



Golden Gophers come to town for annual ACC-Big Ten Challenge

With the Canes off to a great 7-0 start, tonight's game against Minnesota brings the toughest challenge of the season so far for this young Hurricane team. UM, which last started 7-0 in the 2007-08 season and made the 2nd Round of the NCAA Tournament that year, has never faced Minnesota, but it has also never won a game in the **ACC-Big Ten Challenge**, going 0-3 in the previous four years (see back of this Gameday Report for more details on the Challenge). Minnesota has been ranked as high as #16 in the country this year before losing to Portland and Texas A&M last week, so this matchup should be an excellent one.



Wikipedia Commons

Coach Tubby Smith took the Golden Gophers to the NCAA Tournament last year.

The Canes have been on a roll lately, blowing out Florida Gulf Coast and USC Upstate immediately after capturing the championship of Charleston Classic. Miami beat three teams in four days during the Classic, including a good South Carolina team that has tournament hopes of its own. While UM has had some turnover and FT shooting issues, this young team has been able to overcome them during its impressive start.

Minnesota comes into the BUC after losing two straight games during the 76 Classic, but they also beat a Butler squad that was ranked #10 at the time. The Golden Gophers reached the NCAA Tournament last year, and they look to be one of the better teams in the Big Ten again this year. **Coach Tubby Smith**, a legend who has taken four teams to 15 NCAA Tournament appearances in 18 seasons, including a championship at Kentucky, is in his third year at Minnesota, and he has vastly improved a program that has had some success in the past but recently fell on hard times.

On the court, the Gophers have many weapons, returning four starters from last year's team. F **Damian Johnson** leads the team in scoring, at 12.3 points per game, but G **Lawrence Westbrook** and G **Davoe Joseph** aren't far behind at 12.2 and 10.5 ppg, respectively. **Johnson** also leads the team with 3 steals per game. Twin towers **Colton Iverson** and **Ralph Sampson III**, both just sophomores, each average over a block and over 6 rebounds per game. **Sampson** is the son of basketball legend **Ralph Sampson II**, who won the Naismith Award three times in college and was a three-time NBA All-Star.



- Don't be sloppy. The Canes have had turnover issues this season, though Saturday's game against Upstate was an improvement.
- Feed the ball inside. UM needs a solid presence inside with Collins and Johnson.
- Come out with energy. Minnesota is a good team, and the Canes need YOU to give them the atmosphere they need to win!

Tale of the Tape



4-2 (0-0) RECORD 7-0 (0-0)

NR RANKING NR
(Coaches/AP Polls)

Big Ten CONFERENCE ACC

45% SHOOTING % 50%

35.0 REBOUNDS/GAME 41.7

66% FT % 62%

36% 3 PT % 39%

This is the first regular season meeting.

Next Home Game

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

Saturday, 7:30 PM
12/12/09

WEAR ORANGE!

Upcoming Schedule

- 12/6 @ Boston College
- 12/12 vs. South Carolina St.
- 12/16 @ Stetson
- 12/19 vs. FAU



The Lineups



#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown
0	Al Nolen	G	6-1	JR	Minneapolis, MN
1	Paul Carter	F	6-8	JR	Little Rock, AR
3	Justin Cobbs	G	6-3	FR	Los Angeles, CA
4	Dominique Dawson	F	6-7	FR	Minneapolis, MN
5	Devoe Joseph*	G	6-3	SO	Pickering, Canada
20	Lawrence Westbrook	G	6-0	SR	Chandler, AZ
22	Devron Bostick	G	6-5	SR	Racine, WI
24	Blake Hofferber*	G	6-4	JR	Minnetonka, MN
30	Royce White	F	6-8	FR	Minneapolis, MN
32	Trevor Mbakwe	F	6-8	JR	St. Paul, MN
33	Rodney Williams	F	6-7	FR	Minneapolis, MN
34	Damian Johnson*	F	6-7	SR	Thibodaux, LA
45	Colton Iverson*	C	6-10	SO	Yankton, SD
50	Ralph Sampson III*	C	6-11	SO	Duluth, GA

* DENOTES LIKELY STARTERS

#	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown
1	Durand Scott*	G	6-3	FR	New York, NY
3	Malcolm Grant	G	6-1	SO	Brooklyn, NY
11	Ryan Quiglar	G	5-11	SO	Skyway, WA
12	Antoine Allen	G	6-1	FR	Baltimore, MD
20	Cyrus McGowan*	F	6-9	SR	Brooksville, MS
21	Dwayne Collins*	F	6-8	SR	Miami, FL
22	Donnavan Kirk	F	6-9	FR	Pontiac, MI
23	James Dews*	G	6-4	SR	Cincinnati, OH
25	Garrius Adams	G/F	6-6	FR	Apex, NC
30	Adrian Thomas	F	6-7	SR	Pembroke Pines, FL
31	DeQuan Jones*	F	6-6	SO	Stone Mountain, GA
42	Reggie Johnson	C	6-10	FR	Winston-Salem, NC
45	Julian Gamble	C	6-9	SO	Durham, NC

* DENOTES LIKELY STARTERS

Head Coach: Tubby Smith (3rd year at Minnesota)
Assistants: Ron Jirsa, Saul Smith, Vince Taylor

Head Coach: Frank Haith (6th year at the U)
Assistants: Jorge Fernandez, Jake Morton, Michael Schwartz



SEBASTIAN'S CORNER

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Started in 1999, the ACC has won every year of the annual ACC-Big Ten Challenge, much to the dismay of the Big Ten schools. Last year, the ACC squeaked by, 6 games to 5, while the ACC had won the two prior years by scores of 8 games to 3. Of the eleven Big Ten schools, only Michigan State has a winning record in the Challenge, going 5-4. In contrast, the ACC has eight squads with winning records, with Duke (10-0) and Boston College (3-0) being undefeated.

As a relative newcomer to the ACC, the Canes have only played three games in this series, losing them all. Miami

went down against Michigan in 2005, lost a heartbreaker against Northwestern in 2006, didn't play in 2007, and lost a tough game to Ohio State last year. Minnesota is 4-6 overall in the challenge, having lost 5 years in a row before finally beating Virginia last year.



This year, Penn State has already beaten Virginia to start off the Challenge, 69-66. Five games were played yesterday, after the Gameday Report had been printed, and five more will be played tonight. With a win over Minnesota, UM can help the ACC win the Challenge for the 11th straight year.

ACC-Big Ten

This Year's Lineup:

- Penn State @ Virginia
- Wake Forest @ #6 Purdue
- Northwestern @ NC State
- Maryland @ Indiana
- #9 Michigan State @ #11 UNC
- Virginia Tech @ Iowa
- Illinois @ #19 Clemson
- Minnesota @ Miami
- Boston College @ Michigan
- #5 Duke @ Wisconsin
- Florida State @ #15 Ohio State

Cheering 101

Don't be silent when the Canes are hoopin' it up! Make the Bank-United Center an imposing place to play with cheers like these:

OFFENSE:

- "Let's Go Canes!" with claps on each word.
- "Goooo Miami Go!" with 3 claps afterwards.
- "Let's Go UM!" with 5 claps after.

DEFENSE:

- "Ohhhhh!" while jumping up and down for the entire possession.

FREE THROWS:

- Hold one finger in the air for a Canes FT; if it's made, go "Whoosh! Ohhh!" and then jump and stomp. Stomp twice if he makes both FTs.

ENEMY PLAYER INTROS:

- Turn around, with your back to the court, and hold up the "U."

