

C10 • STAR TRIBUNE

SPORTS

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### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Louisville loses its 2013 crown

The university's appeal was denied by the NCAA.

by MARK TREACY  
New York Times

The NCAA upheld penalties against the Louisville men's basketball program related to a scandal involving players, recruits and front office, and ordered the university to forfeit dozens of victories, including its 2013 national championship.

Louisville university's interim president, Greg Poyel, strongly disagreed with the appeals panel's decision. "I cannot say this strongly enough: We believe the NCAA is simply wrong," Poyel wrote.

The scandal under examination by the panel first came to light in 2015 when a woman said that Andre McGee, a former Louisville player then serving on the basketball staff, had solicited her escort service. For several years, the coach and McGee had arranged for prospects and recruits to be entertained by the women in an on-campus dormitory.

Poyel denied all knowledge of these activities, and last year the NCAA's Committee on Infractions did not disagree. But it still found he had failed to monitor his staff for compliance with NCAA rules, and it imposed several penalties on the program, including a five-game suspension for Poyel, on top of sanctions the school previously imposed on itself.

Louisville had declined to appeal those punishments in 2016, after the scandal came to light but before the NCAA could rule on it. They included sitting out that season's ACC and NCAA tournaments, despite a highly regarded squad.



Gophers forward Dostiny Pitts (33) passed the ball over the Huskies' Rym Ruyter in the first half at Williams Arena on Tuesday night. Pitts had 10 points, but was 0-for-7 on three pointers.

## Cold front hits Gophers

**• GOPHERS** from C3

The Gophers shot only 26.2 percent for the game, including 28.2 percent in the second half. Wagner also pointed out they could have attacked more once Indiana got into foul trouble.

"We should've been driving harder from the beginning," Wagner said.

The Gophers got off to a quick start, but it faded out a lot with the ball once we got it back," Stollings said.

The Gophers (21-7, 20-5 Big Ten) forced 21 turnovers and had 18 steals but scored only 26 points off turnovers. Indiana (16-12, 9-6) also won the rebound battle 42-29.

Stollings said she was disappointed in her team's reaction to those empty possessions.

"Rather than going and getting the ball, I thought we hung out and held a little ball," Stollings said. "And they [Indiana] ran the ball right back down our court."

Wagner, along with senior teammates Jessie Edwards and Bryanna Ferrstrom, were honored before the game for Senior Night. Wagner is the only one of the three who has played for the Gophers for the past four years.

"This is my home away from home," Wagner said. "It's been an amazing ride, and it's not over."

The loss ended a six-game home winning streak for the Gophers. It was just their second loss at home this season (3-2) as they finished their four-game home stand with a 3-4 record.

The Huskies won their eighth game in a row, continuing the longest active streak in the Big Ten after they started conference play 6. They were led by their top scorer, senior Tyra Buss, who finished with 26 points, hitting seven three-pointers.

**INDIANA VS. GOPHERS**

MIN	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
INDIANA	66	44	14	11	2
GOPHERS	56	24	11	11	2

**INDIANA VS. GOPHERS**

MIN	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
INDIANA	10	12	2	2	0
GOPHERS	10	10	2	2	0

### ROUNDUP



Michigan State players posed with their Big Ten championship trophy, the eighth for the program under coach Tom Izzo.

## Spartans score share of Big Ten championship

**NEWS SERVICES**

**No. 14 Ohio State 79, Rutgers 52:** Jackson had 18 points to help the host Buckeyes (23-2, 14-1 Big Ten) bow the Scarlet Knights (11-17, 3-14), following tough losses at Penn State and Michigan that dropped Ohio State out of the Big Ten title race.

**Nebraska 66, Indiana 57:** James Farmer scored 25 points as the host Cornhuskers (21-9, 12-3) resumed their NCAA tournament pursuit by beating the Huskies (16-13, 9-8), whose four-game winning streak ended.

**Notes**

**No. 18 Rhode Island 95, La Salle 93 (OT):** Jeff Dowlin scored 25 points, including four key free throws in the final seconds, and the Rams (22-4, 14-1) clinched a share of the Atlantic 10 title by beating the host Explorers (12-20).

**No. 1 West Virginia 71, Baylor 66:** Sergio Escobar had 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine blocks as the Mountaineers (20-8, 9-6 Big 12) ended the five-game winning streak of the host Bears (17-1, 7-6).

**Women**

**MAC playoffs**

**St. Mary's 84, Bethel 54:** Brandi Rattner had 27 points and 11 rebounds as the fifth-seeded Cardinals (20-20) beat the host and fourth-seeded Cardinals (16-8) to advance to the MAC semifinals.

**Quinnipiac 65, St. Catherine 58:** The host Quinns (21-5) forced 26 turnovers and held the downstate Wildcats (12-34) to 33.3 percent shooting.

## Emotion-choked night ends in loss, hope

**• WOMAN** from C3

Wagner would score 34 points and leave the court shedding the wrong kind of tears. The Gophers entertained but lost 62-70 in front of an announced crowd of 3,477, miffing from the three-point line and collapsing in the fourth quarter.

"Just a lot of emotion, being my last game here," Wagner said. "This is my home away from home. So not exactly the way I wanted to go out, but I'm still very appreciative of the fans coming out tonight and supporting me."

The program reached its height of popularity during Whalen's career. She and Janet McCarville, and a team that reached the Final Four, prompted the women's games to be moved from the Pavilion onto the big stage of Williams Arena, and during the NCAA tournament they packed the place.

The crowd on Tuesday was louder than you would have expected, and even Gophers football coach El Fleck attended, a day after speaking to the team.



Gophers coach Marlene Stollings and senior Caitie Wagner shared an emotional embrace on Wagner's last night of playing at Williams Arena. "This is my home away from home," she said.

The Gophers rank third in the nation in scoring, behind only UConn and Baylor. Junior guard Kerisha Bell pushes the pace and gets into the paint whenever she likes, and Wagner is closing out one of the great careers in program history.

They will play their final regular-season game Sunday at Illinois, then compete in the Big Ten tournament in Indianapolis.

Whalen predicted that Wagner will catch her in scoring. That may be a long shot, but Wagner doesn't think her career is close to ending.

"My career here is the most amazing experience," she said. "I picked this place for a reason. It was because of the fans, and the school and the team and the coaches and everybody. It's been an amazing ride and it's not over. It's far from over. Trust me."

"We're going to put in the work and go way further than people expect us to. I'm just so thankful and blessed. I can be sad but I say I'm most thankful and blessed for my opportunities that I've had here."

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