 (T-38) |

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

February 19, 1998

MISKOVICH INJURED; WILL MISS THIS WEEKEND'S SERIES

The University of Minnesota men's hockey program announced Thursday that freshman forward Aaron Miskovich will be sidelined for this weekend's series against the University of Alaska-Anchorage after sustaining a facial injury at the end of Wednesday's practice.

Miskovich, a native of Grand Rapids, Minn., suffered three separate fractures to facial bones around the lower left eye region after being hit by a puck. Miskovich was taken to Fairview University Medical Center for examination, where initial tests showed no permanent damage to his eye and CT scans were negative for serious head injuries. After spending the night at the hospital for evaluation purposes, Miskovich was released this afternoon.

Miskovich will be reevaluated by team doctors next week. The Golden Gophers play the University of Alaska-Anchorage on Friday evening at 7:35 p.m. and Saturday evening at 7:05 p.m. at Mariucci Arena.



SPORTS NEWS

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

For Immediate Release

February 19, 1998

HORMEL FOODS BASEBALL CLASSIC SET FOR MARCH 6-8

The 1998 Hormel Foods Baseball Classic will be held March 6-8 at the Metrodome. Established in 1985, the tournament consistently brings some of the top teams in the country to the Twin Cities every year. Hormel Foods enters its fourth year as the title sponsor of the annual event.

This year, Rutgers, California, Connecticut and Minnesota comprise the tournament field, which annually brings some of the top talent in collegiate baseball to the Metrodome. As many as 53 recent Major Leaguers have played in the tournament.

The weekend of baseball gets underway with two games on Friday, California vs. Connecticut at 12:15 p.m. and Rutgers vs. Minnesota at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, the Golden Gophers open the day with a game against California at 1:30 p.m. The first 3,000 fans at that game will receive a free baseball cap from Hormel Foods.

The annual Amateur Baseball Clinic is also set for Saturday afternoon from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Kids ages 7 to 17 can participate in the clinic, which will feature players and coaches from all four teams. The first 1,000 kids at the clinic will receive a free baseball.

Fans will have a chance to register for the Big Pitch contest, which will be held during the seventh inning stretch of Minnesota's game Saturday. One student and one non-student adult will be chosen to throw a baseball from the mound into an 8-inch hole in two tosses. If they can do that, the student will win free tuition for a year (up to \$10,000) and the non-student will win a trip for two to the Minnesota Twins 1999 spring training camp.


On Sunday afternoon, the Famous Chicken, formerly the San Diego Chicken, will make his first appearance in the Twin Cities in over a decade at Minnesota's game with Connecticut. The Chicken's appearance is being sponsored by Target, and it will be available for autographs after the game. The first 3,000 fans Sunday will also receive a baseball bat pen.

Hormel Classic tickets cost \$6 for each game and are available by calling the University of Minnesota Athletic Ticket Office at (612) 624-8080 or 1-800-UGOPHER. Fans can purchase a game ticket for \$1 by bringing a UPC label from any Hormel Foods product to the game. Two-for-one coupons, Target Treatseats, are also available at metro Target stores and can be redeemed on the day of the game.

KKMS-AM (980) will broadcast Minnesota's games with California and Connecticut Saturday and Sunday, and Midwest Sports Channel will also broadcast the game on Sunday.

Schedule of Events:

| | | | | |
|---------|------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| MARCH 6 | FRI. | California vs. Connecticut | METRODOME | 12:15 p.m. |
| | | Rutgers vs. Minnesota | METRODOME | 6:30 p.m. |
| MARCH 7 | SAT. | California vs. Minnesota | METRODOME | 1:30 p.m. |
| | | <i>Amateur Baseball Clinic</i> | <i>METRODOME</i> | <i>4:30-6 p.m.</i> |
| | | Connecticut vs. Rutgers | METRODOME | 7 p.m. |
| MARCH 8 | SUN. | Connecticut vs. Minnesota | METRODOME | 1:15 p.m. |
| | | Rutgers vs. California | METRODOME | 5 p.m. |



SPORTS & FITNESS NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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| | | Connecticut vs. Rutgers | METRODOME | 7 p.m. |
| MARCH 8 | SUN. | Connecticut vs. Minnesota | METRODOME | 1:15 p.m. |
| | | Rutgers vs. California | METRODOME | 5 p.m. |



GOLDEN GOPHER MEN'S ATHLETICS

University of Minnesota • Bierman Field Athletic Building • 516 15th Avenue Southeast • Minneapolis, Minn. 55455
 Phone: 612.625.4090 • Fax: 612.625.0359 • Director: Marc Ryan • Assistant Directors: Bill Crumley and Brad Ruitter

February 23, 1998

Go Online! • www.gophersports.com

THIS WEEK IN GOPHER SPORTS

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <p>Mon-Tues, Feb. 23-24</p> | <p>☒ Golf at NCAA Puerto Rico Challenge Rio Mar, Puerto Rico All Day</p> | <p>Sat., Feb. 28</p> | <p>☒ Baseball at San Diego San Diego, Calif. KKMS-AM (980) 3 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Tues, Feb. 24</p> | <p>☒ Baseball at San Diego State San Diego, Calif. KKMS-AM (980) (TD) 4 p.m.</p> | | <p>☒ Basketball vs. Northwestern Williams Arena WCCO (Ch. 4) (live) WCCO-AM (830) 1:30 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Wed, Feb. 25</p> | <p>☒ Basketball at Purdue West Lafayette, Ind. MSC (live) WCCO-AM (830) 7 p.m.</p> | | <p>☒ Hockey at Colorado College Colorado Springs, Colo. MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 8:05 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Thurs., Sat., Feb. 26-28</p> | <p>☒ Swimming/ Diving vs. Big Ten Championships U of M Aquatic Center prelims: Noon; finals: 7 p.m.</p> | | <p>☒ Track/Field at Big Ten Championships West Lafayette, Ind. All Day</p> |
| <p>Fri., Feb. 27</p> | <p>☒ Baseball at San Diego San Diego, Calif. KKMS-AM (980) (TD) 4 p.m.</p> <p>☒ Gymnastics vs. Nebraska Sports Pavilion 7 p.m.</p> <p>☒ Hockey at Colorado College Colorado Springs, Colo. MSC (live) KSTP-AM (1500) 8:35 p.m.</p> | <p>Sun., March 1</p> | <p>☒ Baseball at San Diego San Diego, Calif. KKMS-AM (980) 3 p.m.</p> <p>☒ Gymnastics vs. Iowa Sports Pavilion 1 p.m.</p> <p>☒ Track/Field at Big Ten Championships West Lafayette, Ind. All Day</p> |

WEEKLY RELEASES

The University of Minnesota Men's Media Relations Office will be producing five separate releases during the 1997-98 academic year. Football, basketball, hockey and baseball information will be covered in sport-specific weekly releases, while information on "Olympic Sports" will appear each Monday in this release. Please refer any questions to the Men's Media Relations office at (612) 625-4090.

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:

Tuesday, February 24:
Head Minnesota Basketball Coach CLEM HASKINS' weekly press conference

Wednesday, February 25:
Head Swimming and Diving Coach DENNIS DALE previews the Big Ten Championships.

Thursday, February 26:
Head Hockey Coach DOUG WOOG previews the

Colorado College series.

Friday, February 27:
Senior hockey forward RYAN KRAFT previews the Colorado College series.

Saturday and Sunday, February 28-29:
Head Minnesota Basketball Coach CLEM HASKINS' and Head Northwestern Coach KEVIN O'NEILL's postgame comments

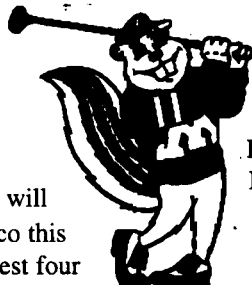
GOLF

THIS WEEK: The Golden Gopher men's golf team continues its winter schedule at the Puerto Rico Golf Classic Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 23-24. The event, held at the Rio Mars River Course, is hosted by North Carolina and North Carolina State. Included in the field of 15 are top-20 programs North Carolina, Clemson, Florida, - Virginia and Wake Forest. Monday features 36 holes of play with the final 18 holes slated for early Tuesday morning.

ABOUT THE COURSE: The Rio Mars River Course was designed by Greg Norman and spans 6,945 yards. The course is a par 72.

PROJECTED LINEUP: The following six players will be making the trip with the Golden Gophers to Puerto Rico this week. Only five compete in the tournament, with the lowest four scores kept for team standings.

- ROB KERR** (Sr. Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada)
- MARTIN LEMESURIER** (So., South Hampton, England)
- JAMES MCLEAN** (Fr., Wahgunjah, Victoria, Australia)
- ANDY KOMOR** (Jr. New Brighton, Minn.)
- ADAM DOOLEY** (Jr., Albany, Minn.)
- BOB BRINK** (Jr., Bemidji, Minn.)



competition and capture medalist honors in the Bridges All-American Tournament at The Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Kerr's opening-round 69 in the rain-shortened event left him five strokes behind first-day leader Jaime Acevedo of Georgia State. Acevedo stumbled to an 82 in day two to open the door for Kerr's win.

Kerr won for the third time in five outings during the 1997-98 season. He captured titles previously in Minnesota's own ReliaStar Invitational in September, followed by a first-place finish at the Northern Collegiate Invite in East Lansing, Mich. Both wins came during the fall season.

The Golden Gophers as a team finished third in the 36-hole event, 13 shots behind champion Southeastern Louisiana and two strokes behind second-place Northwestern. Kerr, listed 44th in the latest national individual rankings, finished ahead of five golfers ranked ahead of him in the MasterCard Individual ratings.

Junior Andy Komor from New Brighton, Minn. was the other Golden Gopher top 20 finisher in the event, shooting rounds of 74-74 to end 36 holes in a tie for 18th place.

KERR WINS THIRD TOURNAMENT AT BRIDGES:

Rob Kerr fired an even-par round of 72 to hold off the

SCOREBOARD

RESULTS FROM BRIDGES:

Bridges All-American/Bridges Golf Resort at Casino Magic
Par: 72 Yardage: 7,059

Arnold Palmer Designed Course
36 Hole Tournament Totals

| Teams | Scores |
|------------------------|--------------|
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| Indiana | 296-311--607 |
| Vanderbilt | 299-312--611 |
| UNC-Charlotte | 295-316--611 |
| Arkansas-Little Rock | 301-313--614 |
| Oral Roberts | 301-315--616 |
| Southern Mississippi | 305-313--618 |
| Middle Tennessee State | 297-330--627 |
| Texas Tech | 310-324--634 |

Individual Scores - Top 10

| Player | School | Scores |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Rob Kerr | Minnesota | 69-72--141 |
| 2. Paul Dickinson | UAB | 69-73--142 |
| Jess Daley | Northwestern | 69-73--142 |
| Grant White | SE Louisiana | 70-72--142 |

| Player | Scores (Place) |
|---------------|-------------------|
| James McLean | 71-83--154 (T-50) |
| Adam Dooley | 72-79--151 (T-35) |
| Andy Komor | 74-74--148 (T-18) |
| Bill Thompson | 76-76--152 (T-38) |

GOPHER FLASHES

1998 MEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Feb. 6-7 | Alumni Challenge | No Scores Were Kept |
| Feb. 15-16 | Bridges All-America | 3rd/18; 587 |
| Feb. 23-24 | Puerto Rico Challenge | Rio Mar, Puerto Rico |
| March 23-24 | Georgia Tech Invitational | Atlanta, Ga. |
| March 28-29 | Dr. Pepper Intercollegiate | Denton, Texas |
| April 10-11 | Marshall Invitational | Huntington, W.V. |
| April 25-26 | King Cobra Firestone | Akron, Ohio |
| May 2-3 | Wolverine Invitational | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| May 8-10 | Big Ten Championships | East Lansing, Mich. |
| May 13-15 | NCAA Central Regionals | TBA |
| May 24-30 | NCAA Championships | Albuquerque, N.M. |

GYMNASTICS

THIS WEEK: The No. 12 Golden Gophers host No. 10 Nebraska and No. 2 Iowa this coming weekend. The dual meet with the Cornhuskers begins at 7:00 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27. The matchup with the Hawkeyes begins at 1:00 p.m., March 1.

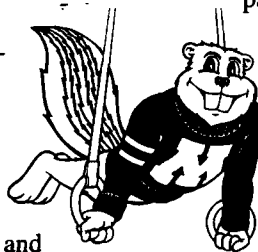
THE SERIES: Minnesota leads the all-time series with the Cornhuskers 16-8. Nebraska defeated the Golden Gophers last year in Lincoln, Neb., 230.175-225.15. Against Iowa, Minnesota leads the all-time series 37-34-1. Last season the host Hawkeyes defeated the Golden Gophers 229.625-223.875.

LAST ACTION: Minnesota, who did not compete last weekend, lost a pair of dual meets by Michigan State and Michigan, Feb. 13-14. Nebraska and Iowa competed against each other last weekend, along with Oklahoma, in a triangular meet hosted by the Hawkeyes. The Hawkeyes prevailed with a team score of 230.625. The Cornhuskers finished just behind Iowa with a score of 230.125. Iowa and Nebraska are the only schools in the nation to top the 230.000 point barrier this season.

THE SILVER LINING: Although the Golden Gophers remain winless, there is still optimism for the rest of the season. Among the Minnesota accomplishments are: The Golden Gophers moved from 17th to 12th in the latest national rankings. Seven out of the 11 gymnasts who posted scores in the Michigan

dual, Feb. 14, are underclassmen.

HOW THEY RANK: In addition to the team's ranking, the Golden Gophers are ranked in several other categories. Minnesota is ranked number one in the country in the pommel horse event. Leading the way are senior co-captain **GEORGE BEATTY** (Aberdeen, N.J.) and junior **JASON KROB** (St. Charles, Mo.). Both are ranked eighth individually in the event. In addition, Beatty is ranked third in the country on the parallel bars thanks to his 9.750 score posted against Michigan, Feb. 14.



COACH ROETHLISBERGER: Head Coach Fred Roethlisberger is in his 27th year at the helm of the University of Minnesota Gymnastics program. Roethlisberger has led his team to 11 Big Ten Championships during his tenure and has a 170-71-1 (.712) career record.

INJURY FRONT: The Golden Gophers have been hampered by a rash of injuries to key contributors. **DAN BOOTS** (Jr., Pearland, Texas), **TODD GUILBEAU** (Fr., Houston, Texas) and **BOB HUBBARD** (Sr., Phoenix, Ariz.) have all experienced season-ending injuries.

SCOREBOARD

1998 MEN'S GYMNASTICS SCHEDULE

| Date | Opponent | Site/Result |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Alumni Meet | * L 213.90-221.85 |
| Jan. 17 | Windy City Invitational | 7th/213.85 |
| Jan. 31 | Ohio State | L 217.95-226.35 |
| Feb. 7 | Illinois | L 221.070-216.550 |
| Feb. 13 | Michigan State | L 221.75-228.425 |
| Feb. 14 | Michigan | L 222.575-226.85 |
| Feb. 27 | Nebraska | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 1 | Iowa | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 7 | Illinois-Chicago | Sports Pavilion |
| Mar. 20-21 | Big Ten Championships | Ann Arbor, Mich. |
| April 4 | NCAA East Regionals | Amherst, Mass. |
| April 16-18 | NCAA Championships | University Park, Pa. |

*Exhibition

GOPHER FLASHES

FINAL TUNEUP: The Golden Gophers will host No. 12 Illinois-Chicago at the Sports Pavilion, Feb. 7, at 1 p.m. It is the final regular season dual for Minnesota before the Big Ten Championships.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIPS: Minnesota finished fourth at the 1997 Big Ten Championships. This season, the University of Michigan will host the event in Ann Arbor, Mich., March 20-21. The Golden Gophers last won the Big Ten Championships in 1995 led by current assistant coach Brian Yee. Yee, an All-American selection that year, finished second in the all-around and went on to finish seventh at the NCAA Championships.

SWIMMING & DIVING

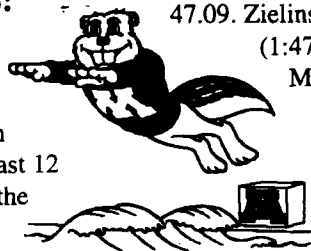
THIS WEEK: The Golden Gophers (7-1 overall, 3-1 Big Ten) host the 88th Annual Big Ten Swimming and Diving Championships, Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 26-28. Minnesota hopes to go for its second title in the last three seasons, and fourth title in the history of the program.

PREVIEWING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The biggest challenge each season at the Big Ten Championships is unseating Michigan from its reign as king of the conference pool. The Wolverines are undoubtedly one of the favorites each year as evidenced by their 11 championships in the last 12 years. Minnesota was the one team able to dethrone the Wolverines. On Feb. 15, 1996 the Golden Gophers beat the Wolverines at Ann Arbor, Mich., giving the Golden Gophers' its first championship in 70 years. This season Minnesota is one of the favorites to win.

The Golden Gophers have been nationally-ranked all season, and have put together a 7-1 dual meet record and 3-1 record in the conference. The lone loss came against the Iowa Hawkeyes in the first meet of the season, Nov. 1. Iowa won the meet by a mere 18 points 159-141. Since then the Golden Gophers have been bashing the opposition by an average margin of 76 points.

Also included in the Big Ten hunt is Indiana, a third-place finisher a year ago. Indiana has won 23 times, its last title in 1985.



FLASHBACK: The 17-point differential which separated Michigan and Minnesota at last year's Big Ten Championships in Bloomington, Ind. was the narrowest finish in over 10 years. Michigan captured seven individual titles and the 800-yard freestyle relay en route to victory. The Wolverines were led by senior sprint freestyler John Piersma, who took home three titles.

Minnesota's junior butterfly specialist **MARTIN ZIELINSKI** (Bloomington, Minn.) was the lone individual Big Ten champion with a championship-record swim in the 100-yard butterfly at 47.09. Zielinski also placed second in the 200-yard butterfly (1:47.43) to Mendota Heights, Minn., native Tom Malchow of the University of Michigan.

The Golden Gophers also claimed three relay titles.

BY THE NUMBERS:

✓ Minnesota has had 79 Big Ten champions, 35 in the 1990s

✓ In the last eight years, the Golden Gophers have finished first or second at the Big Ten Championships

✓ Currently 17 Golden Gopher times are among the top five in the Big Ten, while the majority of the swimmers have yet to swim their fastest times

✓ Minnesota leads the conference in six events, including holding the best times in three out of five relays

✓ The Maroon and Gold have been nationally-ranked each week, topping out at 12th. At the present time, Minnesota is 14th.

SCOREBOARD

THE SKINNY ON THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday, Feb. 26

200-yard freestyle relay
500-yard freestyle
200-yard individual medley
50-yard freestyle
1-meter diving
400-yard medley relay

Friday, Feb. 27

200-yard medley relay
400-yard individual medley
100-yard butterfly
200-yard freestyle
100-yard breaststroke
100-yard backstroke
3-meter diving
800-yard freestyle relay

Saturday, Feb. 28

1,650-yard freestyle
200-yard backstroke
100-yard freestyle
200-yard breaststroke
200-yard butterfly
Platform diving
400-yard freestyle relay

TIMES:

- Daily Trials for Swimming •
Noon
- Daily Trials for Diving •
1:30 p.m.
- Daily Finals •
7 p.m.

PRICES:

- Trials •
\$3.00 students
\$4.00 adults
- Finals •
\$5.00 students
\$6.00 adults
- All-Session Passes •
\$20.00 students
\$25.00 adults

All-session passes must be purchased in advance. For more information call 624-8080 or 1-800-U-GOPHER

GOPHER FLASHES

FOLLOW THE LEADER: Two of the Golden Gophers' most consistent athletes this season have been freshmen. Sprint freestyler/backstroker **ALEX MASSURA** (Belo Horizonte, Brazil) leads the swimming team with 16 event titles, while diver **DAN CROASTON** (Champlin, Minn.) has won every event he has competed in except one.

Massura also holds the conference's top time in the 100 backstroke, with a Minnesota freshman record time of 48.88. A 1996 Olympian for South America, Massura is the only Golden Gopher to swim across all disciplines: free, back, breast, fly and IM. He holds the Golden Gophers' top times in four events and has already scored NCAA consideration times in three events. Massura was the December Big Ten Swimmer of the Month.

Croaston has scored NCAA standard performances on both the 1-meter and 3-meter springboards, both for six and 11 dives.

COACH'S CORNER: Head Coach **DENNIS DALE** has led the Golden Gophers to a 102-23 record in his 13 years as the mentor. He has molded 31 All-Big Ten performers in the last three seasons and a guided total of 55 athletes to 112 All-America certificates. Under his leadership, Minnesota has finished in the top 12 of the NCAA Championships for six consecutive years. Dale is a 1967 graduate of the University of Minnesota and was an All-American swimmer in his own day.

TENNIS

THIS WEEK: The 48th-ranked Golden Gophers (3-2 overall; 1-1 Big Ten) are idle.

AGAINST THE HAWKEYES: The Golden Gophers, after upsetting 24th-ranked Kansas 4-3 on Valentine's Day, fell to the Iowa Hawkeyes by the same score in Iowa City, Feb. 21. Minnesota captured the doubles point by taking Nos. 2 and 3 doubles, but lost four singles matches to give Iowa the victory. No. 2 singles player junior **ADAM SELKIRK** (St. Joseph, Mo.) and No. 6 singles player freshman **JON SVENSSON** (Kristianstad, Sweden) were the only singles players to win their matches for Minnesota.

GOOSE EGG: Freshman **JON SVENSSON** and junior **MARTIN KRISTOFFERSEN** are the only two U of M players with undefeated dual match records. Svensson is 4-0 at No. 6 singles, and has one win at No. 5 singles. Kristoffersen, seventh in the singles lineup, holds a 1-0 record at No. 6 singles.

Selkirk and Svensson also have one of four undefeated doubles records. The pair is 3-0 in dual matches and have competed at No. 3 all season.

MILESTONES: Junior **TOM CHICOINE** (Neenah, Wis.) is six wins from a career 75 singles victories. Chicoine currently has 69 career singles wins, leading all active Golden Gophers. Additionally, Chicoine's 43 career doubles wins are seven shy of

putting him into at least the 50-50 club, with 50 career singles and doubles wins. With one season still left, Chicoine could conceivably end his career with over 100 singles wins.

Selkirk is fast approaching 50 career singles wins, as he is just three victories shy of the mark. Only a sophomore, **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** (Ottawa, Canada) already has 35 singles wins for his career.

Head Coach **DAVID GEATZ** earned the 300th victory of his coaching career with a 5-2 win over his alma mater, New Mexico, Jan. 16. Geatz currently has 181 wins in his 10th season with Minnesota and is 302-138 during his 14-plus years of coaching.

The program itself holds a 660-420-3 overall record in 51 seasons.



DOUBLE FIGURES: Minnesota's starting lineup features five of its six singles players with double digits in the win column. **TOM CHICOINE** carries a 14-9 record, followed by freshman **JORGE DUENAS** (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) who holds a 14-10 record. **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** also carries a 14-9 record, while fellow Canadian countryman freshman **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) brings an 11-10 record to the court. Freshman **JON SVENSSON** is 11-8.

SCOREBOARD

| Singles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tom Chicoine | 14-9 | 1-4 | 13-5 | 1-4 | | | | | |
| Adam Selkirk | 6-11 | 2-2 | 4-9 | | 2-2 | | | | |
| M. Michalowski | 14-9 | 2-3 | 12-6 | | 1-0 | 1-3 | | | |
| Jorge Duenas | 14-10 | 2-3 | 12-7 | | | 1-0 | 1-3 | | |
| Tyson Parry | 11-10 | 3-2 | 8-8 | | | | 0-1 | 3-1 | |
| Jon Svensson | 11-8 | 5-0 | 6-8 | | | | | 1-0 | 4-0 |
| M. Kristoffersen | 7-7 | 1-0 | 6-7 | | | | | | 1-0 |
| Ed Marques | 2-8 | | 2-8 | | | | | | |
| Voke Okoh | 0-2 | | 0-2 | | | | | | |

| Doubles | Overall | Dual | Tourn. | #1 | #2 | #3 |
|------------------------|---------|------|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| Michalowski/Parry | 12-7 | 1-4 | 11-3 | 1-4 | | |
| Chicoine/Duenas | 8-7 | 3-1 | 5-6 | | 3-1 | |
| Duenas/Svensson | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0-0 | | 1-0 | |
| Kristoffersen/Selkirk | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0-0 | | | 1-0 |
| Selkirk/Svensson | 7-3 | 3-0 | 4-3 | | | 3-0 |
| Kristoffersen/Svensson | 3-1 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 2-1 | | 1-0 |
| Marques/Dvorak | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |
| Marques/Okoh | 1-1 | | 1-1 | | | |

GOPHER FLASHES

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Minnesota has won the doubles competition in four out of the five matches the team has competed in, sweeping all three matches from regional foe and powerhouse Notre Dame. The Golden Gophers are 10-4 in dual matches at the three doubles positions with four positional undefeated records.

Additionally, the Golden Gophers No. 1 doubles team of **MARTIN MICHALOWSKI** and **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) is ranked 30th in the nation.

UNDER PRESSURE: Freshman **TYSON PARRY** (Chatham, Ontario) proved he is ready to compete at the collegiate level after leading the Golden Gophers to a 4-3 upset of No. 24 Kansas Saturday, Feb. 14. Parry's No. 5 singles match was the decisive point for Minnesota who had won the doubles point against the Jayhawks and were down in the singles matches, 3-2. Whoever won at No. 5 would take the match. Fittingly it came down to two freshman, Parry and Jayhawk Ed Dus. Parry battled through the first set, taking it 7-6 with a 9-7 tie break. Parry dropped the second set 5-7, but bounced back to win the third and final set 6-2.

TRACK & FIELD

THIS WEEK: The 19th-ranked Golden Gophers head to West Lafayette, Ind. and the campus of Purdue University, for the 88th Annual Big Ten Indoor Track and Field Championships, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 28-29. Minnesota is among the favorites to win the competition following a third-place finish a year ago.

FLASHBACK: Minnesota took third at the 1997 Big Ten Indoor Championships for the second straight season in Iowa City, Iowa. It equalled the best finish for the U of M in 30 years. The Golden Gophers took third in that span in 1966, 1996 and last season.

Wisconsin won its third consecutive Big Ten Indoor Championship last year, and will have to weather a tough battle to garner its fourth title. Joining Minnesota in the quest for a championship will be Michigan and its remarkable distance contingent and second-place finisher, Illinois. Wisconsin won four individual titles en route to its 14th title in 1997.

The Golden Gophers had three individual event winners and saw eight others finish in the top five last season.

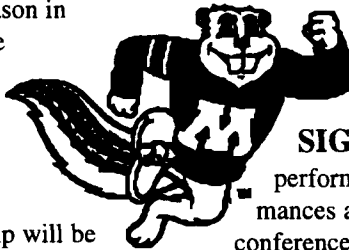
The U of M has never won an indoor championship.

RETURNING WINNERS: The trio of Big Ten champions returning for the University of Minnesota are sophomore **STAFFAN STRAND** (Uppsland-Vasby, Sweden), junior **BEN-**

JAMIN JENSEN (Mandal, Norway), and senior **TYE HARVEY** (Jamestown, Calif.). Strand, the 1997 Big Ten Freshman of the Year, won the high jump with a leap of 7-4 1/2 (2.25m). This season, Strand's highest jump came at the Minnesota Invitational (Jan. 24) when he won the event with a school and Big Ten record 7-6 1/2 (2.30m).

Jensen took the heptathlon title in 1997 with a Minnesota and Big Ten record 5,648 points, while Harvey won the pole vault crown with a height of 18-1 1/4 (5.52m). Jensen has competed in a variety of events for the Golden Gophers the year, including the 60-meter dash, 55-meter hurdles, 55-meter dash, 60-meter hurdles, pole vault and high jump.

Harvey is Minnesota's top pole vaulter with an NCAA provisional height of 17-8 (5.40m).



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Thirty-three Minnesota performances are among the Big Ten's top 15 performances across 18 events. Two Golden Gophers are aloft the conference competition. **NILES DENEEN** leads the Big Ten with his Minnesota school indoor record time of 7.31 in the 55-meter hurdles, while **STAFFAN STRAND**'s 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) record-breaking high jump is tops in the conference.

SCOREBOARD

TOP INDOOR PERFORMANCES

55m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.33 (1/31)
60m Dash -- Fred Rodgers, 6.53 (2/13)
55m Hurdles -- Niles Deneen, 7.31* & \$ (1/31, 2/13)
60m Hurdles -- Benjamin Jensen, 8.03 (2/13)
200m Dash -- Steve Burkholder, 22.06 (2/7)
400m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 47.91\$# (2/7)
500m Dash -- Adam Freed, 1:05.90 (2/13)
600m Dash -- Tom Gerding, 1:19.16# (1/24)
800m Run -- Jason Owen, 1:53.14 (2/7)
Mile Run -- Sami Valtonen, 4:06.58 (2/7)
3,000m Run -- Nate Clay, 8:30.27\$ (1/10)
5,000m Run -- Tony Riter, 14:50.4\$ (2/7)
High Jump -- Staffan Strand, 7-6 1/2 (2.30)! & @ ^ \$ (1/24)
Pole Vault -- Tye Harvey, 17-8 (5.40m)* (2/7)
Long Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 2-7 1/4 (6.89m) (1/17)
Triple Jump -- Marcus Westberry, 49-0 1/4 (14.91) (1/17)
Shot Put -- Chad Yenchesky, 59-4 1/4 (18.08m)* \$ (1/24)
Weight Throw -- Ben Meyer, 54-10 (16.71m) (2/13)
Pentathlon -- Jesse Madsen%, 3,289 (1/24)
Heptathlon -- Yet to be competed in this season

Key:

* NCAA Provisional

! NCAA Automatic

& Minnesota School Record

@ Field House Record

^ Big Ten Record

\$ Personal Best

U of M Freshman Record

GOPHER FLASHES

SHATTERED: Four Minnesota school records have fallen this season. Two records were broken at the Minnesota Invitational as **STAFFAN STRAND** broke a school indoor, field house and Big Ten record with leap of 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) and freshman **TOM GERDING** (Waconia, Minn.) broke a four-year-old freshman record in the 600-meter dash (1:19.16) for first place. Gerding broke another freshman record, a seven-year-old mark in the 400-meter dash (47.91), on Feb. 7. The fourth record-breaker for the Golden Gophers was senior **NILES DENEEN** (St. Paul, Minn.). Deneen broke an indoor school record in the 55-meter hurdles when he finished first with a time of 7.31 at the Husker Invitational (2/13) and Nebraska Triangular (1/31).

SEVEN-UP: Minnesota has scored seven provisionally qualifying performances for the NCAA Indoor Championship in Indianapolis, Ind., March 13-14. **STAFFAN STRAND** has automatically qualified with his 7-6 1/2 (2.30m) high jump at the Minnesota Invitational (1/24) and twice qualified provisionally in the event. **NILES DENEEN** has qualified provisionally twice over in the 55-meter hurdles (7.31; 7.33). Senior **TYE HARVEY** (Jamestown, Calif.) and junior **VESA RANTANEN** (Virrat, Finland) have qualified in the pole vault and senior **CHAD YENCHESKY** (DePere, Wis.) qualified in the shot put.

WRESTLING

THIS WEEK: The No. 4 Golden Gophers (19-2, 6-2 Big Ten) are idle in preparation for the Big Ten Championships hosted by Penn State in University Park, Pa., March 7-8.

NEXT UP, BIG TENS: Minnesota will take a week off to prepare for the Big Ten Championships, which will be held at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center in University Park, Pa., March 7-8. The Golden Gophers look to become the first team in 24 years to unseat the Iowa Hawkeyes for the conference championship. The last team to win the Big Ten title other than the Hawkeyes was Michigan, which edged by Iowa in 1973. The Golden Gophers have won four conference championships with the last coming in 1959.

HARTUNG LOOKS TO DEFEND BIG TEN TITLE:

Junior **TIM HARTUNG**, ranked No. 2 in the nation at 190 pounds, will look to defend his Big Ten title in two weeks. Last season, Hartung won the Golden Gophers' only Big Ten title with a 3-1 overtime decision over Michigan State's defending champion Brian Picklo. Hartung had lost to Picklo earlier in the season 2-1 in double overtime at East Lansing, Mich., which was his only loss on the season before the Big Ten Championships. This season Hartung has a 28-1 overall record and a 20-1 dual meet record. Hartung holds a flawless 8-0 record in the Big Ten.

NO. 4 GOPHERS EARN WEEKEND SWEEP:

Minnesota defeated No. 24 Northwestern 32-6 Friday night in

Evanston, Ill. Senior **JASON DAVIDS**, ranked No. 6 in the nation at 142 pounds, won his 28th victory of the season and his 18th in dual meet action with a 16-7 major decision over Northwestern's Malik Elliot. Junior **TIM HARTUNG** won his 27th victory of the season and his 19th in dual meet action with a 10-2 maj. dec. over Northwestern's Sam Neider, who is ranked fifth in the nation.

Senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, who is ranked fifth in the nation at heavyweight, collected his ninth pin of the season in 4:14 over Northwestern's Chris Roberts. At 150 pounds, junior **CHAD KRAFT**, currently ranked third in the nation, defeated No. 18 Drew Pariano with a 7-4 decision. Junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, No. 8 in the nation at 158 pounds, decided Steve Bucciero 10-5 to earn his 24th victory of the season. Senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, ranked ninth in the nation at 167 pounds, narrowly defeated No. 10 Mark Bybee with an 8-7 decision.

On Sunday afternoon, the sweep continued with a 28-8 win over Purdue University at West Lafayette, Ind. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** won his 19th dual meet win of the season, with a 6-1 decision over No. 4 Willie Wineberg, becoming Minnesota's record holder for all-time career dual meet wins with 79. His career dual meet record is now 79-12-0. Davids surpassed former Golden Gopher Willy Short (1989-1994), who finished his career with a career record of 78-18-2.

Minnesota fell behind 0-8 after a close match at 126 featuring a 5-4 double overtime victory for Purdue's No. 8 Josh Hutchens over junior **BART GOYLER**. The Golden Gophers, however, went on to win the next eight consecutive matches to win the meet.



SCOREBOARD

TOP INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

| Wt. | Name | Overall | Total | Dual | Big Ten | Pins |
|-----|------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|------|
| 118 | Brett Lawrence | 17-10 | 17-10 | 12-9 | 3-5 | 3 |
| | Leroy Vega | 11-2 | 11-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Julio Alaniz | 6-4 | 6-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Brandon Paulson | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0 |
| 126 | Bart Golyer | 20-6 | 19-5 | 9-4 | 3-4 | 7 |
| | Pat Connors | 17-4 | 9-4 | 5-3 | 1-0 | 4 |
| 134 | Chad Erikson | 11-3 | 11-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Ty Friederichs | 11-7 | 11-7 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Pat Connors | | 8-0 | 4-0 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Bart Golyer | | 1-1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Krebs | 11-6 | 11-6 | 2-1 | 0-0 | 3 |
| | Troy Marr | 26-7 | 12-5 | 8-4 | 5-3 | 2 |
| 142 | Jason Davids | 29-2 | 29-2 | 19-2 | 6-2 | 14 |
| | Joe Calavitta | 8-2 | 8-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Troy Marr | | 14-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 150 | Chad Kraft | 19-1 | 18-1 | 17-1 | 6-1 | 2 |
| | Brad Pike | 15-5 | 15-5 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 3 |
| | Eddie Pak | 5-6 | 5-6 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Troy Marr | | 0-1 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 158 | Tim Kinsella | 13-2 | 13-2 | 1-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Jesse Krebs | 6-5 | 6-5 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0 |
| | Josh Holiday | 25-2 | 25-2 | 16-2 | 6-1 | 4 |
| | Chad Kraft | | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 0 |
| 167 | Delaney Berger | 18-2 | 16-1 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 2 |
| | Zac Taylor | 27-5 | 27-5 | 15-4 | 5-3 | 7 |
| | Mike Cuperus | 14-2 | 14-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 5 |
| | Matt Kraft | 6-2 | 6-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| 177 | Brandon Eggum | 22-2 | 22-2 | 14-2 | 1-2 | 6 |
| | Kenneth Howard | 3-3 | 3-3 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 |
| | Delaney Berger | | 3-1 | 3-1 | 3-1 | 1 |
| 190 | Tim Hartung | 29-1 | 29-1 | 21-1 | 8-0 | 18 |
| | Owen Elzen | 7-4 | 7-4 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 4 |
| HWT | Shelton Benjamin | 28-4 | 28-4 | 16-3 | 7-1 | 9 |
| | Brent Boeshans | 13-4 | 13-4 | 2-0 | 0-0 | 1 |

GOPHER FLASHES

No. 4 Minnesota 32, No. 24 Northwestern 6

Friday, Feb. 20, 1998 - Evanston, Ill.

- 118 - Brandon Paulson (UM) forfeit
- 126 - Bart Golyer (UM) maj. dec. Micah Hey (NU), 8-1
- 134 - No. 5 Scott Schatzman (NU) dec. No. 10 Troy Marr, 4-1
- 142 - No. 6 Jason Davids (UM) maj. dec. Malik Elliott (NU), 16-7
- 150 - No. 3 Chad Kraft (UM) dec. No. 18 Drew Pariano (NU), 7-4
- 158 - No. 8 Josh Holiday (UM) dec. Steve Bucciero (NU), 10-5
- 167 - No. 9 Zac Taylor (UM) dec. No. 10 Mark Bybee (NU), 8-7
- 177 - No. 18 Joel Goeden (NU) dec. Delaney Berger (UM), 8-2
- 190 - No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) maj. dec. No. 5 Sam Neider (NU), 10-2
- Hwt. - No. 5 Shelton Benjamin (UM) pin Chris Roberts (NU), 4:14

No. 4 Minnesota 28, No. 9 Purdue 8

Sunday, Feb. 22, 1998 -- West Lafayette, Ind.

- 118 -- No. 10 Tim Demlan (PU) dec. Brett Lawrence (UM), tech fall 6:21
- 126 -- No. 8 Josh Hutchens (PU) dec. Bart Golyer (UM), 5-4 (double OT)
- 134 -- No. 10 Troy Marr (UM) maj. dec. Eric Kerkhof (PU), 15-6
- 142 -- No. 6 Jason Davids (UM) dec. No. 4 Willie Wineberg (PU), 6-1
- 150 -- No. 3 Chad Kraft (UM) dec. No. 8 Mickey Griffin (PU), 8-1
- 158 -- No. 8 Josh Holiday (UM) dec. Eric Douglas (PU), 7-2
- 167 -- No. 9 Zac Taylor (UM) dec. James Crnich (PU), 9-3
- 177 -- Delaney Berger (UM) dec. Davion Peterson (PU), 13-6
- 190 -- No. 2 Tim Hartung (UM) pinned Mark Colegrove (PU), 2:03
- Hwt. -- No. 5 Shelton Benjamin (UM) dec. David Pierce (PU), 7-2

WRESTLING

DAVIDS IS SCHOOL RECORD HOLDER IN DUAL MEET WINS: Two-time All-American **JASON DAVIDS** became the all-time school record holder for dual meet wins. Davids is 19-2 in dual action this season and 79-12-0 for his career. He tied former Golden Gopher Willy Short (1989-1994) with 78 career dual meet victories after a 16-7 maj. dec. over Northwestern's Malik Elliot Feb. 21. Davids then decided No. 4 Willie Wineberg 6-1, Feb. 22, to break the record.

On pace to have his third consecutive 30-win season, Davids is also nearing the top of school lists for all-time career victories and pins. He is currently in fourth place in career wins with a 125-24-0 record and in third place for career pins with 35.

DENTING THE RECORD BOOK: Several other Golden Gophers are also climbing their way into Minnesota's record book as well. Senior **ZAC TAYLOR** is currently seventh all time with a career record of 114-29-0.

In just three seasons, juniors **TIM HARTUNG** and **CHAD KRAFT** have also moved their way into the Golden Gopher record book. Hartung is in 16th place with a career mark of 86-21-0, while Kraft is 18th with a career mark of 79-17-0. Hartung is also nearing the top of the school list for career pins. He is currently in third with 34 career wins by fall, including a team-leading 18 this season.

MINNESOTA SETS SCHOOL MARK FOR ATTENDANCE: The Golden Gophers set a school record this year when 11,284 fans turned out to watch Iowa defeat Minnesota 20-12 on Jan. 23. The attendance mark surpasses the old record set Feb. 3, 1980, when 9,225 fans watched Iowa State defeat the Golden Gophers 19-18 at Williams Arena. The NCAA record for attendance at a dual meet was set Feb. 22, 1992, when 15,291 fans watched Iowa defeat Iowa State 29-8 at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City.

VS. RANKED OPPONENTS: The Golden Gophers have a 10-2 mark against ranked opponents heading into the Big Ten Championships in two weeks. Most recently, Minnesota knocked off No. 24 Northwestern 32-6 and No. 9 Purdue 28-8 on the road.

ROAD WARRIORS: The Golden Gophers have won nine dual meets on the road this season, most recently defeating the Northwestern Wildcats 32-6 in Evanston, Ill., on Feb. 20 and the ninth-ranked Purdue Boilermakers 28-8 in West Lafayette, Ind. In addition, the Golden Gophers won two duals at Jackson (Minn.) High School and four at the National Duals in Iowa City, Iowa, for a grand total of 13 dual meets won in places other than Minneapolis this season.

MINNESOTA SLIPS TO FOURTH IN NATIONAL POLLS: The Golden Gophers slipped to fourth place in the Feb. 19 NWCA/Amateur Wrestling News rankings for the second consecutive week, after holding the No. 3 spot for two weeks prior. It is the lowest ranking for the Golden Gophers which started the season in third and moved to second on Jan. 8. The team spent three weeks in second and the past two in third before slipping to fourth on Feb. 12.

SEVEN 20-MATCH WINNERS IN LINEUP: Seven Golden Gophers in the starting lineup have won at least 20 matches this season. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** (142) leads the team with a 29-2 record. Two wrestlers are tied with 28 wins in junior **TIM HARTUNG** (190) at 28-1 and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN** (HWT) at 28-4. Other 20-match winners include junior **TROY MARR** (134) at 26-6, senior **ZAC TAYLOR**

(167) at 27-5, junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** at 25-2 and sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM** (177) at 22-2.

LATEST RANKINGS: Individually, All-American and defending Big Ten champion **TIM HARTUNG** is the top-ranked Golden Gophers in the Feb. 11 Internat/W.I.N. rankings. Hartung is ranked second at 190 pounds. Junior **CHAD KRAFT**, a two-time All-American who took third at the NAAs last year, is ranked third at 150 pounds after a tough loss to Penn State's then No. 3-ranked Clint Musser two weeks ago. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** slipped from third to sixth in the latest rankings at 142 pounds after holding the top spot for most of the year.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include junior **TROY MARR** who is the 10th-ranked wrestler at 134, senior All-American **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, fifth at heavyweight, junior All-American **PAT CONNORS**, seventh at 126, senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, ninth at 167, junior **JOSH HOLIDAY**, eighth at 158 and sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, 13th at 177.

IN THE CONFERENCE: Eight Minnesota wrestlers are ranked in the Feb. 16 Big Ten Coaches poll, including two who are ranked No. 1 in their respective weight classes.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG** is ranked No. 1 at 190 pounds for the second consecutive poll and junior **JOSH HOLIDAY** moved into first at 158 pounds with a 4-1 record in the Big Ten.

Other ranked Minnesota wrestlers include senior **JASON DAVIDS** second at 142; junior **CHAD KRAFT** second at 150 pounds after being ranked No. 1 all season; junior **TROY MARR**, fifth at 134; senior **ZAC TAYLOR**, fourth at 167; sophomore **BRANDON EGGUM**, fourth at 177; and senior **SHELTON BENJAMIN**, third at heavyweight.

HOLDING THEM SCORELESS: Minnesota's 49-0 victory over two-time NAIA national champion Missouri Valley College at the National Duals marked the team's fifth shutout of the season. Minnesota's other shutouts came against Mankato State (38-0), Truman State (57-0), Augustana (53-0) and San Francisco State (46-0). The Golden Gophers have lost only one match in four other duals this season (Fresno State 45-3, Nebraska 43-3, West Virginia 33-3, Michigan State 39-6).

PIN CITY: Through 21 dual meets this season, Minnesota's wrestlers have won 45 matches by pinning their opponents, including **SHELTON BENJAMIN'S** dramatic fall in 2:16 over Iowa's Wes Hand to give Minnesota its National Duals title. Minnesota recorded a remarkable eight wins by fall in a 57-0 win over Truman State on Dec. 5, 1997. Last year through 19 duals, Minnesota had only recorded 22 match wins by pin.

Junior **TIM HARTUNG** is the team leader with 11 pins in dual meets. Senior **JASON DAVIDS** is second with seven. Hartung is also the overall team leader with 18 pins overall, and Davids is second with 14.