

- \*Top 20 boys teams (final)
- \*State individual leaders
- \*Conference champions
- \* 'U' parts with Whalen

# On to 'state'

*4A, 3A qualifiers  
emerge; Hopkins  
edges Wayzata*

**By Bruce Strand**

State girls basketball tournament lineups started to take shape on Thursday evening, with dynastic Hopkins winning the highest-profile section final.

No. 2 ranked Hopkins squeezed past No. 4 Wayzata 70-68 in overtime for the Section 6 crown. Wayzata continued its burden as the school with many outstanding teams that



**Stillwater post Alexis Karlen works against White Bear Lake's Blessing Adebisi during 51-47 section win.**

Bruce Strand, MN Basketball News



**Taylor Woodson sparked Hopkins' win.**

didn't advance to state, because of their unfortunate section placement.

Taylor Woodson scored 21 points and the game-winner with 29 seconds left for Hopkins. Liv McGill added 18 points. The Royals trailed 44-36 before going on a 16-2 run by forcing a stream of turnovers. Wayzata got 3-pointers by Brynn Senden with :23 left and Kate Amelotte with :05 left to knot the score 62-62. Ashlyn Vaughn had 16 points,

Shannon Fornshell 15 and Amelotte 14 for the Trojans.

Hopkins (26-2), eight-time state champion, won its ninth straight section crown and 12th in 13 years.

Wayzata has lost section finals to Hopkins in seven of the last eight seasons. (In 2018, they lost to Minneapolis South in the semifinals). Trojan teams with records like 23-5

(this year), 24-5, 26-3, 25-3, 22-7 and 20-9 did not reach state. Their only state appearance was in 2010.

Wayzata ended a 14-game losing streak against Hopkins 55-53 on Feb. 10, and lost to them 57-50 earlier. The all-important rubber game went to Hopkins.

Most of the Section 4A and 3A tournaments concluded Thursday. The Section 2A and 1A tournaments will conclude Friday or Saturday.

## OTHER CLASS 4A

No. 3 St. Michael-Albertville (26-3) scuttled No. 14 Elk River 78-44 for the Section 8AAAA crown, getting 25 points each from Tessa Johnson and Ja’Kahla Craft.

Centennial (19-10) shut down Blaine 44-29 in the Section 7AAAA finals, led by Marisa Frost with 15 points.

No. 10 Stillwater (24-5) won 4AAAA, which had three top-ten teams, defeating No. 9 East Ridge 60-55 in the finals. Amy Thompson hit 22 points, and Alexis Karlen and Liana Buckhalton 11 each. Emily Christensen had 19 and Isabell Sanneh 17 for the Raptors. Karlen led their 51-47 semifinal win over No. 8 White Bear Lake with 17 points and shut-down defense in the lane.

Eagan (19-10) is the Section 3AAAA champion with a 63-52 conquest of No. 11 Rosemount. Drew Buslee netted 20 points and Maddi McCullum and Jocelyn McClary 14 each for Eagan. Riley Ang had 24 for Rosemount.

Top-ranked Chaska faces No. 5 Eden Prairie in another clash of top-five teams for the Section 2AAAA championship on Friday night, while No. 7 Maple Grove takes on No. 16 Roseville in Section 5AAAA and No. 12 Lakeville North will duel No. 20 Lakeville South in Section 1AAAA.

## CLASS 3A

No. 1 ranked Becker (25-3) will make its fifth straight appearance after turning back No. 11 Monticello 62-49 in Section 5AAA behind Maren Westin with 24 points and Danielle Nuest with 18.

No. 8 Alexandria (24-4) punched its ticket with a 69-44 win over Sauk Rapids-Rice for the Section 8AAA title, powered by Hadley Thul with 20 points, Allie Haabala with 19 and MaCee Lions with 16.



**Grand Rapids seniors recently posed. From left: Reilly Leppanen, Taryn Hamling, Kyra Giffen, Katelyn Jamtgaard, Hannah Hostetter, Samantha Brink.**

No. 2 Benilde-St. Margaret’s (23-6) topped No. 7 Holy Angels 71-47 for the 6AAA crown, led by Olivia Olsen with 32 points.

No. 20 Hill-Murray (17-11) foiled Totino-Grace 53-44 in the Section 4AAA title game with Elisa Gropoli hitting 21 points and Hailey Wolgamot 16. T-G, defending state champ, graduated heavily and finished 8-21 but reached the finals.

No. 6 DeLaSalle (23-6) is 3AAA champion with a 67-55 conquest of Visitation, led by Anesha Scott with 26 points and Jordan Johnson with 17. Samantha Wills netted 27 for Visitation.

No. 3 Grand Rapids (26-2) rules the Iron Range again, defeating Cloquet 59-43 for their third straight 7AAA crown, propelled by Jessika Lofstrom with 27 points. The T-hawks won without top scorer Taryn Hamling.

## CLASS 1A

BOLD won a sub-section, 2A North, that had three of the top five ranked teams in Class 1A. No. 5 ranked BOLD (23-5) got past No. 3 Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart (25-2) in the second round 56-47 and No. 2 Mayer Lutheran (23-5) in the sub finals 53-45 with Lainey Braulick scoring 24 points and Mari Ryberg 13. BOLD faces No. 18 Sleepy Eye (23-6) in the section finals Friday night.



# 2023 **PACESSETTER**

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### Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

#### ALL GRADES REFER TO THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

4B = 4th grade boys, 4G = 4th grade girls, etc. Teams may register for more than one region.

Region 1 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Rochester-RCTC	March 25	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Rochester-RCTC	March 26	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Region 2 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Lake Crystal	April 22	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Lake Crystal	April 23	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Region 3 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Redwood Falls	March 25	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Redwood Falls	March 26	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Region 4 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Moose Lake/Willow River	April 15	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Moose Lake/Willow River	April 16	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Region 5 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Paynesville	April 1	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Paynesville	April 2	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Region 6 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Alexandria	April 15	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Alexandria	April 16	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B
Region 7 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Grand Rapids	April 1	8G, 5B, 7B
Grand Rapids	April 2	7G, 9G, 4B
Mt. Iron-Buhl	April 1	4G, 6G, 9B
Mt. Iron-Buhl	April 2	5G, 6B, 8B
Region 8 Site	Date	Grade/Gender
Bemidji	April 22	5G, 7G, 9G, 4B, 6B, 8B
Bemidji	April 23	4G, 6G, 8G, 5B, 7B, 9B

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MN State Championships	Location	Date	Grades
MIT - MN Invitational	College of St. Benedict	June 10	B & G 4-6-8
State Championship	College of St. Benedict	June 11	B & G 4-6-8
MIT - MN Invitational	College of St. Benedict	June 17	B & G 5-7-9
State Championship	College of St. Benedict	June 18	B & G 5-7-9



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## State individual boys leaders listed

The top five boys basketball scorers at the end of the regular season are senior Quayavant Douglas with 31.6 points per game, sophomore Brooks Johnson of Duluth Marshall with 30.6, junior Tameron Ferguson of St. Cloud Tech with 30.6, junior Justin Courneya of Win-E-Mac with 30.5 and junior Colton Benson of New Ulm with 29.0.

The state leader in 3-point shots is Blaine junior Ethan Pettis with 114. He's averaging 16.6 points. Next are Hopkins sophomore Anthony Smith with 99 and North Branch sophomore Tyler Minke with 90.

Leading in rebounds per game are sophomore Abu Tarawallie with 14.5 per game, Johnson with 14.0, and junior Kyle Jorgenson of Minneapolis Washburn with 13.8.

The state leader in assists by a wide margin is Windom senior Henry Erickson with 298, followed by New Life Academy senior Max Briggs with 201 and Hopkins freshman Jayden Moore with 188.

The leader in steals is Higher Ground Academy senior Yaseen Muhammad with 219, followed by Ferguson with 134 and Two Harbors senior Trent Gomez with 116.

In blocked shots, the leaders are Spectrum junior Ethan Mielke with 66, Princeton senior Aaron Keykal with 62 and Irondale senior Tyler Smith with 56.

*(Statistics taken from Star-Tribune's Minnesota Basketball Hub. Not all teams report statistics.)*



**Brooks Johnson with sister Chloe**

## State individual girls leaders listed

The top five scorers in girls basketball heading into section finals week are Crosby-Ironton freshman Tori Oehrlein with 31.6 points per game, Providence Academy freshman Maddyn Greenway with 31.1, Minnehaha Academy sophomore Addi Mack with 29.9, Mountain Iron-Buhl junior Jordan Zubich with 27.5, and St. Louis Park senior Shantell Harden with 24.7 in a season cut short by a knee injury.

Top four in 3-pointers made are Roseville senior Drew Johnston with 112, St. Croix Prep junior Ivy Lothenbach with 109, Perham senior Mya Morris with 104 and Minneapolis Southwest senior Virginia Johnson with 103.

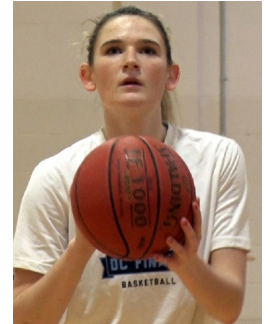
Leaders in rebounds per game are Legacy Christian junior Anna Stromberg with 16.0, Heritage Christian senior Abby Inmon with 15.2 and Oehrlein with 14.3.

Assists leaders are Mountain Iron-Buhl senior Sage Ganyo with 204, Greenway with 200 and Oehrlein with 180.

Sidney Schmit, Delano junior, leads with 238 steals, followed by Kelliher-Northome freshman Kate Thayer with 208 and Kimball senior Ellie Kuechle with 144.

The blocked shots leader is Maranatha Christian junior Janiya Wright with 112, followed by Hope Academy senior Bree Duke with 88 and St. Paul Como Park senior Zhane Singer with 83.

*(Statistics taken from Star-Tribune's Minnesota Basketball Hub. Not all teams report statistics.)*



**Tori Oehrlein**

## There's one more 'Killer B' coming up at Roseau

Jordan Borowicz, eighth-grader at Roseau, kid brother of three sisters who scored over 9,000 points, pumped in a school record 48 points on Friday in a 102-35 win over International Falls. The record he broke had stood since 1955 when Charles Benson had a 47-point game. The 5-foot-10 guard is averaging 23.8 points. The Rams are 7-19, but 5-5 in their last 10 games. "To see him do what he's doing as an eighth grader is incredible," said coach Ryan De Bock. "The strongest aspects

of his game are his ball handling and finishing at the rim, but he does it all. He can shoot, he can lock you up. He has an incredible basketball IQ for an eighth grader as well, which has come a long ways this year." Jordan Borowicz is the youngest of one of the most prominent hoops families in state history. The Rams went to four state tournaments with Kylie, Kacie and Katie Borowicz -- the "Killer B's" -- nabbing one championship (2017), one runner-up finish and two thirds.



## Boys conference leaders listed

Saluting champions and other top teams from around the state of Minnesota:

**Park Center** won a close race for the Northwest Suburban title with a 17-2 record. Andover and Totino-Grace were each 16-3. Maple Grove was fourth at 15-4 .... **Wayzata** was Lake Conference champion by three games with an 11-1 record, followed by Minnetonka at 8-4. Buffalo and Hopkins tied for third with 7-5 .... **East Ridge** won the Suburban East with 17-1, followed by White Bear Lake at 15-3 and Stillwater at 13-5 .... **Lakeville North** took the South Suburban at 12-2. Eastview was 14-4 and Shakopee 13-5 .... **Brainerd** was Central Lakes champ at 15-1 record, followed by Alexandria 14-2 and St. Cloud Tech 12-4.

**Benilde-St. Margaret's** won the Metro West at 12-2, followed Orono with 11-3 and Waconia 9-5 ... **St. Thomas Academy** and **Mahtomedi** tied for the Metro East crown, each 15-1. Tying for third at 11-5 were South St. Paul and Tartan .... **Mankato East** was Big Nine champion with an 18-4 record, followed by Owatonna (16-6), Rochester Century (15-7), and Rochester Mayo (each 15-7) .... **New Ulm** won the Big South East with a 9-0 record and **Worthington** won the West with 8-1. In the conference playoff, New Ulm won 66-58 .... **Princeton** was Mississippi 8 champ with a 12-2 mark, followed by Cambridge-Isanti and St. Francis, each 10-4 .... **DeLaSalle** was unblemished in the Tri-Metro at 16-0, followed by Robbinsdale Cooper with 13-3 and St. Anthony Village with 13-5 .... Hermantown was Lake Superior champion at 11-0, followed by Duluth Denfeld at 7-4 ....

**Lake City** won the Hiawatha Valley with 15-1. Tied for second at 13-3 were Goodhue and Stewartville .... **Albany** was 14-0 in the Granite Ridge, followed by Mora at 9-4 and Milaca at 9-5 .... **Maranatha Christian** was 15-0 in the Skyline. New Life Academy was 12-3 and Concordia Academy 11-4 .... **Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa** and **Eden Valley-Watkins** tied for the Central Minnesota title, each 12-2, followed by Paynesville at 11-3 .... **Pequot Lakes** was 9-1 and **Detroit Lakes** 8-1 to lead the Mid-State .... **Dawson-Boyd** won the Camden North at 11-1 with Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg next at 20-1. **Russell-Tyler-Ruthton** won the Camden South with 10-0, followed by Lakeview 8-2. Dawson-Boyd beat RTR in the playoff 72-70.

## Girls conference leaders listed

Saluting champions and other top teams from around the state of Minnesota:

**Chaska** was Metro West champion at 14-0, followed by Benilde-St. Margaret's with 12-2 and Orono at 8-4 .... **Hopkins** won the Lake with 11-1, followed by St. Michael-Albertville and Wayzata, each 9-3 ... **Maple Grove** went 19-0 in the 14-team Northwest Suburban, followed by Elk River at 15-4, and Centennial and Rogers, each 9-5 .... **East Ridge** won the Suburban East at 17-1, followed by White Bear Lake at 15-3 and Stillwater at 14-4 .... **Rochester Mayo** won a close race in the Big Nine among 12 teams with 17-3, followed by Mankato East 18-4, Austin 17-5, Red Wing 16-6 and Century 15-7 .... **Lakeville North** was South Suburban champ at 14-3, followed by Prior Lake and Rosemount, each 11-6.

**Alexandria** went 14-0 in the Central Lakes, followed by Sartell-St. Stephen at 12-2 and Sauk Rapids-Rice at 8-6 .... **Stewartville** won the Hiawatha Valley Gold at 9-1 with Rochester Lourdes second at 8-2 and Byron at 7-3 .... **Mahtomedi** went 14-0 in the Metro East for the second straight season. Hasting was 11-3 and Hill-Murray 9-5 .... **St. Peter** won the Big South East at 8-0, with New Ulm 6-2 for second place ... **Luverne** won the Big South West at 11-1, followed by Marshall with 7-1... **Becker** went 14-0 in the Mississippi 8. Tying for second were Cambridge-Isanti and Monticello, each 11-3 .... **DeLaSalle** and **Holy Angels** were Tri-Metro co-champions with 13-2 ledgers, followed by Robbinsdale Cooper at 10-3 ... **Grand Rapids** was Lake Superior champ with 10-0, followed by Proctor 7-2 and Cloquet 6-5

**Albany** was 14-0 in the Granite Ridge, followed by Foley 10-4 .... St. Croix Lutheran went 12-0 in the Skyline. Maranatha Christian was next at 10-2 .... **Holdingford** was 13-0 in the Central Minnesota, followed by Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa at 11-3 and Royalton 9-5 .... **Crosby-Ironton**, **Detroit Lakes** and **Pequot Lakes** were tri-champs in the Mid-State, each 8-2 ... **Minneota** won the Camden South with a 10-0 mark, followed by Tracy-Milroy-Balaton at 7-3. **Lac qui Parle Valley** won the Camden North with 12-0, followed by Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg 9-3. LQPV beat Minneota 54-41 in the playoff.

# MBBN BOYS TOP 20 (FINAL)

## CLASS 4A

1. Park Center 23-2
2. Lakeville North 23-3
3. Wayzata 21-4
4. Minnetonka 20-6
5. Eastview 19-7
6. East Ridge 20-6
7. Andover 19-7
8. Hopkins 17-8
9. Edina 15-11
10. Brainerd 21-5
11. Maple Grove 20-6
12. White Bear Lake 18-7
13. Buffalo 20-6
14. Shakopee 16-10
15. Stillwater 17-9
16. Duluth East 19-7
17. Farmington 16-10
18. Lakeville South 15-11
19. Blaine 15-11
20. Osseo 14-12

*Note: records are through Tuesday.*

## CLASS 3A

1. Totino-Grace 18-8
2. Benilde-St. Margaret's 22-4
3. DeLaSalle 21-5
4. Orono 21-5
5. St. Thomas Academy 21-5
6. Mahtomedi 23-3
7. Alexandria 21-4
8. Princeton 21-5
9. South St. Paul 19-7
10. Mankato East 21-5
11. Stewartville 22-4
12. Delano 19-7
13. Herman-town 20-6
14. St. Paul Johnson 16-7
15. New Ulm 20-5
16. St. Anthony Village 16-10
17. St. Paul Highland Park 14-7
18. Rocori 17-9
19. Austin 16-10
20. Worthington 19-6

## CLASS 2A

1. Holy Family Catholic 24-2
2. Lake City 24-1
3. Maranatha Christian 23-3
4. Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial 25-1
5. Maple River 24-2
6. Minneapolis North 18-8
7. Albany 25-1
8. Minnehaha Academy 18-8
9. Esko 22-3
10. Thief River Falls 23-2
11. Plainview-Elgin-Millville 22-4
12. Perham 21-5
13. Mora 22-4
14. Norwood Young America 22-4
15. Minneapolis Edison 18-8
16. Waseca 20-6
17. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 20-6
18. Eden Valley-Watkins 20-6
19. Paynesville 20-7
20. Two Harbors 22-4

## CLASS 1A

1. Goodhue 23-3
2. Cass Lake-Bena 25-2
3. New Life Academy 21-5
4. Henning 25-1
5. Cherry 22-4
6. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 23-1
7. Spring Grove 25-1
8. Dawson-Boyd 22-3
9. Hayfield 21-6
10. Northland 23-2
11. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 22-4
12. Lyle-Pacelli 21-5
13. Lakeview 23-3
14. Border West 22-2
15. Sacred Heart 23-4
16. Nevis 20-6
17. Southwest MN Christian 22-4
18. Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 23-3
19. Fosston 22-5
20. Westbrook-Walnut-Grove 21-4

## AROUND THE STATE

**M**aple Grove upset boys Class 4A No. 1 Park Center 67-64 to close Northwest Suburban Conference play on March 3, led by 6-foot-9 Luke Palbicki with 14 points, eight rebounds and two blocks. Park Center (23-2) lost two of its last three games but still won the conference title ... The No. 12 **White Bear Lake** boys (18-7) won their last four regular-season games by a total of eight points, squeezing past Irondale 57-55, Cretin-Derham Hall 58-55, Mounds View 75-73, and Park 66-65. There were no game-winning shots, said coach Gregory Burke, but the Bears made defensive stops at the end of all four. Jack Janicki (21 ppg), Wyatt Hawks (15 ppg) and Jack Misgen (11 ppg) lead the Bears .... **Alfonzo Greene**, Concordia Academy, reached 2,000 points while scoring 20 in an 81-52 win over Mounds Park Academy on Friday. Greene is averaging 23.5 points. The Beacons' record is 2,519 by Zach Towle (2009) .... **Kaden Pieper**, Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elrosa senior, notched his 2,000th point while scoring 34 in a 76-59 win over Hancock on Friday. Pieper is averaging 26.6 points. The BBE record is 2,112 by Brad Goodwin (2014) .... **Aiden Carlson** of Northland got his 1,000th point on Feb. 28 against East Central, joining his twin brother **Nolan Carlson**, who did so on Dec. 20 against Chisholm. Northland (23-2) also has a 2,000-pointer, **Alex Wake**, who reached that milestone Dec. 16 against North Woods .... **Kent Hamre**, St. Michael-Albertville girls coach, logged his 400th victory, 76-62 over Minnetonka on Feb. 24. He's had two state champion teams .... **Tara Seifert**, Chaska girls coach, notched her 300th career win, 67-42 victory over Waconia in sectionals March 4. Her 2020-21 team was state champion ... According to Windom's stats on the MN Basketball Hub, **Henry Erickson** is scoring 24 points per game while also averaging 11.9 assists. The Winhawks are 17-10.



**Jack Janicki of White Bear Lake**

## U parts with legend Whalen; who'll stay?

**F**ive years ago, the signing of Lindsay Whalen as Gopher women's basketball coach was one of the most exciting hires in University of Minnesota history. The Hutchinson native, who was a superstar for both the Gophers and the Lynx, leading the U's only Final Four appearance, capturing three WNBA championships and more wins than anyone in league history, plus two Olympic golds, ranking as one of the most popular athletes in state history and a recent election to the Basketball Hall of Fame, had never been even an assistant coach, but naming her head coach as her pro career ended was irresistible and was universally hailed.



**Lindsay Whalen**

However, Whalen has not been able to generate the same magic as a coach, and the U of M made the painful decision to let her go following this year's 11-19 season, stating that it was a mutual decision. Along with the usual coaching challenges, she had to deal with COVID 19 and the transfer portal and NLI rules enacted after she was hired.

So, what now? The first new development after that announcement was that three of the four members of the Gophers' highly-rated, in-state recruiting class of 2022 stated their intention to stay at Minnesota, as reported by the Star-Tribune. Mara Braun, the former Wayzata star, Chaska's Mallory Heyer and Eden Prairie's Nia Holloway (injured this year) were three of the four players in recruiting class ranked 10th in the nation by ESPN. The fourth member, Amaya Battle, has not announced her decision, nor have Gopher upperclassmen Katie Borowicz, Maggie Czinano, Rose Micheaux and Sophie Hart.

Braun told the Star-Tribune that Whalen had urged her players to stay with the program. Several current players posted warm regards, appreciation and respect for Whalen on social media. "Lindsay was a big part of us coming here," Braun said. "She had a big impact on our lives already, playing for her for a year." Braun stressed that her main reason for choosing the U of M was to try make it a successful team again and she and the others staying intend to continue in that quest.

*Articles are written by Bruce Strand, MN Basketball News editor. Anyone with a suggestion for an article may send it to [bruce.a.strand@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.a.strand@gmail.com).*



# Oh My God! U does it again! Unbelievable....

by Jeff McCarron

I was just preparing a column - a couple years overdue - to congratulate the U on finally hiring two Minnesota natives who were also Gopher players as the head basketball coaches.

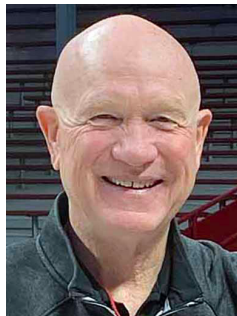
The leakage of in-state talent to other DI programs around the country has needed a tourniquet for years... and badly!

With Paige Bueckers and Jalen Suggs both earning Player of the Year awards in their freshman year, the nation is wondering "What the heck is happening in Minnesota? It's become a basketball state?"

It is safe to say that if all Minnesota high school grads became Gophers - like Ben Johnson and Lindsay Whalen did - the Gophers would annually be a Top 20 team for men and women and may have won an NCAA title or two...and definitely would have packed Williams Arena.

Finally, with two stay-at-home former Gophers at the helm, the U had the right people in place to start recruiting home talent. Not only are they home-grown, but they are good people and great role models - exactly the profile the U needs to finally establish long-lasting, highly-respectable programs.

Now Lindsay Whalen is out???? OMG! A dark history is repeating itself. Mark Coyle, please stop your "national search" in its tracks. That's fancy wording for "We think we are big time" when actually it means "We screwed up, but we are going to try to cover it by acting big-time" You have one of the sweetest, kindest, most competitive, hometown champions - a Gopher Final Four veteran, a WNBA champion, and an Olympic champion - within arms reach - able to continue building the championship team she knows how to



Jeff McCarron

build.

Great artwork takes time, and you have the artist. Let her create. Don't fall into that old trap of sacrificing progress and respect and continuity and sometimes moral values in pursuit of instant success. We are better than that and smarter than that in Minnesota - aren't we? The constant revolving door of head coaches in both the men's and women's programs has led to uncertainty and instability and fewer fans.

If you are looking at the Gopher women's season as a failure, you are delusional. A team with four freshmen and one sophomore most often on the floor had one heck of a season, battling some of the best teams in the country. Four freshmen - all from Minnesota - going head-to-head and beating or staying close with almost every team they faced!

Good people will build good programs if given time and support. After recruiting a Top 10 incoming group to go with her Fab Freshmen, Lindsay had everything coming into place. Unbelievable....

I was a Gopher when Bill Musselman was hired. He brought in some key players, won the Big Ten and packed Williams Arena his first year. Wow - what an admin hero he was! But he was also a self-centered, abusive, egomaniac. Of course, what followed was an on-court brawl, suspensions, and recruiting scandals - all an embarrassment to the U and the state of Minnesota. I don't think the U has ever recovered from "Musselman Syndrome", wanting lightning in a jar - always seeking a new coach or a "name" coach - as if that is the remedy to heal its revolving door wounds.

I don't know the whole story. Maybe Lindsay wanted out. I doubt it. But I can't stay quiet when I see a sordid history of revolving door hiring and firing at the U of M repeat itself just when the discovery of REAL GOLD - integrity and championship basketball with a foundation of Minnesota-grown players and coaches - was finally within our grasp.

There's still time. Bring her back. Please....





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