

Minnesota Basketball News 2026 Top 100 Expo Showcase

College of St. Benedict · St. Joseph, MN · Thursday, July 2

Information

Top players are being invited from Minnesota and nearby states to participate in a two-part program: a College Prep Camp on Wednesday, July 1 and the Top 100 Expo Showcase on Thursday, July 2. The College Prep camp is optional, but it is highly recommended for all players as it will be conducted by the Expo coaching staff.

Commemorative Jersey

Each player registered by **Friday, June 5** for the Expo will receive a high-quality reversible numbered Top 100 Expo Showcase Jersey. Every effort will be made to supply requested sizes.

Top 100 Expo Showcase approximate schedule

The morning session will begin at 8:25 a.m. Between 8:10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., players will organize as teams, get jerseys, have photos taken, practice with their coaches, eat lunch, play three games, hear a “Coaches’ Talk on Preparing to Play College Basketball”, and attend a final closing ceremony, where teams and individual players are recognized: all-star team, championship team, runner-up, and MVP.

Exposure: MN BB News Staff

The Top 100 Expo Showcase is an exposure camp which provides all players on the Player Watch List with an opportunity for exposure to the members of the Minnesota Basketball News staff who select the Top 100 Players List for the following season. It should be understood that players are getting exposure for potential selection to the Top 100 List, which is the reason for the "Top 100 Expo" title of the event. This program is not suggesting the players who attend are "the Top 100 Players" in Minnesota – rather they are candidates seeking to be named to the Top 100. Approximately 400 players in each gender are being invited from Minnesota and the five-state area, and the event is limited to 80 boys and 80 girls. Minnesota Basketball News will be selecting a Top 100 Player List - the Top 50 girls and Top 50 boys – in every class for the 2026-2027 season - a total of 400 players.

Exposure: College Coaches

All head college coaches in MN-IA-WI-ND-SD-NE are being invited to attend. There is no guarantee how many will attend. In the past a total of 20-25 college coaches in attendance at the Expo is the average range. The number of college coaches that attend is often related directly to the quality and number of players that make up the Expo roster. **Expo players can also influence the attendance of college coaches** by suggesting to any coaches recruiting them that the college staff could watch them play three games in one day at the Expo against other college-bound players.

Player Profiles

Each player will fill out Player Profile information, which will be presented in a Player Profile booklet to all college coaches in attendance and those who request one.

Expo Program

Players will be assigned to teams of 7-8 players and assigned a coach. Coaches will hold a practice to install an offense and cover any special teaching areas. Teams will play three games with each game being four 8-minute stopped time quarters. Players will be rotated throughout each game for balanced playing time.

Contests and Awards

For both boys and girls, ten players will receive All-Star awards, and one player will receive the Most Valuable Player award. Photos will be taken of these players and posted on the Pacesetter Sports website at www.pacesettersports.net. The photos will also be published in the July edition of Minnesota Basketball News.

All players should plan to stay through the conclusion of the final ceremonies at 5:00 p.m.

Meals/time between sessions

Players will be provided with a nutritious lunch on Thursday in the dining hall. Meals will NOT be provided to parents and other spectators, but they are welcome to eat at the all-you-can-eat Gorecki Dining Center and pay on their own. There are also restaurants and fast-food options in St. Joseph.

College Prep Camp

The one-day Pacesetter College Prep Camp will be offered to all players from 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1. Paul McDonald, former head men's coach at Vermilion Community College and a long-time Expo director, will be the camp director. Coach McDonald took teams to the Minnesota state tournament 23 years in a row and is the son of Bob McDonald, who is the winningest boys' coach in Minnesota history with 1000+ wins. Paul also played on Minnesota high school state championship teams in 1973 and 1975 and played college basketball at the University of Nebraska and South Dakota State.

The camp staff will feature other current or former college coaches and former top college players, so the player-coach ratio and college-prep instruction will be excellent.

Players will be guided through the coaches' program designed to teach the most important skills to prepare players for college basketball. Players will also be given repetitions and competition to help them warm up for the Expo - without making the program too physically draining.

Players attending the College Prep Camp and the Top 100 Expo Showcase will be on their own between the end of the College Prep Camp at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday and the beginning of the Top 100 Expo at 8:10 a.m. Thursday. Parents should plan independent housing, meals, and supervision accordingly. A block of rooms has been reserved for Wednesday night, July 1, at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud.

Fees:

College Prep Camp only: \$80

Top 100 Expo Showcase only: \$170 (includes lunch & \$50 jersey)

College Prep camp and Top 100 Expo: \$240 (includes lunch on Thursday & jersey)

Parents and families

Parents and families are invited and encouraged to attend all sessions of both the College Prep Camp and the Top 100 Expo Showcase. Seating will be available at each court.

Contact Information

In case of an emergency, parents may call Jeff McCarron at (cell) 320-290-3497 or (office) 320-243-7460. The general phone number for The College of St. Benedict is 320-363-5011.