The Minnesota Golden Gophers men 's basketball team represents the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus . The Golden Gophers have played in the Big Ten since the conference began sponsoring basketball in 1905 and play their home games in Williams Arena . The Gophers also have a huge rivalry with Wisconsin Badgers .

The Gophers had great success in the early years of basketball, but have been largely overshadowed by other programs since the end of World War I. In total, the Gophers have won nine Big Ten championships, but only four since 1919. College basketball research organizations have retroactively awarded Minnesota national championships in 1902, 1903, and 1919.

The team has also had several instances of NCAA sanctions on the program that have affected performance and recruiting . In the 1970s , the Gophers were in a violent brawl with the Ohio State Buckeyes and were barred from post @-@ season appearances for two seasons after an incident involving the illegal resale of tickets . Still more severe was the mid @-@ 1990s academic scandal under then @-@ coach Clem Haskins that resulted in the forfeit of a Final Four appearance .

## = = Coaches = =

Initially, the Gophers team formed without any organized coach. L. J. Cooke took over the team in 1897. Cooke was put on the University payroll on a part @-@ time basis in early 1897 and full @-@ time by the fall; this made him one of the earliest professional coaches.

Cooke remained the coach of the Gophers for 28 seasons, and his .649 winning percentage is the second highest in school history. Dave MacMillan, who coached the team from 1927 to 1942 and 1945 to 1948, had the second longest tenure as coach at 18 seasons. John Wooden almost succeeded McMillan as Gophers head coach; Wooden claims that a dispute over retaining McMillan as an assistant coach and a delayed phone call led him to accept the job at UCLA instead

The Gophers have had several NBA coaches grace the sidelines . John Kundla took over as Gophers head coach after the Minneapolis Lakers departed for Los Angeles . Bill Fitch and Bill Musselman both coached the team for a couple seasons before departing for the NBA and ABA respectively , where each had success and coached for many years .

The program has had a fair degree of stability with their coaching staff . Tubby Smith became the 16th head coach in Gopher basketball history when hired in 2007; this total includes interim coaches Jim Molinari and Jimmy Williams . Five coaches led the team for more than 10 seasons: Cooke, McMillan, O. B. Cowles, Jim Dutcher, and Clem Haskins. On March 25, 2013, Tubby Smith was fired after failing to reach the Sweet Sixteen again. The Gophers hired Richard Pitino on April 3, 2013.

## = = Players = =

The Golden Gophers have had many successful players come through the program throughout its history . In the early years of basketball , when the Gophers had success , they recruited some of the best players in the country . George Tuck was a dominant center , and the first All @-@ America for the Gophers in 1905 . Frank Lawler was another early star : he led the Big Ten in scoring in 1911 and was also named to the All @-@ America team , and helped the Gophers to a contested conference title .

In 1950, Lawler was named the greatest player in Gopher basketball history, but the subsequent decades of Gopher basketball have largely forgotten his legacy. Hall of Fame coach John Kundla was also a Gophers star and helped lead the team to its 1937 Big Ten Championship.

With the decline of the stature of the Gophers program, fewer elite players have joined the team. The diminished reputation has not, however, prevented some superior athletes from coming to the Minneapolis campus. Lou Hudson played thirteen years in the NBA and had his number retired. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield played for the Gophers in the early 1970s, and he played at

the same time as star post player Jim Brewer . Mychal Thompson was a Gophers star and was the first overall pick in the 1978 NBA Draft . Among Thompson 's teammates were former Minnesota Timberwolves , Detroit Pistons and Washington Wizards head coach Flip Saunders , as well as basketball hall of fame forward Kevin McHale . Trent Tucker led the 1982 squad to the Big Ten Championship . Voshon Lenard was a key player for the Gophers in the early 1990s and went on to play more than a decade in the NBA . Willie Burton once scored 53 points in an NBA game with the Philadelphia 76ers . Other former Gophers with long NBA careers include Randy Breuer , Mark Olberding , Archie Clark , and Ray Williams . Five players from the 1997 Final Four team played in the NBA : Bobby Jackson , Sam Jacobson , Quincy Lewis , John Thomas , and Trevor Winter . Currently several former Gophers play in the NBA , including Joel Przybilla and Kris Humphries . Jamal Abu @-@ Shamala , a Jordanian @-@ American , plays internationally for the Jordan national basketball team .

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= = = Current roster = = =

This roster is current for the 2015 ? 16 men 's basketball season .

= = = Retired numbers = = =

= = History = =

= = Program establishment ( 1895 ? 1927 ) = = =
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The precise founding of the Gophers men 's basketball program at the University of Minnesota is somewhat nebulous . Unlike many other universities with later foundations , the team did not form as a conscious act of the campus administration . The University 's student newspaper at the time , the Ariel , reported on basketball throughout 1895 as the sport was introduced to the campus from a rival school , Minnesota A & M in St. Paul , later incorporated into the larger University of Minnesota Twin Cities . In 1896 , a team from the school began to participate in a league with the Agriculture school , YMCA teams , and other local associations . The establishment of the Armory on @-@ campus gave the team a new place to play . In February 1897 , L. J. Cooke , a director of the Minneapolis YMCA , was hired on a part @-@ time basis to coach the basketball program , and became the full @-@ time coach and director of physical education by the fall of that year . Cooke was one of the first full @-@ time professional coaches in all of college basketball and would remain at the program for 28 seasons .

Cooke began to improve the team significantly and was responsible for shifts in the Gophers' scheduling that foreshadowed other changes to come . The team never played a YMCA team after the 1903 ? 04 season , and beginning in 1900 , began to schedule large neighboring universities that would join Minnesota in Big Ten competition . This shift to playing similar competition helped the Gophers to become one of the premier programs in the nation . From the 1899 ? 00 to 1903 ? 04 seasons , the Gophers had a 59 ? 6 record . The 1901 ? 02 squad has been retroactively named the national champions by both the Helms Foundation and the Premo @-@ Porretta Power Poll ; the Premo @-@ Porretta poll also names the 1902 ? 03 Gophers as national champions . When the Big Ten established basketball in 1905 , the Gophers won the first two conference titles .

After 1907, Cooke 's dominance of the national basketball scene was greatly reduced. He led the team to two more conference titles ( 1916 ? 17 , 1918 ? 19 ), and one consensus retroactive national championship for the 1918 ? 19 season, but the team was never the consistent winner that it was in the first decade under Cooke. He retired after the 1923 ? 1924 season. His successor, Harold Taylor, was Cooke 's assistant coach in his final season and had previously a successful high school coach; however, he had little success with the Gophers and was fired after never finishing higher than sixth in the conference in three forgettable seasons.

Following the firing of Harold Taylor as coach , the program underwent a national search for a successor . Many of the candidates for the job were high profile coaches of other conference foes . The team opted , however , to hire Dave MacMillan , who had been coaching the University of Idaho for the previous seven seasons and had previously played for the Original Celtics during the 1910s . McMillan would dominate the program for the next thirty years , coaching the team from 1927 to 1942 and again from 1945 to 1948 .

McMillan 's teams in 1928 began to play in the University of Minnesota Field House , a new on @-@ campus arena . Basketball had been off @-@ campus for several seasons when the team moved downtown . McMillan 's teams had middling success . His 1930 ? 31 and 1931 ? 32 teams competed near the top of the Big Ten , but his teams dropped off again until 1936 . John Kundla joined the team for the 1936 ? 1937 season and helped the team to the Big Ten Championship , which was ended up being its last until 1972 . McMillan 's squad also competed in a tournament in 1936 to represent the United States in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin ; the team advanced several rounds before being ousted by DePaul . Many Gophers players in this era were recruited from Minneapolis public high schools , and in some seasons this even constituted a majority of the roster . McMillan resigned in 1942 , but returned in 1945 after three poor seasons for the Gophers in the interim . When he resigned for the second time in 1948 , he was replaced by O. B. Cowles .

Cowles was known for playing slower tempo basketball like was most common in the 1920s and 1930s and was known as a defensive @-@ minded coach , especially early in his career . His squads were led by two @-@ time All @-@ American Jim McIntyre and three @-@ time NBA Champion Whitey Skoog for the early years of his career and Big Ten MVP Chuck Mencel for the middle ones . Another notable Gophers star from the era was Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Bud Grant . Cowles squads were consistent winners , and he had a .612 winning percentage at the school . The Gophers were unable to win a Big Ten title , however , despite a solid nucleus in Cowles ' early seasons . The team finished fourth or better in the conference seven times in Cowles ' eleven seasons as Gophers head coach .

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= = = Kundla and Fitch (1959 ? 1971) = = =
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In 1959 , John Kundla stayed behind in Minneapolis as the Lakers prepared to leave town and succeeded O. B. Cowles as head coach of the Golden Gophers . Kundla remained head coach until 1968 . In 1963 , he broke the color barrier in the Minnesota program and recruited three African @-@ American players to come to the school . One of these first three players was Lou Hudson , who played in the NBA and was the first Gopher to have his number retired by the school . The other two players recruited by Kundla , Archie Clark and Don Yates , also were both drafted by NBA teams . That trio helped the Gophers to a third place Big Ten finish in 1963 ? 64 and a second @-@ place finish in 1964 ? 65 , but those were the high points for Kundla 's collegiate career . Kundla 's personal assessment of his Gophers career was that his personal weaknesses in recruiting were marring the team by the end of his tenure .

Kundla was succeeded by Bowling Green head coach Bill Fitch . Fitch remained with the Gophers for two seasons before being hired by the Cleveland Cavaliers as their first head coach in 1970 to make the leap to the NBA , where he later won an NBA title as coach of the Boston Celtics . Fitch did recruit Jim Brewer before he left , laying the first seed for the 1972 Big Ten title . George Hanson , a longtime assistant coach at the school , was hired as his replacement , but resigned after only one season .

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= = = Musselman and NCAA sanctions (1971 ? 1975) = = =
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The Gophers under Athletics Director Marsh Ryman hired Cal Luther away from Murray State to coach the team in 1971, but he changed his mind and turned the team down after accepting the

position . Instead , Bill Musselman took over the program . Musselman was a defensive minded coach and designed his team around Brewer , recruiting several junior college players . University of Minnesota baseball star Dave Winfield walked on as the sixth man after the Ohio State incident . The starters on the 1971 ? 72 squad after Ohio State became known as the " Iron Five . " Musselman 's strategy succeeded , and the team took the Big Ten title , the first since 1937 . The other Big Ten coaches did not approve of Musselman 's recruiting posture as they all had gathered and agreed not to recruit Ron Behagen into the Big Ten because he was known as a troublemaker . Musselman had not been named Head Coach of Minnesota at that time and therefore was unaware of the internal agreement and therefore recruited what he thought were the best players available .

In 1973, former player Greg Olson accused Musselman of having attempted to strike him in a practice. It was also revealed that Olson had sold complimentary season tickets to a booster named Harvey Mackay, which prompted NCAA investigations. Musselman 's coaching style also brought about significant transfers away from the Minnesota program to other schools. In 1975, Musselman resigned and was named the head coach of the San Diego Sails of the ABA. After his resignation, Musselman admitted to giving money to players for rent and transportation. These charges, coupled with the earlier ticket selling scandal and other transgressions regarding payments and aid revolving around Harvey Mackay, resulted in a list from the NCAA of more than 100 rule violations in Musselman 's four seasons at the school. The extent of the consequences would not be known until early in Jim Dutcher 's eleven season tenure as Gophers head coach.

= = = Success, and scandal, under Haskins (1986? 1999) = = =

Clem Haskins was hired as the Gopher basketball coach in 1986, expected to clean up and rebuild the Gopher program which had been torn apart by the Madison sexual assault allegations ( of which the players were later acquitted ) during the final year of coach Jim Dutcher. Though wins did not come easily in the first couple years of Haskins regime, by the 1988? 89 season he had the Gophers in the NCAA tournament as a # 11 seed, and directed a Cinderella run into the Sweet 16. In the 1989? 90 season Haskins led the Gophers to the Elite Eight, and the team came within a basket of reaching their first ever Final Four. Though Haskins led the Gophers to post @-@ season success in his first three seasons, the 1990 Elite Eight appearance would be the last time under Haskins the Gophers would " officially " appear in the NCAA tournament.

= = = = Academic fraud scandal = = = =

On March 10 , 1999 , the day before the # 7 seed Gophers were to open the NCAA tournament against # 10 Gonzaga , the St. Paul Pioneer Press ran a story detailing allegations of massive academic fraud in the men 's basketball program . Former basketball office manager Jan Gangelhoff had gone to the newspaper claiming she had written over 400 papers for at least 20 Gopher men 's basketball players over a period of several years , ending in 1998 . When the Gophers played Gonzaga on March 11 , the University suspended players Antoine Broxsie , Kevin Clark , Jason Stanford , and Miles Tarver since they allegedly had papers written for them by Ganglehoff in previous seasons . With their roster depleted , the Gophers lost to Gonzaga , the season came to an end , and an internal investigation at the University began .

By June 1999 and in the midst of their investigation , the university had negotiated a buyout of the remainder of Haskins ' contract , worth \$ 1 @.@ 5 million over three years . It also withdrew from postseason consideration in the 1999 @-@ 2000 season and docked itself 11 scholarships over four years . In the summer of 2000 , Haskins came forward and admitted that he had paid Gangelhoff \$ 3 @,@ 000 for her services ; this revelation came to light after Haskins turned his financial records over to the NCAA . In addition , more details were emerging in which Haskins was also accused of mail fraud in an incident regarding a recruit 's transcript , giving players cash , dismissing sexual harassment concerns against his players , as well as his staff trying to persuade professors to give his players inflated grades they had not earned .

After the details of Haskins 'ever @-@ growing involvement became more clear, the University

initiated legal action to recover the buyout money. A judge ultimately ruled that Haskins must return just over half of the original \$ 1 @.@ 5 million buyout.

During this time an NCAA investigation was also underway. Ultimately, it revealed that Minnesota was guilty of massive violations under Haskins 'watch. The NCAA stripped the Gophers of all postseason awards, titles, personal records, and statistics dating back to the 1993? 94 season citing a "lack of institutional control." Haskins was also slapped with a seven @-@ year "show @-@ cause "order, which effectively banned him from coaching at any level in the NCAA until 2007. Besides lying about the \$3 @,@ 000 payment, he had also told several of his players to lie to the NCAA. Later, the Big Ten forced the Gophers to vacate their 1997 conference title, as well as all regular season games dating to 1993? 94. As a result, Minnesota's official record from 1993? 94 to 1998? 99 is 0? 0. If not for the vacated games, Haskins would be the second @-@ winningest coach in school history.

In addition , the NCAA docked the Gophers an additional five scholarships over the following three seasons , and also imposed recruiting limitations and department @-@ wide probation lasting four years .

In addition to Haskins , Athletic Director Mark Dienhart , Vice President for Athletics , Student Development McKinley Boston , Associate Athletics Director Jeff Schemmel and academic counselor Alonzo Newby also resigned . The University also agreed to return 90 % (approximately \$350 @,@ 000) of the profits earned by the basketball program during their appearances in the NCAA tournament , including the 1997 Final Four run .

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= = = The Monson era (1999 ? 2006) = = =
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Following Haskins ' departure , the University hired Gonzaga 's Dan Monson to be their next head coach , who coincidentally had just beaten the Gophers in the NCAA Tournament the previous March . Monson was the coach for part of eight seasons . However , during his tenure the scholarship reductions took their full effect , making it difficult for him to recruit on the same level as the rest of the Big Ten . His Gopher teams only made the NCAA tournament once , in 2004 @-@ 05 . Monson almost left the Minnesota program for the University of Washington following the 2001 ? 02 season , but was thought of highly by the athletics department under Tom Moe and was persuaded to stay despite limited success . These trends did not reverse after he remained at the program .

During his final full season the Gophers were 5 ? 11 in Big Ten play , and after a 2 ? 5 start to open the 2006 ? 07 season , Monson and Athletics Director Joel Maturi announced Monson 's resignation on November 30 , 2006 . Despite Monson 's inability to field a consistent winner , he was lauded by University officials for bringing integrity and cleanliness back to the program . Assistant coach Jim Molinari was named head coach on an interim basis and , after a 3 ? 13 Big Ten record to finish the season , was not retained as head coach . Maturi began an extensive search for a new permanent head coach at season 's end .

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= = = The Tubby era ( 2007 ? 2013 ) = = =
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On March 23, 2007, Maturi made a move that surprised many when he hired Tubby Smith after he resigned from the University of Kentucky to be the next head Gopher basketball coach. Smith 's name recognition and winning reputation gave the program a new optimism, something it badly needed to counter its dwindling fan interest.

Smith 's coaching had an immediate impact on the previously unsuccessful Gophers squad . The team went from 8 ? 22 in 2006 ? 07 to 20 ? 13 in 2007 ? 08 . Smith also led the Golden Gophers to the Big Ten Tournament semi @-@ finals after defeating 2nd seeded Indiana . Coach Smith also signed a top 25 recruiting class , the best in years for the program . Smith returned Minnesota to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2005 in the 2008 @-@ 09 season . Smith 's team struggled throughout the 2009 @-@ 10 season with off @-@ court issues , but advanced to the championship game in the Big Ten Tournament for the first time in school history ( losing to regular season co

@-@ champion Ohio State ) and made the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive season . On March 25, 2013, Smith was relieved of his coaching duties at Minnesota.

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= = = The Richard Pitino Era (2013 ? Present) = = =
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On April 3 , 2013 , Richard Pitino , son of Louisville coach Rick Pitino , verbally agreed to coach the Golden Gophers . On April 3 , after missing out on the NCAA tournament , the Gophers responded by winning the 2014 NIT championship trophy by defeating SMU . As a result , Pitino claimed his first championship with the team . Following the success of an NIT championship , the Gophers hoped to qualify for the NCAA tournament the following year . However , the team struggled and finished with only six wins in the conference and did not qualify for any major tournament . The 2016 season was a disaster for the Gophers as they only managed to win two conference games . The lone bright spot came during a late season upset against ranked Maryland to give the Gophers their first conference win on the season . Despite the lack of success on the court , the Gophers were able to get Amir Coffey , a highly ranked player from Hopkins to commit to the men 's basketball program .

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= = = Awards = = =
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Big Ten MVP Chuck Mencel ? 1955 Jim Brewer ? 1972 Mychal Thompson ? 1978 Bobby Jackson? 1997 (later revoked due the academic fraud scandal) Big Ten Coach of the Year Jim Dutcher ? 1982 Clem Haskins? 1997 (later revoked due to the academic fraud scandal) Henry Iba Award (National Coach of the Year) Clem Haskins ? 1997 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Bobby Jackson? 1997 (later revoked due the academic fraud scandal) Travarus Bennett ? 2002 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Rick Rickert ? 2002 Kris Humphries ? 2004 Consensus All @-@ Americans Jim McIntyre ? 1948 Dick Garmaker ? 1955 Mychal Thompson ? 1978 Academic All @-@ American Blake Hoffarber - 2011 (2nd Team)

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= = = Post @-@ season = = =
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The Gophers enjoyed fairly regular post season appearances under former coach Clem Haskins , making the post season in 10 of his 13 seasons as coach ( 6 NCAA tournament , 4 NIT ) , including all of his last 8 seasons . The team advanced to one Final 4 , one Elite 8 , one Sweet 16 , one second round appearance , and suffered two first round losses . However , after the academic fraud scandal in 1999 , the last 6 years of post season records were wiped out . So officially , the Gophers made 2 NCAA Tournament and 2 NIT appearances in the 13 years Haskins was coach . They advanced to the Elite 8 in 1990 , the Sweet 16 in 1989 , and were NIT champions in 1993 .

The Gophers saw some moderate success in the early 1980s, appearing in the 1980, 1981, and 1983 NITs and the 1982 NCAA Tournament, where they advanced to the Sweet 16.

Multiple problems plagued the Gophers during the 1976? 1977 season, Jim Dutcher 's 2nd as head coach. Heading into the season the team knew they would not be eligible for the post season because of sanctions from the Bill Musselman era. Even so, this turned out to be one of the best teams in Gopher history, with the team finishing at 24? 3. But if not being post @-@ season eligible was not punishment enough, it was later found out that Mychal Thompson had sold two complimentary tickets to Gopher home games. When it was discovered, the profits were donated to University of Minnesota scholarship funds. The school and several prominent supporters, including Senator Wendell Anderson attempted to back Thompson and the team. Nevertheless, when the NCAA discovered Thompson 's act, Minnesota 's record for the season was forfeited and the accomplishments of that season are considered unofficial and not included in NCAA records.

= = = NCAA tournament results = = =

The Golden Gophers have appeared in the NCAA Tournament 12 times. Their combined record is 13 ? 12 . However, their tournament appearances from 1994 ? 1999 have been vacated making their official record 8 ? 8 .

\* Vacated by the NCAA

= = = NIT results = = =

The Golden Gophers have appeared in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) fifteen times. Their combined record is 33? 12. They were NIT Champions in 1993, 1998 and 2014. However, their tournament appearances in 1996 and 1998 have been vacated, including their 1998 title, making their official record 27? 11.

\* Vacated by the NCAA

= = Facilities = =

When the Gophers first organized , they played games in the on campus YMCA . In 1896 , the team moved into the campus Armory , a large building with gymnasium space for the team to use , even if basketball was not its primary purpose . They remained in the Armory for almost thirty years . Halfway through the 1924 ? 25 season , coach Harold Taylor moved the team from the University Armory to the Kenwood Armory in downtown Minneapolis . This significantly increased the attendance ; capacity at the University Armory was 2 @,@ 000 , and it was 6 @,@ 500 at Kenwood . The team only played at Kenwood for a few seasons , however , as the University of Minnesota Field House ? later known as Williams Arena ? opened partway through the 1927 ? 1928 season . The team moved in on January 31 , 1928 .

The Field House increased attendance capacity further , to 9 @,@ 500 . It was named after Henry L. Williams , the former Minnesota Golden Gophers football coach in 1950 , and was named after him when it was remodeled and expanded in 1950 , bringing the arena to a capacity of 18 @,@ 025 , which was the largest in the country for twenty years and significantly larger than the capacity of Williams Arena today . Gophers fans refer to Williams Arena as the Barn . Consequently , the student section is known as The Barn . Williams Arena was remodeled in 1993 again , to create a new facility for the women 's team to use . The team continues to play there to this day , making it one of the longest used arenas of any college basketball team and the oldest arena in the Big 10 . Williams Arena is also one of the few remaining arenas with a raised court , in which players have to go up stairs to reach the playing surface .

= = Rivals = =

In the early years of the program, the Gophers had several rivalries that have not extended into the modern era. Among them was a rivalry with Hamline University, now a Division III school in St. Paul. Hamline had one of the earliest college basketball programs in the country and it was several

years before Minnesota competed on equal footing with them; they played as late as 1935. The greatest rival of the early years of the program was the Minnesota Aggies, representing the Minnesota School of Agriculture and Mining, which has since been incorporated into the University of Minnesota Twin Cities as the St. Paul campus. Minnesota A & M dominated the Gophers, winning ten consecutive games; Minnesota did not get its first win against the Aggies until 1899. This rivalry expired especially early, and the two teams did not meet after 1901. The University of Minnesota is currently the only Division I basketball school in the state of Minnesota, so there are no intense intra @-@ border rivalries as there are in most states.

The Gophers were also an active participant in the early rivalry between Eastern schools and Midwestern schools for basketball preeminence . Minnesota broke up a stretch of Ivy League dominance from 1901 to 1906 with their successful 1902 season . The Eastern teams - Yale , Columbia , and Dartmouth were early powers - played with a more physical approach , while Midwestern teams used a different method . Wisconsin coach Walter Meanwell used the motion offense and " stress [ ed ] finesse . " W.C. Hyatt , who played for Yale , claimed that " The Minnesota and Wisconsin men played in the style prevalent among most of the girl colleges in the East , that is , the 'no contact 'game ."

In the modern era of the program , as is the case with most Big Ten sports , Minnesota 's primary rivals are the Iowa Hawkeyes and Wisconsin Badgers . In recent years , the rivalry with Wisconsin has become more intense than that with Iowa , primarily due to Wisconsin 's recent successes on the court . Minnesota and Wisconsin 's games together count towards the Border Battle , an annual trophy given to the points winner of several sports played between the two schools throughout the year .

The Gophers also have a less heralded rivalry with Ohio State . The two teams have very little history together , outside of the 1972 brawl between the teams at Williams Arena . That incident still lingers in the hearts of many long @-@ time Buckeye fans .

= = Results by season = =

Records unofficial due to academic scandal