

**Minnesota Hoops
Coach of the Year 1901-2021
(All Levels)**

Year	Coach of the Year	Description
1895	Ray Kaighn, Hamline	Ray Kaighn was in attendance at the YMCA International Training School at Springfield, MA in 1891 when Dr. James A. Naismith invented the game of basketball. In fact, he played in Naismith's 1 st -ever demonstration game on December 21. Soon he (Kaighn) completed his studies and came to Hamline as a student, teacher, athletic director and coach. Within a year, he arranged the 1 st intercollegiate game of basketball ever played anywhere in the world, between Hamline and the Minnesota Aggies, who represented the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The Aggies won 9-3 and then won a rematch 9-6. But Hamline went on to become Minnesota's 1 st small college basketball power, winning the 1 st 3 championships of the Minnesota Collegiate Conference.
1896	Dr. Louis J. Cooke, Minneapolis YMCA	Meanwhile, Dr. Louis J. Cooke came to the Minneapolis YMCA with its brand new facility as its physical director in 1895. Unbeknownst to Cooke, the Y had blown its wad on the new building and was almost broke. Still, he formed the Twin City Basketball League in 1896 and his own best team won the 2nd title in 1897. (The Aggies won in 1896.) By then, the Y, with its financial difficulties, was happy to give half of Cooke's time (and salary) to the University of Minnesota.
1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1907, 1911	Cooke (7)	<p>Cooke's Gophers took a few years to get the hang of the game. They were 17-26-2 in their 1st 4 seasons and lost their 1st 10 games against the Aggies, who represented the St. Paul campus of the U. But, they beat the Aggies for the 1st time in 1899. In 1900, they and 10-3 and swept future Big 10 rivals Iowa and Wisconsin by an average of 24-9. In 1901, they improved to 11-1, beating Iowa and Wisconsin by an average of 40-10.</p> <p>Then in 1902 they beat barnstorming Yale, the best team in the east, 32-23, and beat Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin by an average of 44-9. They were generally regarded as the best team in America. They were undefeated both in 1902 and 1903, but lacking a signature win in 1903, they were not regarded as the mythical national champion. Still, years later, a computer program called the Premo Poll picked them as the mythical 1903 national champions, too.</p> <p>Then in 1906 and 1907 they won the 1st 2 Big 10 championships ever contested with a conference record of 12-3 and 23-4 overall.</p> <p>Cooke was one of America's 1st full-time, paid coaches and he, as much as anybody, proved the theory that such a coach could help his team to basketball success.</p>
1913	Rev. Fred B. Hill, Carleton	By 1913, dozens of Minnesota high schools had basketball teams, but for the most part they were formed by the boys

		<p>themselves with little or no help from the adults. Left to their own devices, the boys recruited ringers and engaged in serious disputes, even fights, on the court. All of this embarrassed the schools, though they had no real control over the teams. The schools faced a choice. They could try to suppress youth sports, they could allow it go on as before, or they could take control. They chose the latter.</p> <p>Carleton was heavily involved in the development of secondary education in Minnesota, and in 1913 the Rev. Fred B. Hill, a Carleton professor and noted supporter of youth sports and physical fitness, suggested a state tournament as a carrot. Schools were invited to join an association that quickly issued eligibility and other rules. That was the stick. Teams could compete for a state title if they played by the association's rules. Half a dozen teams, or more, were disqualified from the early tournaments for breaches of various rules.</p> <p>Hill was chairman of the 1913 tournament committee. Then, the 1913 participants elected a committee to assure that there would be a tournament again in 1914 and beyond, and they elected Hill as its chair. In 1917, this committee became the Minnesota High School Athletic Association. In 1929, it changed its name to the Minnesota State High School League, which continues to administer high school sports to this day.</p>
1914	Harry Gammons, Stillwater	<p>Gammons was one of the earliest high school basketball coaches, coaching St. Paul Humboldt from 1909 to 1911. He then coached Stillwater to the 1914 state title, then coached St. Paul Mechanic Arts to the city title in 1915.</p>
1915	Raymond Hanson, Red Wing	<p>Ray Hanson was player-coach of Red Wing in his final year of high school in 1915, and the Wingers earned their way to the 3rd state tournament in Northfield. Schedules were looser in those days, and the Wingers played a game against Rochester after both teams had earned their state tournament berths. Red Wing won, and after the game Red Wing and Rochester players both found themselves in the midst of a beer bust and made insufficient efforts to vacate the premises. Rochester was banned from the state tournament, while for Red Wing only Hanson was banned. Red Wing won without their star and coach, but most Red Wing fans agreed that Hanson deserved most of the credit for the win.</p> <p>He went on to study coaching and sports administration in Springfield, where he became fast friends with Knute Rockne. Rockne recommended him as coach and athletic director at Western Illinois, where Hanson served for more than 35 years. Western Illinois' football field is Hanson Field to this day.</p>
1916	Claude Hunt, Carleton	<p>For approximately 67 years, Minnesota basketball fans thought that Claude Hunt had founded the state basketball tournament. This notion was launched by a 1935 article in the Minneapolis Tribune, and in both 1957 and 1963 the MSHSL honored Hunt as "father and founder" of the tournament. As late as 2002, an article in the tournament program repeated the claim. It was a year or two later that it was discovered that Hunt had not yet arrived in Northfield as coach and athletic director in 1913. Oops.</p>

		But, it is true that he became athletic director and helped build Carleton into an athletic powerhouse. Hamline won the 1 st 3 titles of the Minnesota Collegiate Conference, but Carleton took over in 1916 under coach Hunt and won 8 titles in a row with Hunt as coach and later as athletic director.
1917	Cooke (8)	The Gophers won their 4 th Big 10 title, still the most so far in Big 10 history, at 10-2 in the conference (with an average score of 24-16) and 17-2 overall. Both Harold Gillen and Dobie Stadvold were named all-Americans.
1918	Windy Levis, Carleton	Hunt moved to the University of Washington for 2 years, though World War I restrictions limited his opportunities for success and he returned to Carleton in 1920 as football coach and AD. He was never again basketball coach. In 1918 he was replaced by Wisconsin grad Windy Levis, and Carleton's hardcourt success only increased.
1919	Cooke (9)	The Gophers enjoyed their 3 rd undefeated season and their 3 rd national championship season in 1919, going 13-0 and winning 10 Big 10 games by an average of 30-16. They closed the season by sweeping 4 road games at Indiana, Purdue, Wisconsin and Illinois by an average of 24-14. Guard Erling Platou averaged 12 points per game and was named player of the year.
1920	Weston Mitchell, Minneapolis Central	Mpls. Central declined to play in the state tournament, travelling instead to Chicago to play in the national tournament there. They finished 3 rd and Martin Norton was named all-American. Mitchell would coach in the Minneapolis system for many years, but would one day coach the Minnesota Gophers for 2 years.
1921	Cooke (10)	It was Cooke's last hurrah, his last winning season in the Big 10. The Gophers lost 5 times to finish in 4 th place, but the 5 losses were by a total of just 15 points. 3 years later, Cooke would retire after a 28-year career with a record of 254-142-3 (.640).
1922, 1923, 1924	Everett Dean, Carleton (3)	Everett Dean came from Indiana to coach Carleton in 1922, and stayed for 3 years. After winning 46 games and losing just 4, he returned to his alma mater as its coach. He went 162-93 in 14 years at Indiana, then 167-120 in 12 years at Stanford for a career total of 375-217 (.633). In 1942, his Stanford team defeated Dartmouth, coached by one of his players in Carleton's class of 1922, Ozzie Cowles, in the NCAA final 53-38.
1925	Edwin McKee, St. Paul Mechanic Arts Trainers	McKee led Mechanic Arts to the state title, beating Buffalo 20-8 to finish 17-1-1. The only loss came after 2 wins at the national tournament. The tie was a 21-21 game vs. St. Thomas, who went on to win the Minnesota Catholic title.
1926	B.F. Borchert, Gaylord	Borchert was the 1 st coach the Gaylord boys ever had, and this was just his 2 nd season. In fact, he was the town barber and for whatever reason the boys asked him to be their coach, and he accepted the offer. In 1926, Gaylord won 7 straight upsets, from the district semi-finals all the way through the state final, a 13-9 win over Gilbert. They are the 2 nd smallest town ever to win a single class state title, and the 1 st team to be described as a "Cinderella" champion. Fans were so

		excited that they passed a hat in the lobby of the Kenwood Armory, the tournament venue, and raised \$500 to help defray the costs of Gaylord travelling to the national tournament in Chicago. Gaylord was the 2 nd of only 2 Minnesota state champions to win 2 games at the national tournament after Mechanic Arts the previous year.
1927	Otto Engenbrecht, Minneapolis South	Mpls. South had the worst record of any single class state champion—just 9-5 going into the tournament, but with a 29-16 win over St. Paul Johnson in the Twin City game. They swept 3 state tournament games to finish as state champions at 12-5. It all suggests a pretty good job by coach Otto Engenbrecht.
1928	Glenn Hanna, Moorhead	Hanna coached Moorhead to 6 of a record 8 straight state tournaments (Moorhead 1924-1931, Hanna 1926-1931). In 1928 and 1929 Moorhead became the 1 st team to repeat as state champions, and they were runners-up in 1930 with a total record of 64-9 over those 3 years.
1929	Ray Parkins, Minneapolis Edison and Jesse Stasch senior men	Parkins led Mpls. Edison to the city title and the state tournament in 1926, 1928, 1935, 1936 and 1937 and finally to the state title in 1937. His 1937 team was regarded as the best in Minnesota history to that time. His 1929 team fell short of the city title, but in his spare time Parkins led the Jesse Stasch Clothiers senior men's team, made up mostly of Edison grads, to the state AAU title.
1930	Ozzie Cowles, Carleton	1930 was the 6 th and final year in which Cowles coached his alma mater, Carleton. They were 14-2 in 1930 and 67-26 over Cowles' 6 years. Later, he coached at Dartmouth, Michigan and Minnesota with a career record of 421-208 and a runner-up finish in the 1942 NCAA tournament at Dartmouth.
1931	Frank Cleve, Concordia (Moorhead)	Cleve, a graduate of Mpls. South, led Concordia to an unbeaten season in the MIAC and Concordia's only conference title before 1982.
1932, 1933	Marshall Diebold, Carleton (2)	Diebold, a Wisconsin grad, followed Cowles as Carleton coach and in 4 years (1930-1934) compiled a 55-10 record. His 1932 and 1933 teams were known as "the Victory Five" and went 31-2.
1934	Harvey Roels, Chisholm	Roels led Chisholm to 5 straight state tournaments and, finally, a state title in 1934. More than that, Harvey Roels almost single-handedly kept running game alive during the darkest days of "the dead ball." While other coaches stressed ball control and defense, Roels' teams ran and scored. They were welcomed to the state tournament as "a point-a-minute" team. That is, they scored more than 32 points per game. Fans loved it, and their opponents on the Iron Range saw that the running game worked for Harvey Roels and so they emulated it. State tournament fans not only loved Chisholm, they loved all of the Iron Range teams that came down to the Twin Cities and ran with the ball over a period of more than 20 years.
1935, 1936	Joe Hutton, Hamline (2)	Carleton grad Joe Hutton came to Hamline in 1929. By 1936 they had won 5 straight MIAC titles by stressing the ball control and defensively-oriented style of play that Hutton learned at Carleton.

1937, 1938	Dave MacMillan, Minnesota	The Gophers, who won 5 of the 1 st 14 Big 10 titles, struggled after the retirement of Doc Cooke. They had just 4 winning seasons in 12 years, but in 1937 point guard Marty Rolek, a graduate of Mpls. Edison, led the Gophers to their 1 st Big 10 title in 18 years and in 1938 they were even better at 16-4 overall, though they finished 2 nd in the Big 10. They would not exceed 16 wins until 1949.
1939	Ed "Moose" Krause, St. Mary's	Moose Krause was an all-American at Notre Dame and one day he would become their athletic director. In between, he would spend 7 years as coach at St. Mary's in Winona, and would lead St. Mary's to the 1 st of just 2-ever MIAC titles. He is also believed to be the first coach and AD who ever travelled with his team to a road game via the air. In 1936, Krause and his team flew with his friend and flying pioneer Max Conrad to South Bend, IN, to play his alma mater.
1940	Walt Mikulich, Breckenridge	Breckenridge pulled one of the big upsets of the single-class era, beating Mpls. Marshall and then Red Wing 43-40 to win the state title in 1940.
1941	Muxie Anderson, Buhl	Buhl followed the next year with another small town title, again beating Red Wing in the final, just 31-29. It was the golden age of small town basketball with state titles in the 1930s and early 1940s going to Glencoe, Thief River Falls, Chisholm, Thief River Falls again, Mountain Lake, Breckenridge and Buhl over a period of just 11 years. Having won the state title, coach Anderson asked for a raise in pay. The Buhl school board said that if he won the state title again, he would get that raise. That wasn't quite good enough, and Anderson moved on to Cretin the following year. (Cretin had given Buhl on of its 3 losses in 1941.) He was replaced by Austin St. Augustine coach Mario Retica, who repeated as state champion in 1942 and later coached at Hibbing for many years.
1942	Hutton (3)	Hamline won its 9 th MIAC title in 11 years, and won its 1 st of 3 national NAIA championships. Hamline beat New Mexico State 67-40, Southwestern KS 37-31, John Wooden's Indiana State team 45-41, Central MO 45-27 and SE OK State 33-31 in the final. Glenn Gumlia from Crosby-Ironton, Johnny Norlander from Virginia, and Howie Schultz from St. Paul Central made all-tournament.
1943	John Kundla, Rock Spring Sparklers	John Kundla was the leading scorer on those great Gopher teams of 1937-1938 though he had never actually started during his high school career at Mpls. Central. He was a natural-born leader and after 1938 he organized and led the great Ascension senior men's teams, representing the Ascension Catholic Church in north Minneapolis. The Ascensions decided not to field a team after Pearl Harbor, so Kundla moved over to their arch-enemy, the Rock Spring Sparklers of Chaska, MN. They won the city championship undefeated in 1942 and 1943, but there was no state or national tournament. So, in 1943, they entered themselves in the World Professional Basketball Tournament. They beat the Chicago Studebakers 45-44 in the 1 st round, then ran into the eventual national champion Washington Dolls. The Dolls were an all-Black barnstorming team led by Dolly King, and they hammered the Sparklers 42-21. Still, this was the best agglomeration of Minnesota basketball talent ever assembled

		until the arrival of George Mikan and the Minneapolis Lakers in 1948.
1944	Frank Cleve, Minneapolis Patrick Henry	Frank Cleve taught Jim McIntyre how to play basketball. Cleve was an all-tournament center at Mpls. South way back in 1920, and in 1931 he coached Concordia to its only MIAC title before 1982. And he was the 1 st football ever elected to the Minnesota football coaches association Hall of Fame. The guy could coach, And then he taught Jim McIntyre how to play basketball. He was one of the 1 st coaches to see and to accept that if you had a guy who could shoot 50 percent from the field or better, when everybody thought that 20 percent was pretty good, that, well, everything you thought you knew was not obsolete.
1945	Ed Buckley, Ely	Buckley led Ely all the way to the state final where, unfortunately, they ran into Jim McIntyre and Mpls. Patrick Henry and lost 66-35. Still, 2 nd place wasn't bad for a town of 5,970. Only 2 smaller towns ever won a single-class title.
1946	Chet Bisel, Lynd	But then Lynd, with one-tenth the population of Ely, shocked the world by taking 2 nd place in the 1946 tournament. Not only that, but Lynd ran a fast break the likes of which no one had ever seen. They shocked the state's #1-rated team, Crosby-Ironton 58-47 in the 1 st round. But by the 3 rd round, they had lost the benefit of surprise and had also run out of gas and fell victim to Austin's awesome height 63-31 in the final. Bisel coached at Lynd and Butterfield, and retired in the 1950s ranking among the top 10 in career coaching wins.
1947	Jim Withan, Mankato State	Hamline was the great power, but in 1947 it was Mankato State who finished 2 nd in the NAIA national tournament. In fact Marshall, the eventual champion, beat Hamline 55-54 in the 2 nd round and beat Mankato State 73-59 in the final. They were led by Dewey Nelson and Don Olson from Mankato and Henry Epp from Mountain Lake.
1948	Kundla, Minneapolis Lakers (2)	The Minneapolis Lakers came to town in 1947. One of the 1 st things they tried to do was to hire Hamline's Joe Hutton as coach. Hutton turned them down. So they turned to former Gopher players and captain of the Ascensions and Rock Spring Sparklers and coach of DeLaSalle's 1946 state Catholic champions, John Kundla. Kunda led the Lakers to perhaps their greatest season. Partly, that was dumb luck because one of the last things they did heading into that 1 st season was acquire George Mikan when his Chicago Gears franchise went belly up. The Lakers went 43-17 in the regular season, set a team record that would only be broken in 2000 by winning the league playoffs with just 17 losses, and they won not one but 2 titles that year—the NBL and also the last of 10 World Professional Basketball Tournaments. Mikan was the MVP of both the NBL and the WPBT.
1949	Cowles, Minnesota Gophers	Ozzie Cowles returned to Minnesota and got the Gophers into the national top 10 with an overall record of 18-3. The return of the old Carleton dead ball caused much comment as the Gophers finished 2 nd in the Big 10 while tying for last in scoring!
1950, 1951	Hutton (5)	Hutton won his 14 th and 15 th MIAC titles in 20 years, but only 18 years of which Hamline competed for the title. Returning to the NAIA as the defending national champions in 1950,

		Hamline suffered a huge upset in their 2 nd game, losing to Central Missouri 76-66 as Hal Haskins fouled out with 15 minutes to play. Little was expected of a young 1951 team, though they won the MIAC with just one loss. Instead, they routed 5 opponents by an average of 75-58 for Hutton and Hamline's 3 rd and final national title.
1952	Butsie Maetzold, Hopkins	Hopkins was a small farming community in those days, but 2-time state champion guard Butsie Maetzold, formerly of Red Wing, made them a power. He led Hopkins to 5 state tournaments in 12 years, to consecutive state titles in 1952 and 1953, and to a then-record 65 consecutive wins from 1952 to 1954. He won 19 conference titles in 29 years and retired with a record of 479-62. (Some records show him winning more than 500 games but this could not be documented.) As a football coach, he was 88-6-5 with 9 unbeaten seasons and 2 years (1933 and 1937) in which Hopkins was unscored upon.
1953	Mario Retica, Hibbing	At some point, Mario Retica moved from Buhl, where he won a state title in 1942, to Hibbing where in 1953 he led the Bluejackets to 2 nd place in the state. He won 362 games and lost 154 at Austin St. Augustine, Buhl and Hibbing.
1954	Gus Young, Gustavus Adolphus	Hamline won its 17 th MIAC title in 20 tries in 1953, but the 1 st chinks in the Pipers' armor showed up in 1954, when Gustavus Adolphus and coach Gus Young won their 1 st conference title since 1938. They then repeated in 1955 and 1956, and won 5 NAIA tournament games in those 3 years.
1955, 1956	Dick Reinhart, DeLaSalle (2)	DeLaSalle was undefeated in 1955, and was named the mythical national Catholic champion by the Chicago Tribune. In 1956, they defeated MSHSL champion Mpls. Roosevelt twice, 64-54 and 81-63. (This was the same Roosevelt team that beat Blue Earth 101-54 in the state final.) The Islanders won their 2 nd and 3 rd of what would become 4 straight Minnesota Catholic titles, beating Duluth Cathedral 57-33 and St. Thomas 67-48. They were led on the court by guard Paul Lehman and also by coach Dick Reinhart.
1957	Hutton (5)	Hamline returned to the top of the MIAC, and won 2 games at the NAIA.
1958	Norm Olson, Duluth Branch	Now the University of Minnesota-Duluth but then known as the Duluth Branch, the Bulldogs won the 1 st of 2 straight MIAC titles under Superior native Norm Olson, and beat St. Cloud State 71-66 in the District 13 playoff. They lost their 1 st and only game at the NAIA tournament to East Texas State, however, 66-59.
1959	Jack Thurnblad, Wayzata	Wayzata finished 3 rd in the Lake Conference, but won the District 18 title, then beat Mpls. South in Region 5 51-47. They won 3 state tournament games to claim the state title at 23-4. They beat defending champion Austin 55-52 in the semis, and small-town wonders Carlton 55-41 in the final, and were proclaimed a "Cinderella" story, an odd characterization of any team from the Lake. Had Carlton won the title, they would have been the smallest town ever to win a single class title, smaller even than Edgerton in 1960.
1960	Richie Olson, Edgerton	Edgerton, on the other hand, was a true Cinderella story, the smallest school from the smallest town ever to win a single-

		class title. They came in unbeaten but a definite underdog to Richfield in the semis. Instead, they won 63-60 in OT, then handled perennial power Austin 72-61 in the final to finish 27-0.
1961	Bun Fortier, Bemidji	For many years, Bun Fortier was tied for the most state tournament appearances with 14. But, of course, Bemidji didn't have much in the way of competition way up there in the frozen north. Still, Fortier's legacy is of the many state tournament games that he won, or almost won, that he had no business winning. Duluth Central's 51-50 win over Bemidji in the 1961 final was one of those games that Bemidji had no business being in, but there they were. Fortier retired with a record of 424-92.
1962	Red Severson, St. Cloud State	St. Cloud State was the first Northern conference champion to defeat the MIAC champion in almost 20 years of District 13 playoff games. They beat the Duluth Branch 63-42 in the playoff, then won one game in the NAIA tournament. (Just to be clear, think about that. This was the first time in 20 years that the Northern conference champion beat the MIAC champion in the NAIA regional playoff.)
1963	Glenn Mattke, Marshall	Marshall surprised by winning the state title. Bloomington had come in as a prohibitive favorite but lost to Cloquet 87-67. Then Cloquet lost to Marshall 75-74 in what many remembered as the greatest final ever.
1964, 1965	Kundla, Minnesota Gophers (3)	Kunda became Gopher coach in 1959. A couple of years later he announced that he could not win with Minnesota talent, just as football coach Murray Warmath had done a few years earlier. He brought in Lou Hudson from North Carolina, Archie Clark from Michigan and Don Yates from Pennsylvania. In 1964 the Gophers improved from 12-12 (in 1963) to 17-7 and 3 rd place in the Big 10. In 1965, they improved to 19-5 and 2 nd place in the Big 10, but could not beat Michigan and Cazzie Russell.
1966	Tom Feely, St. Thomas	St. Thomas, believe it or not, hadn't won an MIAC title since 1949, nor won one outright since 1944. The 1 st glimpses of the modern St. Thomas dynasty could be seen in their 1966 and 1967 titles, and 2 District 13 wins over St. Cloud and then Bemidji State. They won just one NAIA game in those 2 years, but they would win 4 more MIAC titles in the 1970s.
1967	Duane Baglien, Edina	Edina repeated as state champion and they were the 1 st repeater ever to go unbeaten in both seasons. They would of course become the 1 st to 3-peat in 1968, and from 1966 to 1968 they would set a record that still stands of 69 straight wins.
1968	Orris Jirele, Rochester Lourdes	Orris Jirele starred for Austin Pacelli's 1958 state champions, then played college ball at St. Bonaventure, who were rated as highly as #3 in the country. He returned to Minnesota with a devastating full-court pressure defense that he learned out east. The result was that Rochester Lourdes matched Edina's 3-peat, winning the state Catholic title those same 3 years. He wrote Edina coach Baglien a letter asking for a game, but he never heard back.
1969	Allan Wold, Rochester John Marshall	

		Wold led Faribault to the runner-up slot in the 1965 state tournament, then led Rochester JM to the state title in 1969. He retired at 482-297 (.619).
1970	Bill Fitch, Minnesota Gophers	Bill Fitch came to the Gophers from North Dakota and Bowling Green. The Gophers had gone 7-17 in John Kundla's last season and 4-10 in the Big 10. Fitch showed that he could coach a little, as the Gophers improved to 12-12 and 13-11 and 6-8 and 7-7 in the Big 10 despite a minimal improvement in the basic talent level. He was so good, in fact, that after 2 years, he was gone to the NBA.
1971	Jim Hastings, Duluth Central	Jim Hastings won his 2 nd state title, and in 1979 he would win a 3 rd , tying him with Duane Baglien for the most titles any coach. That 1979 title would also be Duluth Central's 4 th , tying them with Red Wing for the most in Minnesota history to that time.
1972	Bill Musselman, Minnesota Gophers	<p>After Bill Fitch left Minnesota, the Gophers hired assistant George Hanson and the Gophers went backwards. Acknowledging their mistake, they quickly went out and hired Bill Musselman who, like Fitch, had had significant success at the small college level. Musselman quickly recruited a roster of big, talented players who started out 6-3, then upset Indiana and won their 1st 4 Big 10 games. Then came the infamous "basketbrawl" against Ohio State, which led 2 Gophers to be suspended for the season and an Iron 5 to carry the load. They did, winning the Big 10 title at 11-3 and making the NCAA tournament at 17-6.</p> <p>In 1973, Musselman had the Gophers at 20-2 and #3 in the nation when he flew down to Florida to interview for the Gators job. He turned them down but the distraction was disastrous. The Gophers lost 3 of their final 4 games. Another year later Musselman was gone, leaving the Gophers on probation and with not one black eye but 2.</p>
1973	Les Wothke, Winona State	Winona State won just its 3 rd and 4 th Northern conference titles ever in 1969 and 1972. They made it 5 in 1973 and, for the 1 st time ever, they won the District 13 playoff over St. Thomas 74-70. They beat Grand Canyon before losing to Oklahoma Baptist. Herschel Lewis was the conference MVP.
1974	Del Schiffler, Melrose	Schiffler didn't teach Mark Olberding how to play basketball, but he harnessed his team to Olberding and rode him to the state title with a 38-32 win over Mound in Class A and 58-42 over Bemidji in the overall title game. Olberding scored a record 112 points in the tournament, albeit in 4 games.
1975	Bob McDonald, Chisholm	McDonald led his Chisholm Bluestreaks to their 2 nd Class A title in 3 years with a 44-33 win over St. Paul Mechanic Arts. He would win a 3 rd title in 1991 and retire as the only Minnesota coach with more than 1,000 wins.
1976	Ed Prohofsky, Minneapolis Marshall-University	Prohofsky won the Class A title with the 1 st mostly-Black champions in tournament history. Marshall-U finished unbeaten at 28-0 with an overtime win over Mankato Wilson.
1977	Jim Dutcher, Minnesota Gophers	Jim Dutcher came to Minnesota from Eastern Michigan, where he was 127-49. He inherited a team on probation, however, and went 16-10 in his 1 st year. His 2 nd team was a different animal altogether. They went 24-3 and beat the eventual

		national champions at Marquette. They were 15-3 in the Big 10, but 2 of the losses came to Michigan and so the Gophers "settled" for 2 nd place. The powers-that-be had them 0-18 anyway and perhaps the greatest team in Gopher history were ineligible for the post-season.
1978	Ellen Mosher, Minnesota Gopher women	The Gopher women's program was founded (or re-founded; the Lady Gophers had played for 6 years 70 years earlier) in 1971. They were 52-58 when Ellen Mosher arrived from UCLA in 1977. In her very 1 st year, Mosher's team went 24-10 behind Joan Kowalsky from St. Margaret's and Elsie Ohm from Rochester John Marshall.
1979	Dan Smith, St. John's	St. John's won the MIAC title and beat Mankato State 84-82 in OT in District 13 behind the record-setting performance of Frank Wachlarowicz. They beat West Virginia Wesleyan 83-81 in OT before losing their 2 nd game in the NAIA.
1980	Dave Schellhase, Moorhead State	Moorhead State won its 3 rd Northern conference title in 4 years and beat Mankato State 77-58 in OT in a 4-team District 13 playoff. They lost their only NAIA tournament game to Central Washington.
1981	Mosher (2)	The Gopher women had their best season yet in Mosher's 4 th year, as they finished 28-7. The Big 10 did not yet have a regular season for the women, but they held a Big 10 tournament, and the Gophers beat Wisconsin, Ohio State and Northwestern to win their 1 st and only Big 10 title ever.
1982	Dutcher (2)	Meanwhile, the Gopher men had their best season since 1919 (if you accept that the 1977 team went 0-27). They went 23-6 including 14-4 in the Big 10, good for 1 st place. They beat Iowa 57-55 in 3OT to clinch the title. Darryl Mitchell was Big 10 MVP, while Randy Breuer and Trent Tucker also starred. The Gophers beat Iowa in both the final game after 57 years at the Iowa Field House and then in the very first game ever played at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.
1983	Schiffler, Woodbury	Del Schiffler now taught Woodbury how to win, which they did 56-50 in OT over Coon Rapids in the Class AA state finals.
1984	Gladys Ziemer, St. Cloud State women	St. Cloud enjoyed a 26-game winning streak and won their 2 nd straight Northern conference title. They then won 2 games to advance to the NCAA D2 Elite 8, where they lost to Dayton 80-56. The following year, they joined the North Central conference. They won the playoff title and again advanced to the Elite 8. In 1986, they won the regular season title and got to the Sweet 16. In 1989, they again won the conference title and went to the Elite 8, all under the leadership of Gladys Ziemer.
1985	Mosher Hanson (3)	It was Ellen Mosher Hanson's last hurrah, and 18-10 record and 13-5 in the Big 10. It would soon become apparent that Minnesota girls weren't good enough to sustain a high D1 program all by themselves, and the Gophers had just 2 winning seasons from 1985 to 2002.
1986	Butch Raymond, St. Cloud State	St. Cloud State won the regular season title in the North Central Conference, but lost to Wayne State in the NCAA D2 regional final. They would reach the Elite 8 the following year.
1987	Jack Evens, Bloomington Jefferson	

		Jefferson became the 3 rd school to win 4 state titles (1976, 1982, 1986-1987) while Evens became the 1 st coach to win 4 state titles.
1988	Duane Siverson, Concordia (Moorhead) women	In 1987, Concordia started 4-3, then went 21-1 in the MIAC and finished at 26-5. In 1988, they again went 21-1 in the MIAC, and now they stormed all the way to the NCAA D3 final. They beat undefeated St. John Fisher 65-57 to win the national title. Jessica Beachy starred.
1989, 1990	Clem Haskins, Minnesota Gophers	The Gopher men had turned it around under Bill Musselman and Jim Dutcher, winning 259 games in 15 years. It had taken almost a quarter-century to win 259 games prior to 1972. But, then, a rape scandal destroyed Dutcher's program and progress and it was back to square one with Clem Haskins. Clem and the Gophers took their lumps in in 1987 and 1988, with a record of 6-30 in the Big 10. But, now, beginning in 1989, they turned it around again, going 42-22 in 2 years and 20-16 in the Big 10. More importantly, they won 5 games in the NCAA tournament, including games against perennial powers like Kansas State and Syracuse. They lost in the post-season only to ACC powers Duke and Georgia Tech. The Gophers were back!
1991	Ted Rivero, St. Thomas Tommies women	Beginning in 1991, the St. Thomas women ran off 217 wins and just 22 losses (.908) in the MIAC and made 4 Final 4 appearances. Their only national championship of that era came right away, in 1991, as they beat Eastern Connecticut 91-55 and Muskingum 73-55 to finish 29-2. Laurie Trow starred, and finished her career 2 years later with 2,607 points. Trow, coach Rivero and St. Thomas built a 40-game winning streak during the 1992 season but were dumped by Luther, IA, 61-60 in the post-season.
1992	Dale Race, Minnesota-Duluth	Race and UMD won 9 straight Northern conference titles and played in 8 NAIA and one NCAA D2 tournament, winning 5 games and losing 8. His 1991 team was probably his best at 27-5 with a #4 seed in the NAIA tournament. In 1992 he won that 9 th straight conference title and beat Faulkner 66-57 in the 1 st round of the NAIA.
1993	Mike Durbin, St. Benedict's women	St. Ben's matched St. Thomas' 1992 MIAC record at 20-0 and made it all the way to the Final 4 before they too fell to an Iowa team, Central College, 60-59 in the national semis.
1994	Steve Fritz, St. Thomas	The St. Thomas men under coach Steve Fritz became the dominant power in the MIAC, winning 6 conference titles in the 7 years from 1989 to 1995. 3 times previously the Tommies had a better record but it was In 1994 that they became the 1 st MIAC team since Hamline in 1953 to get to a Final 4. They were 18-2 in the conference and lost to NYU 75-68 in the national semis to finish 24-6.
1995	Rivero (2)	St. Ben's won the MIAC title at 19-1 with St. Thomas 2 nd at 17-3. Both made their way to the Elite 8, where they faced off again. This time St. Thomas won an upset victory 67-65. They then lost in the national semis to finish 25-6. St. Ben's finished 27-2.
1996	(tie) Kevin McHale and Flip Saunders, Minnesota Timberwolves	The Minnesota Timberwolves had been embarrassingly bad in their 1 st 6 years in the NBA, not just going 136-366 (.271) but

		<p>failing to show any improvement (.256 in 1995). But in 1994 Kevin McHale was named general manager, and in 1995 he picked Kevin Garnett in the draft and hired Flip Saunders as coach. Competence reared its ugly head for almost the 1st time. A modest winning percentage of .317 was enough to generate some hope among long-suffering Timberwolves fans.</p>
1997	Haskins (3)	<p>The Gophers were respectable in the years after their near-miss at the Final 4 in 1990. They won 109 games while losing 77 (.586). But, then, suddenly in 1997 it all came together. The Gophers roared through the Big 10 at 16-2 and went 31-4 overall. They beat Clemson and UCLA in the regionals, then stayed close to Kentucky in the Final 4 before losing 78-69. (Kentucky lost an upset to Arizona in OT in the final.) Bobby Jackson was the Big 10 player of the year and a 2nd team all-American. All of those wins were of course vacated due to academic fraud designed primarily to keep Jackson eligible.</p>
1998	(tie) McHale and Saunders (2)	<p>The investment in Kevin Garnett was starting to payoff. The Timberwolves had their 1st winning season at 45-37. They made the playoffs for the 2nd time and won their 1st playoff games. Garnett averaged 18 points and 10 rebounds. And yet it would be another 6 years before the Wolves would ever win a playoff series.</p>
1999	Durbin (2)	<p>St. Ben's went 21-1 in the MIAC and 28-2 overall, beating St. Thomas 76-68 in the MIAC playoffs and in St. Thomas coach Ted Rivero's final game. The Bennies won 3 more playoff games but lost to Washington (St. Louis) 74-65 in the national final.</p>
2000	Larry McKenzie, Minneapolis Patrick Henry	<p>Mpls. Henry won the 1st of 4 straight state titles, beating St. Thomas 59-45 in Class AAA to finish 28-1. Their only loss was to the mythical national champions, Oak Hill, VA.</p>
2001	Adam Holm, Osseo	<p>Osseo won the Class AAAA title, hammering Duluth East 73-48 after squeezing by Cretin-Derham Hall 88-82 in the semi. Osseo finished 30-1 and, like Mpls. Henry the previous year, their only loss was the Oak Hill, VA.</p>
2002	Ken Novak, Jr., Hopkins	<p>Coach Ken Novak, Jr., won the 1st of 8 state titles through 2019. Hopkins defeated Bloomington Jefferson 54-40 as Kris Humphries scored 50 points in the semis and finals.</p>
2003	Mark Hanson, Gustavus Adolphus	<p>Gustavus advanced all the way to the NCAA D3 final after winning the MIAC playoffs (but not the regular season). They snapped the Tommies 23-game home winning streak 62-36, then won 5 tournament games by an average of 73-62. They were the 1st Minnesota team since Hamline in 1951 to play in a national championship game. In the finals they lost to Williams 67-65 on what was described as a "touch foul" and 2 Williams FT with 3 seconds left in the game.</p>
2004	Tammy Metcalf-Filzen, Carleton women	<p>The Carleton woman had struggled, historically, until Tammy Metcalf-Filzen showed up. Then, from 2001 to 2005, Carleton won 3 regular season titles and 4 playoff titles in the MIAC. Metcalf's best season was 2004 when Carleton won both the regular season and playoff titles and beat Lakeland, WI, in their 1st NCAA tournament game.</p>
2005		

	Myron Glass, Rochester Lourdes girls	This was the last of 8 state titles over 19 years for coach Myron Glass and his Rochester Lourdes girls. Lourdes average margin of victory in those 8 finals was 49-33. Here is was 50-33 over Pequot Lakes.
2006	Mike Leaf, Winona State	Winona State won its 1 st Northern conference title in 30 years in 2005, then repeated in 2006. They went on to win 6 post-season games and the NCAA D2 title. The highlight was a come-from-behind win against arch-rival Mankato State, the NCC champion, 74-71 in the regional semi-final. The finished 2 nd in the 2007 NCAA tournament, then took the title again in 2008.
2007	Matt Margenthaler, Mankato State	Mankato State had perhaps its best teams ever just precisely as Winona State had its best teams ever and, in the post-season, Winona got the best of it every time. Winona beat Mankato in the regional semis in 2006 and the regional finals in 2007. In 2008, Mankato was upset in the 1 st round and the 2 teams did not meet.
2008	Willie Taylor, St. Paul Central girls	The 2007 Central girls are regarded as the greatest girls team ever, well, perhaps until Paige Bueckers came along. They went 32-0 and clobbered Mpls. South 81-63 for the state title. But, in 2008, South had at least as good of talent as Central, but Central prevailed again 49-44.
2009	Pam Gohl, Mankato State women	The NCC disbanded in 2008 and suddenly Mankato State was back in the Northern Sun conference, along with all of the NCC members who were not moving up to D1. St. Cloud State defeated Concordia-St. Paul to win the NSIC playoffs, but Mankato State was seeded #1 into the central region of the NCAAs. St. Cloud lost in the 1 st round, while Mankato won 3 games including a 72-61 win in the final over Fort Lewis, who had beaten St. Cloud. Mankato then won 3 more games over Michigan Tech, Alaska-Anchorage and Franklin Pierce, NH, the latter by the score of 103-94. All 3 scores—103, 94 and 197—were and remain records for a D3 women's final. Mankato finished 32-2. Pam Gohl, a graduate of Augustana, coached Mankato for 4 years with a record of 78-39, then joined athletics administration at the U. of Sioux Falls and became AD in 2018.
2010	Vern Simmons, St. Paul Johnson	Simmons coached St. Paul Johnson for 20 years, winning 15 city championships, making 9 state tournament appearances, and winning 5 Twin City games. His best team and his only state champion came in 2010. The Governors beat Hopkins 86-78 in a regular season game with Hopkins in the midst of a 3-peat in Class AAAA in 2009-2011. They then defeated Hutchinson 80-57, Winona 80-55 and Grand Rapids 59-55 to win the Class AAA title. Simmons was also a St. Paul police officer who served as Johnson's resource officer from 1990 to 2017.
2011	Fritz (2)	St. Thomas won its 1 st NCAA basketball title, beating Wooster 78-54 to finish 29-3. They were the MIAC regular season and playoff champion. Point guard Tyler Nicolai was the tournament MVP.
2012	Ruth Sinn, St. Thomas women	St. Thomas went 24-0 in the MIAC and started the season with 30 straight wins. Their 31 wins was the most by an MIAC

		team in 30 years. The Tommies lost to Illinois Wesleyan 67-53 in the semis of the NCAA tournament, then beat Amherst 87-60 for 3 rd place.
2013, 2015, 2017	Cheryl Reeve, Minnesota Lynx (3)	The Minnesota Lynx won the WNBA title in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017—and everybody knows they won it in 2016, too, but that's a story for another time. All of this occurred under the watchful eye and forceful leadership of Cheryl Reeve. She was WNBA coach of the year in 2011, 2016 and 2020. She has won the most games and has the highest winning percentage of any female coach, and has won more playoff games than any WNBA coach.
2014	Melissa Guebert, Eastview girls	The Hopkins girls won the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Class AAAA titles and were heavily favored in 2014. But, Eden Prairie shocked the Royals in their section final. Eastview beat Eden Prairie 62-51 in a semi-final, and then came back from 12 points down at 7 minutes and still 7 points down at 2:30 to defeat Bloomington Kennedy 64-61.
2016	Johnny Tauer, St. Thomas	The Tommies, now under coach Johnny Tauer, won 4 NCAA D3 regional games with relative ease, then squeezed by Christopher Newport 66-62 and Benedictine 82-76 to win their 2 nd national title in 6 years. Taylor Montero was the tournament MVP.
2018	Willie Braziel, Columbia Heights	DeLaSalle had won 6 straight Class AAA titles and beat Columbia Heights twice in 2018 in the Tri-Metro conference. No matter. When the 2 teams met in the state tournament, Columbia Heights shocked the Islanders 71-69. They then lost to Delano 65-61 in the state final, but their win over DeLaSalle remained one of historic proportions.
2019	Riverso, Augsburg women (3)	The Augsburg women had finished with a winning record and in the top half of the MIAC only twice in 37 years of women's play, and not since 1985. In 2019, coach Ted Riverso brought the Auggies home in 2 nd place at 16-2, with losses only to unbeaten St. Thomas. Their 16 wins were as many as they had managed the previous 2 years combined. They made it to the playoff finals and again lost to St. Thomas to finish 22-5 overall.
2020	John Herbrechtsmeyer, Bethel women	Have we mentioned that the MIAC is the cradle of coaches? The quality of basketball coaches, both men and women, from top to bottom, is and has been quite remarkable. In 2020, it was John Herbrechtsmeyer's turn to lead Bethel to its 1 st women's title since 1994. And, keep in mind, this was while St. Thomas was still a full-fledged member of the MIAC and was a 5-time defending conference champion. Bethel went 19-1, St. Thomas 16-4. Bethel edged Augsburg 72-70 for the playoff title, but lost its 1 st NCAA tournament game.
2021	Mandy Pearson, Minnesota-Duluth women	The Northern Sun has some pretty good coaches, too, and the best of the lot is Mandy Pearson, coach of the UMD women. Mandy Pearson came to UMD in 2015, and led the Bulldogs to the NSIC playoff finals every year from 2019 to 2023, with titles in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. In 2021 they beat St. Cloud State 67-55 for the title, then won one NCAA tournament game before losing in the regional semis. They finished 14-2 with a scheduled truncated due to COVID.

		Earlier, Pearson had taken on a faltering program at St. Mary's that went 7-18 in 2007. By 2013 they were 22-5 and in 2014 they won their 1 st MIAC title since 1985. Pearson was MIAC coach of the year in 2013 and 2014.
2022	Lori Fish, St. Cloud State women	<p>Minnesota's small college coaches are the best, and 2022 was no exception. The candidates for Minnesota coach of the year include Lori Fish, St. Cloud State women; Mandy Pearson, UMD women; Dan Smith, St. John's; and Justin Weick, UMD men. (Heck, I can make a case and I usually do, make a case for Pearson every year.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 4 won or tied for 1st in their conference in the regular season • 2 of them--Pearson and Smith--won the conference post-season tournament • But only one won an NCAA tournament game, and that was Lori Fish <p>St. Cloud and UMD tied for 1st in the NSIC regular season at 19-2. In fact UMD's 2 losses were both to St. Cloud. But in the post-season tournament, UMD demolished St. Cloud 62-39. But, the tie-breaker is that one lonely NCAA tournament win and, again, it and the Coach of the Year award goes to Lori Fish.</p>
2023	Pearson (2)	<p>Mandy Pearson just keeps on rollin' along. Pearson coached at St. Mary's from 2007 to 2015. St. Mary's had won just one MIAC title in 1985 but won a second under Pearson in 2014 at 24-4. In her last 3 seasons there, she was 64-18.</p> <p>She moved to UMD in 2015. She has now won 3 straight regular season titles, and 4 playoff titles in 5 years. In 2023, UMD was 21-1 in the NSIC and 31-3 overall. In the post-season, UMD won 6 NCAA playoff games before losing to unbeaten Ashland 78-67 in the NCAA D2 final. In 8 years at UMD, Pearson is now 155-67 (.698). In the past 5 years she is 118-23 (.837).</p>

**Coach of the Year
Multiple Awards**

- Dr. Louis J. Cooke 10
- Joe Hutton 5
- Clem Haskins, Cheryl Reeve, Ellen Mosher Hanson, Ted Rivero, John Kundla, Everett Dean 3
- Marshall Diebold, Frank Cleve, Jim Dutcher, Del Schiffler, Kevin McHale, Flip Saunders, Mike Durbin, Dan Smith, Steve Fritz, Norm Olson, Dick Reinhart, Mandy Pearson 2