


U football: New uniforms include gold helmets C9

Preps: Girls' hockey state tourney preview C11

Winner, Top 10 Sports section in the nation

As ranked by the Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE)



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SPORTS

INDIANA 82, GOPHERS WOMEN 70
Sunday, 7 p.m. at Illinois (No TV)



Gophers guard Kenisha Bell was fouled by Indiana's Kym Royner in the first half at Williams Arena on Tuesday night. Bell had 11 points.

Gophers hit cold front

The U missed injured guard Hubbard and a lot of shots

Emotion-choked night ends with a loss, but lingering hope

By HEATHER HULF
Special to the Star Tribune

Gophers women's basketball coach Marlene Stollings has granted her team's maturity in recent games. After all, they knocked off two top-25 opponents recently.

In the season's home finale, however, the coach was disappointed in her cold-shooting team's maturity level during an 82-70 loss to a red-hot Indiana team Tuesday night in front of an announced 4,277 fans at Williams Arena.

It's a mouthful of "stings," Stollings said, for her team with hopes of making the NCAA tournament.

"You can't relax when you have a couple big wins," Stollings said. "You've got to stay fighting."

Senior Carlie Wagner was the bright spot for the Gophers with a season-high 34 points. She made a three-pointer in the third quarter to jump into third place among Gophers career scoring leaders. Her 2,206 career points trail only two players: Rachel Bandman (3,099) and Lindsay Whalen (2,262).

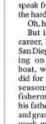
The good news ended there as the Gophers struggled. They were without sophomore guard Gailina Hubbard, who was out of the game.

It was old-school basketball bliss. All the Gophers women's basketball team provided was a fast pace, skilled guards, an excellent gap hand and the latest reminder that this year the program is trying to wake the echoes.

Lindsay Whalen attended the game, and Rachel Bandman praised Carlie Wagner in a recorded message on the Williams Arena scoreboard before the opening tip.

The Gophers had won seven of their past eight. Indiana had won seven in a row. Both teams were playing for NCAA tournament consideration, and if that wasn't enough to generate emotion, the Gophers celebrated senior night on the occasion of their last home game.

See SOUHAN on C10



Lindsay Whalen attended the game, and Rachel Bandman praised Carlie Wagner in a recorded message on the Williams Arena scoreboard before the opening tip.

GOPHERS MEN VS IOWA # 8 p.m. today (BTN)

Through adversity, U's Mason puts stamp on his legacy

Senior guard grew into role as Gophers' team captain.

from Phillips class 413: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

with more determination. "It's been an up-and-down, roller coaster-type of four years," Mason said. "But I learned a lot."

The biggest challenge has come in his final season. Entering senior night on Wednesday against Iowa, the Gophers (34-15, 3-13 Big Ten) have lost nine in a row and 12 of the past 13 games. They have often played this season without four of their top six players.

"It was very tough to see the program's career leaders in points and assists.

Senior Mate Mason will finish his Gophers career among the program's career leaders in points and assists.

See TWINN on C11



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See TWINN on C11

Again, minutes piling up for Suter

But Wild veteran is headed for a career-high in points.

By SARAH McLELLAN
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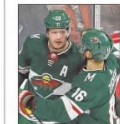
NEW YORK — Defenseman Ryan Suter already had been on the ice for two minutes, 22 seconds when the Wild iced the puck, relieving the pressure from the Ducks that herniated it in its zone but also ensuring the same five-man unit had to stay on patrol.

It was another 11 seconds before Suter could retreat to the bench for a break in the second period of last Saturday's 3-2 shootout loss, concluding the marathon shift in an eye-popping 2:36 that included that icing and a TV timeout as his only reprieve.

But this was nothing new for the Wild's top minute-muncher.

"I still feel great," Suter said. "There was a high-level hockey game played in Minnesota on Tuesday night, yet, strangely, there were no pyrotechnics, no designated screens during every timeout and no TV timeouts."

See WILD on C5



The Wild's Ryan Suter, left, compensated by team factor after a goal, racks up ice time.

Gonsalves could be the big fish someday

By PHIL MILLER
phil.miller@startribune.com

FOOT MEETS FLA. — Stephen Gonsalves, the Twins' top-rated pitching prospect, has the mechanics down cold. The left-hander can describe the technique, can demonstrate the arm action, can speak from experience about the hard work involved.

Oh, he knows pitching, too. But if baseball wasn't his career, he might be back in San Diego, working on a tuna boat, which he did for two off-seasons.

Pole fishermen, like his father, uncle and grandfather, work with two partners, using long bamboo poles and whipping the 150-pound tuna out of the water, over their shoulders and onto their boats, over and over again for hours at a time.

It's as strenuous and exhausting as it sounds. Gonsalves says, but if baseball doesn't work out, "that would be my fallback, probably," and it's difficult to tell if the



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