

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Brainerd Dispatch)
(by Ron Larson)

March 20, 1987

HILMERSON COMES INTO OWN AS PLAYER, NAMED TRI-CAPTAIN FOR NEXT SEASON

Coming into this season, Gopher junior guard Debbie Hilmerson had never scored in double figures in a college basketball game.

Although she averaged 16 points per game while leading Little Falls to a state championship in 1984 and was named Minnesota's Player of the Year by a Twin Cities television station, Hilmerson was fast developing a reputation in college ball as a good passer and defensive player who did not make the grade offensively.

As a sophomore, the five-foot-ten Little Falls native averaged just 3.0 points per game with a career high of nine. Thus, her junior year took on added significance as she attempted to improve her offensive output without allowing the rest of her game to suffer.

How did she do?

At the annual Gopher awards banquet at the conclusion of the season, Hilmerson won: 1) the Most Improved Player award; 2) the Sportsmanship Award from the Gopher Fastbreak Club; 3) the Best Defensive Player award. To cap it all off, she was named a tri-captain of next year's squad.

Hilmerson finished the year with a 8.4 point per game scoring average overall and a 9.7 per game average in Big Ten play. She scored in double figures 14 times, including a career-high 17 points twice. She averaged 3.5 assists and 2.0 steals per game, started all 28 games and played an average of 33.2 minutes per game, 34.0 in the Big Ten.

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But most important of all, she picked the team up when they really needed a lift.

Hilmerson's backcourt mate, senior Cindy Phillips, suffered a season-ending knee injury midway through the season, and Hilmerson suddenly found herself the only experienced guard on the team.

Although she was playing well early in the season, Hilmerson was at her best when she had to pick up the slack. After Phillips' injury, Hilmerson averaged 11.3 points per game and scored in double figures in all but two games, leading the team to three wins in their last six Big Ten games, and near-upsets over Big Ten champion Ohio State and NCAA entrant Illinois.

Her reaction to the pressure she was under was satisfying but not totally unexpected. On the surface, Hilmerson is relaxed and personable, but there is an underlying intensity about her that exhibits itself on the basketball court, particularly when the outcome of a game hangs in the balance.

In the final non-conference game of the season, she hit four straight free throws in the final minute of overtime, all one-and-ones, to preserve a 76-74 win over Colorado.

There were indications that she was a clutch player long before the Colorado game. Two years ago, as a freshman, she canned a one-and-one with 11 seconds left to help seal a win against Michigan State.

Needless to say, her coolness under pressure does not surprise Gopher Coach Ellen Hanson. "Deb is a real gamer -- with the game on the line, she comes through," Hanson says.

Hilmerson offers this explanation for her sudden blossoming on the offensive end. "When I was a freshman, it was get the ball inside to Laura Coenen," she said.

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"As a sophomore, we needed more outside shooting, and the coaches would always say, 'Shoot, shoot, shoot.' It affected my shooting. Also, I used to be affected by what the opponents would say on the court. Things like, 'That's a good shot -- take it!' I don't let them bother me any more.

"Now, the coaches stress driving to the basket," Hilmerson said. "It opens up the gaps, makes people play me." She has found that driving enables her to do what she enjoys most -- passing the basketball. "I love to pass," she said. "Without the pass, you're not gonna get a shot."

Hanson adds this appraisal of her new tri-captain: "All Debbie's awards speak to the kind of season she had. She's always been a good defensive player and she's always been 'game smart.' This year she was challenged and she became an offensive threat. She also became much more confident bringing the ball up against the press."

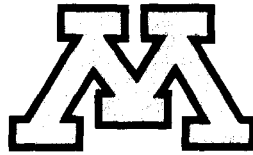
Despite the improvement on offense, Hilmerson refuses to stand pat. Although her outside shooting was a significant improvement over her first two years, she still made only about 40% of her field goals. "I need to work on my shooting," she says. "I have to get my shots to fall."

With such improvement in a year, how good will Hilmerson be next year? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain. "Debbie will be a real leader for us next year," Hanson says.

In reality, she always has been, but now for the first time people are projecting the image of the leader upon her. How will she respond to that challenge?

If history repeats itself, a Hilmerson-led Gopher team ought to snap a two-year string of sub-.500 seasons.

Debbie, a physical education major who would like to get into coaching someday, is the daughter of Jim and Donna Hilmerson of Little Falls.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Grand Rapids Herald-Review)

March 20, 1987

RENNER'S FIRST YEAR AT 'U' A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Grand Rapids star Sue Renner's first season of collegiate competition was one of paying dues. The rewards will have to come later, as she goes through a learning process.

The six-foot-four center, who averaged 24 points and 13 rebounds at Grand Rapids High School, will develop into a good inside player, says Gopher Coach Ellen Hanson, but she still needs to work on some things in order to see more playing time.

"This year was a good learning experience for Sue," says Hanson. "She spent a lot of the year learning our philosophy and working on fundamentals and moves."

Renner played in 15 games, scored 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds. She averaged 5.7 minutes per game with a high of 10 early in the season and nine in the Big Ten season.

Although she did not do a lot of scoring this year, Hanson is confident she will put up good numbers in the future. "Sue has a nice shot, probably the best of any of our inside people, but she needs to work on her anticipation and how to make a cut and go get the ball."

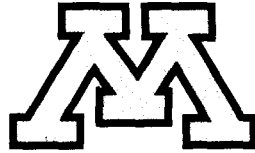
Highlights on the season for Renner included scoring four points in eight minutes at Northwestern and canning her only shot against Wisconsin late in the year. On several occasions she just could not get the ball to drop for her.

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Hanson is positive about the steps she has taken toward becoming a good Big Ten player, and she notes that this is only her first year going up against such strong and quick competition. "She has plenty of time to develop," Hanson says.

Renner has a good athletic base from which to develop her skills. She was an honorable mention All-American selection as a senior at Grand Rapids. She was also a three-time All-Tri State and all-conference selection, scoring more than 1,200 points as a prep, and was named to the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch All-State team her senior year. A fine all-around athlete, Renner also competed at the state swimming meet four times.

Sue, who is undecided on her college major, is the daughter of Eugene and Lenice Renner of Grand Rapids.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Eureka Times-Standard)

March 20, 1987

BRADLEY ASSUMES ACTIVE ROLE AT MINNESOTA

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Eureka star Cindy Bradley was a very active student-athlete at Minnesota this past year, playing in 27 basketball games, including five as a starter for the Gophers this winter.

But that wasn't all.

In addition, the six-foot sophomore competed as a high jumper for the track team in the spring of 1986, and her best jump of 5' 6" was the second-best ever at Minnesota.

Bradley showed what she could do on the court when she was called upon to replace the injured Cindy Phillips at a starting guard spot about midway through the year. During a stretch of six games, Bradley averaged 5.5 points and 2.0 rebounds per game. For the season, she averaged 2.5 points and 1.2 rebounds.

In Big Ten play, she made 19 of 20 free throws, for a .950 percentage that would have easily led the conference had she attempted enough of the charity tosses. For the season, her .800 mark (28 for 35) led all Gopher players.

A measure of the improvement she made over last season can be found in the fact that eight of her top nine scoring performances came this year, and her top four performances came against quality opposition. She scored nine against Kansas, eight against Iowa, hitting on six of six free throws, and scored seven each against Illinois and Kansas State. All four teams made the 40-team NCAA tournament field.

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If there were statistics that measured heart and determination, Bradley would have been right up there with the leaders. She never hesitated diving to the floor or hurling her body off the raised floor at Minnesota's Williams Arena in an attempt to retrieve a loose ball.

Gopher Head Basketball Coach Ellen Hanson likes Bradley's intensity, and recognizes her outstanding athletic ability, but Hanson wants to see Bradley bring her game under more control so that she can make the most of her considerable athletic ability.

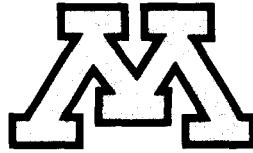
"Cindy can shoot, play defense, get up and jump, and has quickness," Hanson says. "She has to harness her intensity and speed, and anticipate things better on the court, though."

In addition to being a fine athlete, Bradley is no stranger to the classroom. She carries a fine 3.2 overall grade-point-average, and her marks this year have been a bit better than that.

The Gophers graduated a forward and a guard this past season, and Bradley could find herself playing either spot next season.

Bradley was an outstanding all-around athlete and citizen at Eureka. She was Eureka High Female Athlete of the Year and senior class vice-president in 1984-85. She earned a total of six all-county and five team MVP awards in basketball, volleyball and track. Bradley also earned Eureka Times-Standard all-star honors in basketball as a senior, and she averaged 16 points, 9.5 rebounds and 4.2 assists during her career at Eureka.

Cindy, who is undecided on a degree program, is the daughter of Dell and Frances Bradley of Eureka.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to The Bulletin)

March 20, 1987

FRESHMAN YEAR A SUCCESS FOR BOEHLAND

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Minnehaha Academy star Juanita Boehland served notice during her first season at Minnesota that she will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. Boehland played in 23 games, averaging 2.4 points and 2.1 rebounds per appearance, and shot .511 from the floor, best on the team.

With a year's experience under her belt, the six-foot-three inch Boehland is poised for a more active role in the Gophers' fortunes next season. The graduation of three-time All-Big Ten forward Molly Tadich leaves a gaping hole in the frontcourt, and Boehland will be among those vying for Tadich's spot in the lineup.

Her coach, Ellen Hanson, would like Boehland to make the transition from a low post player to the high post or power forward, where she can take advantage of both her soft shooting touch and her strength under the basket. "We want Juanita to be more versatile," Hanson says. "She has to practice and know how to play out there."

Boehland did not waste any time catching Hanson's eye. In her second collegiate game, she scored 10 points and grabbed five rebounds against a highly-ranked Auburn team, hitting all four of her field goal attempts. Amazingly, she did all that in a mere 16 minutes of playing time.

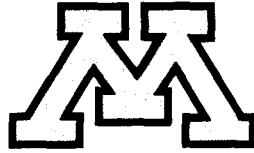
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In all, she averaged 11.8 minutes per game, pulled down 48 rebounds and blocked 10 shots on the season. She twice grabbed six rebounds in a game and twice had two blocks.

As a Minnehaha Academy star, Boehland was a two-time WCCO All-State team member, an All-Metro selection by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune and a second-team All-State pick by the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch. She scored over 1,100 points as a prep despite having to sit out a season as a transfer from Hill-Murray. And she was an all-around athlete, winning letters in volleyball and track in addition to basketball.

As a Golden Gopher, her aggressive style of play, coupled with her soft shooting touch should make her a Minnesota mainstay for the next three years.

Juanita, a physical education major, is the daughter of Mel and Pat Boehland of Shoreview.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Journal American)

March 20, 1987

OLSON NAMED FREE THROW CHAMP AS FRESHMAN

Minneapolis, Minn. -- It came as no surprise to those familiar with Jodi Olson that she was named the University of Minnesota's outstanding free throw shooter at the conclusion of the season. Last summer, Olson won the National Free Throw Competition at the AAU Junior Olympics by sinking 24 of 25 charity tosses.

The 5-7 Olson, who was a two-time prep All-American at Interlake High School in Bellevue, Wash., averaged 1.9 points and 7.9 minutes of playing time per game in her first season of Big Ten competition.

A great pure shooter with a velvet touch, she had to adjust to bigger, quicker and stronger defensive opponents, according to her coach, Ellen Hanson. "Jodi is a very good shooter when there is an opening to shoot the ball," Hanson says. "She is still working on learning when she is open at this level."

At Interlake, Olson was the player everyone looked to for scoring (she averaged 18.4 ppg). "In high school, they worked on opening Jodi up for the shot," Hanson said. At Minnesota, the guards were not looked to for very much scoring this season. In senior forward Molly Tadich, the Gophers possessed a superb scorer (three-time All-Big Ten) who was expected to provide most of the scoring punch.

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Next year, things could be a lot different. The Gophers will have to find a way to replace Tadich's 20 points per game, and they do not appear to have that kind of scorer in any of the returning forwards, so Olson may see considerably more playing time in an effort to beef up the Gopher offense.

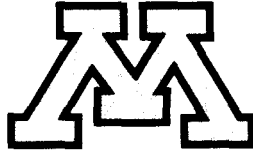
"Jodi is going to be a real improved player," Hanson says. "She will give us a good shooter who can make the big free throws late in the game."

Olson will have to work some on her ball-handling to be a starting guard in the Big Ten. She had some trouble facing pressure defenses like those thrown at her by Auburn, Iowa and Ohio State, but the exposure to the lightning-quick hands of Division I guards should speed her overall development.

Hanson says she can see improvement in that area already. "She plays against Debbie (junior guard Hilmerson, who led the team in steals) in practice every day, and that is really helping her."

Olson's other prep accomplishments include leading her Inland Empire AAU team to a fourth-place finish at nationals in 1986, being named to all-state, all-city and all-league teams and setting a school single-season scoring record at Inglemoor High School. She also competed in cross country, softball and track.

Jodi, who is undecided on a college major, is the daughter of Robert and Joanne Olson of Bellevue. Robert Olson played collegiate basketball at Minnesota, and was one of the founders of the Spring Lake Park (Minn.) youth program, where Jodi first learned the game.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to Midland Daily News)

March 20, 1987

GOULET HURT EARLY, BUT DISPLAYS SHOT IN FIRST YEAR AT MINNESOTA

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Although she did not come in until late in the game, former Dow High star Jackie Goulet wasted no time showing off her smooth jump shot in Minnesota's season opener against Northern Illinois.

The first time she saw the ball, she did what she does best, letting fly with an 18-footer. Swish! Nothing but net. The crowd, who had never seen the freshman before, oohed and aahed.

It was to be the last shot she would take in a game for quite a while, however, as she would miss the next 10 games with a stress fracture in her foot.

Goulet shook the rust off in time for the last half of the Big Ten slate, when she played her best basketball of the year. She had 135 minutes of playing time in the final seven games of the season, nearly half her year's total of 277 minutes.

For the season, Goulet played in 18 games, starting three, averaging 16.2 minutes, 2.2 points and 1.8 rebounds. She seemed to get especially fired up to play her home-state schools, which were her final choices along with Minnesota in the recruiting derby.

She scored four points and grabbed three rebounds at Michigan, then started the next game, at Michigan State, and chipped in season-highs of six points and three assists.

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In addition to those performances, other highlights included hitting all four of her free throws and grabbing four rebounds against Purdue and a perfect shooting game (2 of 2 field goals, 1 of 1 free throws) against mighty Ohio State.

Goulet's strong finish bodes well for next season, when the team will be looking to fill some of the scoring void left by the graduation of three-time All-Big Ten forward Molly Tadich. The Gophers must find a way to replace Tadich's 20 points per game next season, and Goulet's talents seem to fit neatly into the puzzle.

"She has a beautiful shot...the best jump shot on the team," says Gopher Coach Ellen Hanson. "The potential is there, now it's a matter of gaining confidence."

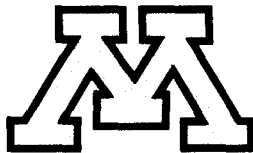
Despite missing more than a third of the season, Goulet, along with guard Jennifer Hall, were cited by Hanson as having made the biggest contributions among the five freshmen who saw action during the season.

With a year's experience under her belt, it may not be long before players and coaches in the Big Ten will feel the same helplessness as opposing coaches in the Saginaw Valley League did when Goulet and her smooth-as-silk jumper were setting records at Dow High.

At Dow, Goulet was an All-State selection by both AP and UPI, earned honorable mention All-America honors and was a Michigan Miss Basketball finalist. She exploded for 30 points in an upset victory over Flint Northwestern, which ended that school's 45-game winning streak. She also was named second-team All-State in volleyball and lettered in softball.

Jackie, who plans to major in business, is the daughter of Lee and Billee Goulet of Midland.

WOMEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
516 15TH AVENUE S.E.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455



KAREN SMITH
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR
OFFICE: (612) 376-5259

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(for use as desired)

March 18, 1987

(BURNSVILLE'S KINNEY AND HALL AID GOPHER HOOPS) --

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Two former Burnsville High School basketball greats were important members of the Gopher women's basketball team this past season.

Junior 6-4 center Diane Kinney was joined by 5-10 freshman guard Jennifer Hall on the Minnesota team this year.

Kinney Improves Play --

Diane Kinney anchored down a starting role at center for the second straight season, starting 26 of 28 games and averaging 11.9 points and 7.7 rebounds, second on the team in both categories. She also established her dominance in the middle with 48 blocks and was second in the Big Ten in blocks per game with a 1.8 average.

Her scoring average this year represented a boost of over two points per game from a year ago and she led the Gophers in field goal percentage, hitting .502. For her career, Kinney now has 664 points (8.3 avg.) and 488 rebounds (6.1 avg.).

The best sign for Coach Ellen Hanson was Kinney's brilliant play in several games. This was the first year Kinney scored 20 points or more, and she did it not just once, but in four games. The first was against Illinois State, Dec. 5, when Kinney posted career bests of 25 points and 17 rebounds, leading the team in both categories.

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Over break, she exploded for 24 points against Florida International University Dec. 20, connecting on a career best of 12 field goals in 16 attempts. In the last pre-Big Ten game, an overtime win against Colorado Dec. 30, Kinney scored 20 points again.

With the leading scorer Molly Tadich out of the lineup, Kinney took control at Wisconsin, scoring 16 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. In that game she connected on six of eight free throws. Her other two outstanding games were against Illinois on the road, when she scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and at home in a win over Michigan when she scored 26 points (hitting 10 of 15 field goals) and grabbed 12 rebounds. In all, Kinney was in double figures in 17 games in scoring and in rebounding in 11 games.

Kinney has been selected as a tri-captain for next year's team, and Coach Hanson hopes she will even out her play more consistently over the course of the season. "Diane had some big games this year where she was a factor...the glimmers were there, but now we need her to do that game in and game out. We would like her to average 16 points and 10 boards per game next year," says Hanson. "She will be a team leader, and we want her to set an example with intensity the whole game."

Kinney was the Gophers Rookie-of-the-Year in 1984-85, and as a sophomore averaged 9.1 ppg and 6.9 rebounds while starting 23 of 28 games. At Burnsville High School she was a 1984 all-stater and three time all-conference pick in the Lake Couth. A speech-communication major, she is the daughter of Pat and Lionel Kinney.

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Hall Gets Nod as Starter Late in Year --

Rookie Jennifer Hall proved to Coach Hanson that she is ready to play in the Big Ten. "Jennifer really contributed to the team this year," says Hanson. "She is a scrappy guard...her game is driving, rebounding tough, and playing hard-nosed defense. She really had some good spurts of play."

Hall played in 27 of the Gophers 28 games and 17 of 18 Big Ten games, starting four times, including the last three games of the year. She averaged 12.4 minutes and shot .429 from the field. Overall, Hall averaged 3.4 points, 2.1 rebounds and 1.3 assists.

She showed she was ready for action early in the year. At Kansas State and Kansas Dec. 1 and 2, she scored eight points in both games coming off the bench and followed that up with six points against both Illinois State and South Dakota at home.

Her career best performance came at Illinois Feb. 13 as the Gophers lost a squeaker, 60-64. Hall scored 10 points in 23 minutes of play off the bench and earned her first start at Purdue the following Sunday.

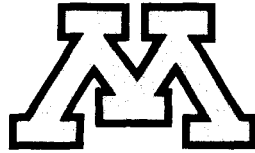
Although Hall was awarded the "Ball Handling Award" for being the best at a team drill during practice during the year, Hanson says ball-handling will be a key for improved playing time next year.

"Jennifer will need to be able to handle the ball, bring it up court through a press, and be smooth as silk," says the Coach. "She will also need confidence in her outside shot."

Shooting was never a problem for Hall in high school. She was the all-time leading scorer in Burnsville High School history, and was honored as the Metro Player-of-the-Year by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. She was an all-state pick and leading scorer in the 1986 high school state tournament with 74 points.

Hall is the daughter of Howard and Mary Hall of Burnsville.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
516 15TH AVENUE S.E.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455



KAREN SMITH
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR
OFFICE: (612) 376-5259

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(for use as desired)

March 18, 1987

(MT. VERNON'S HUFFORD HAS BEST YEAR AS GOPHER) --

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Mt. Vernon basketball standout Beth (Boots) Hufford established herself this season on the Minnesota women's basketball team. After seeing very limited action as a freshman and sophomore, the 5-10 junior guard/forward played in 25 of the Gophers 28 games, and started 11, including a streak of 10 straight games mid-season.

Although Hufford was not a "star" in the sense of her high school days, she did perform solidly, according to Coach Ellen Hanson. "Beth came into her own this year. She knew it was her responsibility to put the ball up. She made some nice passes inside to our big people and to break presses, and she made some key outside shots," says Hanson. "Looking toward her senior year, I think she can be even more effective now that she has an understanding of her role."

Her statistics include a 2.9 ppg., 1.6 rebounding and 1.0 assist average, but they do not effectively represent her contributions to the team. Hufford averaged the second most minutes played of the non-starters (14.8) and that figure increased to 16.2 in Big Ten play.

In the season opener against Northern Illinois, Hufford hit three of five field goals for a career high of six points and she equaled that amount in her first start Dec. 30 against Colorado. The Big Ten opener at Northwestern was the site of Hufford's highest career points, 10, as she canned five of six field goals in just 18 minutes of play. Those 10 points were the highest for any Gopher in that game.

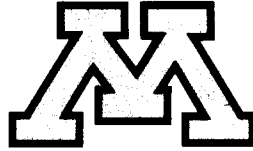
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She continued her hot hand against Wisconsin, playing a career high 30 minutes, scoring eight points, and grabbing a career best of five rebounds and a career high of five steals. Hufford continued to start through the Michigan State game on Feb. 1. After that she came off the bench the remainder of the year.

Hufford has excelled academically at Minnesota as a business major in the school of management. She was on the Dean's list the past three quarters and has a 3.42 cumulative gpa.

At Mt. Vernon High School, Hufford was a Carnation prep and academic All-American in 1984 as a first team all-state and all-tournament team pick. She averaged 38.4 ppg and led her team to the state tourney in 1983 and 1984.

She is the daughter of Ann and Harold Hufford of Lisbon Road in Mt. Vernon.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to Wauwatosa Community Newspapers)

March 20, 1987

NOWAK FINISHES STRONG FOR GOPHERS

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Two years of waiting. Practicing. Fighting off injuries. Hoping. For a chance, an opportunity to perform, to succeed, to do the things she knew she could do on the basketball court.

After two long and injury-riddled years, Mary Jo Nowak finally began to display some of the skills that made her a prep star at Cudahy (Wis.) High School, where she averaged 20.1 points per game her senior year and was named to play in the Wisconsin-Illinois all-star game.

The 5-7 junior guard appeared in as many games (22) for the Golden Gophers as she had in her first two years combined, and she set career bests in nearly every statistical category, while averaging 1.1 points and 1.2 assists per game.

In the last five games of the season, Nowak averaged 2.4 points and 1.6 assists per game, and she played in eight of the final nine games of the Big Ten schedule, after appearing in only five of the first nine. "Mary Jo had a real strong second half," said Gopher Coach Ellen Hanson. "She is able to bring the ball up against pressure, and she understands game tempo and philosophy."

Nowak's second-half performance had a lot to do with the Gophers' strong showing in the second half of the Big Ten schedule, when they finished with three victories in their last six games after a 1-11 start.

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Her most impressive performance came in a February 22 game against Ohio State, when she hit on three of five shots and dished out a career-high four assists in 26 minutes of action, spearheading a Gopher comeback that nearly resulted in a big upset victory over the Big Ten champions. That performance earned Nowak the first start of her career in the team's next outing.

Although Nowak's career high is seven points, she has never taken more than five shots in a game.

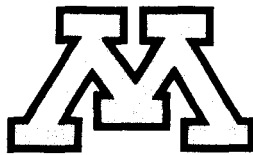
"She is a good shooter," Hanson said. "She just needs to be confident in taking shots when they're available and she can be an offensive threat."

Nowak had some of her best games against national powers. Against the swarming defense of highly-ranked Auburn, she dished out three assists in 16 minutes. On the road against NCAA entry Kansas, she had two assists and two steals in only nine minutes of action.

The graduation of co-captain Cindy Phillips has left a hole in the Gopher backcourt, a hole Nowak has a good shot at if she can avoid the nagging injuries that plagued her much of her freshman and sophomore years.

Whether or not she is able to nail down a starting position next year, if she is able to continue playing the way she did late this season, she will no doubt play an integral part in the Gophers' 1987-88 season.

Mary Jo, a sociology major, is the daughter of Joseph and Carol Ann Nowak.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Highland Villager)

March 18, 1987

(PIRAM DEFIES STEREOTYPE OF BASKETBALL FORWARD)--

Minneapolis, Minn. -- St. Paul's 6-0 junior forward Susie Piram is not exactly your prototype basketball power forward. You know the type, quick and lean, 6-2 or better, with arms that grab rebounds out of the stratosphere.

Excuse me, please, but Piram makes no apologies for defying the odds of the war inside the paint. The fastest speed she has is in her "mile a minute" valley talk dialect.

And outjump a 6-4 girl? Stop!

Well, okay, she doesn't out "jump" the other players, "Susie Q" as her teammates call her, just out-positions them. "I make up for my lack of height in other ways, with my scrappiness, I get a rebound and put it back up," says Piram.

Piram is so effective at her style of game that she started in 22 of the Gophers 28 games, including the first sixteen and last six. This year Piram averaged 8.4 ppg, up from 4.8 in 1985-86 and had a career high performance of 24 points and 14 rebounds in an overtime win against Colorado. She also was third on the team in rebounds, averaging 5.9 while playing 21.8 minutes.

Coach Ellen Hanson knows she can count on Piram to give her all every time she is on the court, and, Hanson recently tabbed her as one of the tri-captain's of next year's team, along with juniors Diane Kinney and Debbie Hilmerson.

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Piram knew from the first day she stepped onto the Williams Arena floor in practice that she would have to fight for every inch of space on the court. She has gone up against senior forward Molly Tadich in practice from day one, and Piram has never backed down.

"I'm not going to get beaten up, if Molly throws an elbow, I'll throw it back," she says. "Because physical, that's my game. I don't like it when they call a lot of fouls and don't let you play. I love the physical part of the game."

Piram is driven by an intense desire to succeed and win. Take a good look at her next time she runs down the court. Have you ever seen such a face? You're not sure if she just lost her best friend, or is really hungry because no one's fed her for days. "So many people come up to me about my facial expressions," Piram admits. "Sometimes I don't even know I do it, people tell me that my expressions are really funny. I just want to win so bad."

Coach Hanson has watched Piram develop as a player from her freshman season. "Susie has come about as close to reaching her potential as any player can come," says Hanson. "And its because she has a real blue-collar work ethic, she just works, and works, and works."

And that work is day-in and day-out for Piram. "What you do in practice is what you do in a game," she says. "If you don't cut off the baseline or whatever, then that is what will happen in a game."

It's not likely Piram will forget to block-out, after all, it's the secret to her success. Her freshmen year, Piram was named the "Most Inspirational Player" on the team for her cheerleading from the bench and hard work in practice. "She never gave up and continued to work despite little playing time," said Hanson at the end of that year.

Her sophomore season, Piram was a top reserve off the bench. In her first collegiate start against Iowa, she hit a career high 14 points, including six of 11 free throws. In all, Piram started four games and played in 27, averaging 4.8 points and 5.5 rebounds.

"I knew coming off the bench was my role last year, but my goal for this year was maybe to be a starter, and if I get it, it is to maintain that starting position," says Piram. To that end, she ran and lifted weights over the summer, and touched a basketball every day.

Her efforts paid off in her playing time and improved performance this season. One of Piram's trademarks is to get fouled, even if she misses the three point play. She shot so many free throws this year that her 82 free throws made ranks 10th on the all-time season list and her 143 free throw attempts is sixth most ever in a season.

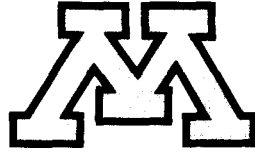
Converting those attempts is another aspect of her game that has required hard work to improve upon. "I'm trying, trying, trying," she says of her foul line attempts. "Last year everyone told me what I was doing wrong -- it's your legs, arms, do this, do this...I didn't even know what I was doing. This year I know my shot and what I'm doing."

Still, her trying so hard, can sometimes be her greatest enemy. Against Illinois State she had five steals, but committed six turnovers as well. "I do try so hard, and sometimes I get so frustrated with myself," she says. "If I get angry at myself it affects my play."

Coach Hanson expects Piram to continue her progress heading into her final season next year. "Susie is one of those players who decides she is going to do whatever it takes to get the job done. She really came on in certain parts of her game this year and I expect that improvement to continue."

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A graduate of Derham Hall High School, Piram played basketball, softball and volleyball. She was an all-state basketball pick, team MVP and recipient of the Derham Hall Student-Athlete Award. She is a speech communication major at Minnesota and the daughter of Joann and Robert Piram.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Bloomington Sun)

March 18, 1987

(TADICH ENDS CAREER AS SOLID PERFORMER FOR GOPHERS) --

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Senior 6-2 basketball forward Molly Tadich of Bloomington concluded a solid career for the Minnesota women's basketball team this season. Her career was capped off with honors on the second team all-Big Ten for the third straight season, and her selection as the team's Most Valuable Player and Gopher Award winner. (The Gopher award is given to the player with the best statistics in the most games during the season).

Despite the publicity this season surrounding her suspension from the team for four games, Tadich is happy with her career, and hopes her memory will be as positive as her playing was.

"It would be nice to be remembered for the good memories," she says. "I want people to remember that I worked hard, and that it is possible to be a good athlete and a good student."

"The most important thing I've learned is how to handle things - not to let problems get you down but to accept things, adapt and change. My intensity on the court can come across as being negative...it's not real attractive...but people are different on and off the court."

For Tadich, basketball has been a big part of her college experience, but certainly not the only important aspect. Her basketball ability has thrust her into the public eye, but she has maintained academics as an equal priority.

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"When I was a freshman, I didn't have much confidence (with basketball) and I think I've done alright in school not because of my brains, or anything like that. I've gotten the best of both basketball and my education because I work hard," says Tadich.

An english education major, Tadich has been an All-Big Ten academic selection the past two years as well as a second team All-Big Ten basketball pick. She plans to complete her degree next year rather than try to continue playing basketball, and hopes to teach and coach basketball in the Minnesota area.

The Gophers will be losing a solid performer who has quietly worked her way up the career lists and into the record books over the past four seasons. Tadich has started in 90 of 106 games during her career, scoring in double figures in 84 and rebounding in double figures in 64 contests.

She is Minnesota's second all-time rebounding leader with 1,135 caroms behind Laura Coenen ('81-85, 1,029) and Linda Roberts ('77-81, 1,413) and the third all-time leading scorer with 1,706 points. (Coenen is first with 2,044 and Roberts second with 1,856 points). In addition, Tadich is Minnesota's all-time blocked shots record holder with 192, breaking the mark held by Mary Manderfeld (1979-81, 129).

After a stellar high school career at Bloomington Lincoln and then Jefferson high schools, Tadich entered the 'U' as one of the top 25 prep players as ranked by USA Today newspaper. She played in all 27 games as a rookie and led the Gophers in rebounding with a 10.7 average.

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"I came here at an opportune time," recalls Tadich. "Laura (Coenen) was sick and I had a chance to play." Coenen's junior season, she was plagued by a hyperactive thyroid condition, and Tadich responded by playing center, and setting a school and Big Ten record of 23 rebounds against Northwestern.

Tadich's sophomore year, Coenen was healthy as a senior, and many of her contributions were in the shadow of the Gopher all-time scoring leader. Tadich led the Big Ten in blocks that year, and led the Gophers in minutes played (37.0) while scoring 15.6 points and averaging 10.7 rebounds - second best on the team.

As a junior, Tadich moved further away from the basket, and began canning 15-20 foot jump shots. "When I first came here I was a rebounder and inside player," she says. "Coach Hanson taught me how to shoot, and make more moves to the basket. Now I feel confident to play anywhere."

Last year Tadich scored the third most points ever in a season (511) while leading the Gophers in scoring (16.2), rebounding (11.1), blocks and steals. She also led the Big Ten in rebounding and blocks.

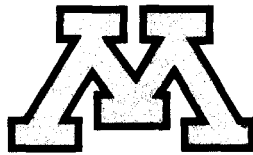
As a senior this year, Tadich was the second leading scorer (21.1 ppg) and rebounder (9.9 avg.) in the Big Ten. She led Minnesota in scoring (19.5 ppg), rebounding (9.6 avg.) and minutes played (34.4 avg.) She exploded in a home win against Michigan, tying her career high of 32 points, grabbing 21 rebounds and connecting on 12 of 15 free throws. She also had a career high of eight assists against Ohio State. And in the last weekend of play, Tadich tied the school record of best free throw percentage, hitting 11 of 11 from the charity stripe against Wisconsin.

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The Gopher team's win-loss record (9-19 overall, 4-14 Big Ten, tied for eighth) may not have been as good as in years past, but Tadich says the players were closer. "We all got along with each other, and I really appreciated the way everybody on the team this year was positive and encouraging."

And while her basketball career is over, Tadich has other plans for her college career. "Obviously it's sad, because basketball is over," she says. "But it's time to move on, get through with my degree, and get on with my life."

Tadich is the daughter of Don and Mary Tadich of Bloomington.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to Lansing State Journal)

February 9, 1987

PHILLIPS POSITIVE DESPITE CAREER ENDING INJURY

Editor's Note: Gopher basketball co-captain Cindy Phillips tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee during the second half of last week's Michigan game and underwent exploratory surgery on Monday, Feb. 9 to determine the extent of the injury. Phillips had started every game this year at point guard and was averaging 8.6 points per game and 3.7 rebounds. For her career, she averaged 6.2 points, 2.7 assists and 1.1 steals.

"We need to have a breakthrough," said senior co-captain Cindy Phillips, prior to Minnesota's game with Michigan last weekend.

The Gophers were looking for their first Big Ten victory of 1987, and Phillips was determined to help them get it. For 23 minutes she did just that-- the Gophers were in command and Phillips was doing the things she does best-- directing the Gopher offense and pressuring the opposing guards into turnovers. Then, the unthinkable happened.

Phillips tore ligaments in her right knee and was forced to leave what may have been her last game as a Gopher. Even though Minnesota went on to win the game 81-73, it was a bittersweet victory indeed.

Despite her injury, Phillips said, "I'll try to help the team in any way I can, give them encouragement." Phillips is not one to wallow in self-pity, although she could be excused for doing so in light of what has happened to her. She is able to keep the faith in spite of adversity because her upbringing did not allow for negative thinking. "I come from a family of 11 children and our family has a strong religious background," Phillips said. "Positives were always stressed to us by my parents," she said.

Phillips arrived in Minnesota four years ago after a stellar prep career at Everett High School in East Lansing, Mich., but admits that the transition to new friends in a new city was tough at first. "As a freshman, I was a bit scared because I didn't know anybody except on the team," she recalled. "Fortunately, I am the type of person who will go up to people and introduce myself. I had to do that a lot as a freshman.

"I wouldn't have made it going away from home if I wouldn't have had a strong religious foundation," she said. "There are so many temptations, and you need a lot of will-power, which I have, to avoid potential trouble."

Upon arriving at Minnesota, one of the first things she did was find an appropriate outlet for her convictions, the He Has Risen Church Of God In Christ in North Minneapolis. "People from the church have come to watch me play," she said. "The minister even came to one of our games."

In lieu of her experiences, the advice Phillips has for her teammates is especially meaningful: "Learn to appreciate everything you have, because when it's gone, you're going to miss it."

Even though Phillips may have played her final basketball game for Minnesota, she has planned for her future wisely. She expects to receive her degree in an individually designed major -- educational communication with disadvantaged youth.

"For sure I want to work with kids," Phillips said. "At first I was going to major in speech-communication, but I found the class choices too restrictive. With my current major, I am able to take a much broader selection of courses, and I think that will be a plus when I am applying for jobs."

When she has left the University, Phillips hopes those who have watched her develop both on and off the court will remember her as "a good role player, a team player, team leader and an all-around respectable person."

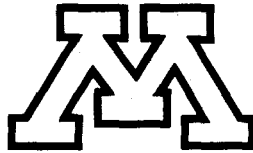
In 15 years, she sees herself as married, with some children of her own. "I don't want a lot of kids, but I don't want just one either. It's got to be tough being an only child." Phillips said growing up in a large family meant that she always had somebody to look up to, to talk to, or to get encouragement from. "I never felt insecure or neglected," she said.

Phillips enjoys movies, books and "all types of food." Her all-time favorite film is Grease. "I also like mystery, and especially movies that bring tears to your eyes. When I see one that can do that, I say, 'Now that was a good film.'"

In the book category, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou, is especially poignant to Phillips because it involves the struggles of a young black woman in the 1930s.

She hedged a little when the talk turned to food. "I like a home-cooked meal, nice and spicy, soul food," Phillips said. "But I like junk food, too. Living near campus, there certainly is enough of that around."

Phillips long ago learned the importance of putting things in their proper perspective. "I'm really glad I had the opportunity to attend a school like Minnesota," she said. "I've really enjoyed it here. The chance to be away from home and on my own, the people I've met and the experiences I've had here have been just great."



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the New Brighton Bulletin - Shoreview edition)
(by Ron Larson)

(612) 624-3335
11/7/86

JUANITA BOEHLAND TO MAKE GOPHER DEBUT IN DIAL CLASSIC ON HOMETOWN DAY --

The University of Minnesota women's basketball team will hold its first Hometown Day, honoring former Minnesota high school players who are currently members of the Gopher basketball squad, on Friday, Nov. 28, at Williams Arena on the University of Minnesota campus.

Hometown Day coincides with the Dial Classic, which opens the season for the Gophers. In addition to Minnesota, the tournament will feature fourth-ranked Auburn, along with Clemson and Northern Illinois. The tournament begins Friday, Nov. 28 with a game between Auburn and Clemson at 1:00 p.m., followed at 3:00 p.m. by the Gophers and Northern Illinois. The Dial Classic concludes Saturday with the consolation game at 1:00 p.m. and the championship at 3:00 p.m.

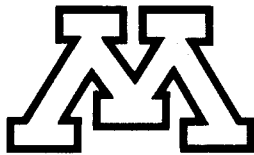
Juanita Boehland, a Shoreview native and a 1986 graduate of Minnehaha Academy, will be making her collegiate debut in this tournament. Boehland, a 6-foot-3 center, scored 1,136 points in her prep career, despite having to sit out a year as a transfer student from Hill-Murray.

Boehland was a two-time All-Tri Metro Conference selection at Minnehaha, and was twice named to the WCCO All-State team. In addition, she played in the Minnesota High School All-Star Game for the Metro team, and was named a Channel 11 Athlete-of-the-Week during her senior season.

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Boehland was a St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch second-team All-State selection and a Minneapolis Star and Tribune All-Metro pick as a senior. She averaged 19.1 points, 13.3 rebounds, 4.5 blocks and 2.7 steals her senior season.

In the summer of 1985, Boehland traveled to Australia and New Zealand to play basketball with the Northwest Basketball Camp Outreach Ministries. Gopher coach Ellen Hanson says Boehland will be looked to for inside scoring punch. Juanita is the daughter of Mel and Pat Boehland of Shoreview.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(Special to the Dakota County Tribune/This Week News)
(by Ron Larson)

(612) 624-3335
11/7/86

JENNIFER HALL TO MAKE GOPHER DEBUT AT DIAL CLASSIC ON HOMETOWN DAY

The University of Minnesota women's basketball team will hold its first Hometown Day, honoring former Minnesota high school players who are currently members of the Gopher basketball squad, on Friday, Nov. 28, at Williams Arena on the University of Minnesota campus.

Hometown Day coincides with the Dial Classic, which opens the Gopher basketball season. The tournament begins Friday, Nov. 28 with a game between fourth-ranked Auburn and Clemson at 1:00 p.m., followed at 3:00 p.m. by Minnesota and Northern Illinois. The Dial Classic concludes Saturday with the consolation game at 1:00 p.m. and the championship at 3:00 p.m.

Jennifer Hall, the all-time leading scorer in Burnsville High School history, will be making her collegiate debut in this tournament. Hall and junior center Diane Kinney give the current edition of the Golden Gophers two former Burnsville High School greats.

Kinney, a 6-foot-4 center, was the Gophers Rookie-of-the-Year in 1984-85 and led the team in field goal percentage last season. She hit double figures in scoring 11 times and in rebounding eight times while playing in all 28 games a year ago, 23 of them as a starter. She came off the bench to score 17 points and grab 10 rebounds in just 24 minutes against Northwestern. This year, the Gophers will be relying on Kinney even more, and her play will go a long way toward determining the Gophers' fortunes. Kinney is the daughter of Lionel and Patricia Kinney of Burnsville.

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Hall, a 5-foot-9 guard, was a two-time WCCO All-State selection, was named to the Associated Press and St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch All-State first team and was honored as the Metro Player-of-the-Year by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. To cap it all off, Hall led all scorers at the state basketball tournament, was named Gatorade Circle of Champions Minnesota Player-of-the-Year, and received USA Today honorable mention All-American honors.

Minnesota head coach Ellen Hanson says Hall is "a perfect Big Ten player, a rough-and-tumble, scrappy and aggressive guard who is a good penetrator and shooter. She plays strong and will make the big play when needed."

Hall, who ranked ninth academically in a class of 698, is the daughter of Howard and Mary Hall of Burnsville.