

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Player of the Year</b>	<b>Description</b>
1901	George Tuck, Minneapolis Central	In 1900 and 1901, the Minnesota Gophers won 21 games and lost 4. They defeated future Big 10 rivals Iowa and Wisconsin 4 times by an average score of 32-10. They defeated Tuck's Mpls. Central team 3 times by an average of 16-6. When Tuck and his friends played against an educational institution, they played as Mpls. Central. When they played other opponents, they played as the Mpls. YMCA. Red Wing had a highly regarded senior men's team that went 50-1 at home over 7 years. Their only loss was to Tuck and the YMCA.
1902-1903	William Deering, Minnesota Gophers	In 1902 and 1903 the Gophers won 28 games while losing none. In 1902 they were widely regarded as the national champions, having defeated Yale, regarded as the best team in the east, 32-23. The 1903 team was awarded one mythical national championship but lacking a signature win like Yale in 1902, they were not as widely regarded as the best team in the land. Deering, a forward from Fargo, ND, was their best player.
1904-1905	Tuck, Minnesota Gophers	Tuck had joined the Gophers in 1902 and promptly helped them to those 2 national championship seasons. In 1904 and 1905, he was their best player as they went a combined 17-9-1. In 1905, Tuck was the 1 <sup>st</sup> Gopher to be named all-American.
1906	Garfield Brown, Minnesota Gophers	The Gophers went 13-2, including 6-1 in the Big 10, and won the first Big 10 basketball title ever contested. Brown averaged 6 points per game and was named all-American.
1911-1912	Frank Lawler, Minnesota Gophers	Gopher historians report that Lawler led the Big 10 in scoring with 8 points per game, but the Big 10 itself does not recognize scoring champions before 1939. Meanwhile, the Gophers also claim a share of the Big 10 title at 8-4. The Big 10 shows the Gophers in 2 <sup>nd</sup> place at 7-4, and Gopher publications in fact show just 11 conference games. In any event, Lawler was named all-American, and in 1950 he was voted by Gopher fans as the top player of the first 50 years.  In 1912 the Gophers slumped to 7-6 but Lawler again starred.
1913	Lawler, The Ineligibles	Having completed his Gopher career, in 1913 Lawler played for various senior men's teams but mostly for The Ineligibles, that is, a group of his former Gopher teammates.
1914	Harold Gillen, Stillwater	Gillen led Stillwater to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Minnesota state high school basketball title. They had been favored in 1913 but lost to Mountain Lake 31-24 in the semis. They rebounded in 1914, beating Aitkin 57-11, Fosston 32-19 and Winona 30-4. Their average margin of victory of about 40-11 was a tournament record for more than 100 years.
1915	Al Rehder, Red Wing Company L	

1916	Bill Conlin, Red Wing Company L	Red Wing was Minnesota's leading hotbed of basketball activity and in 1916 they went 20-0 with a 53-16 average margin of victory. Rehder, a guard and later judge, and Conlin, a forward, were Company L's leading players.
1917	Francis "Dobie" Stadvold, Minnesota Gophers	The Gophers won their 4 <sup>th</sup> Big 10 title at 10-2 (17-2 overall) as Stadvold were named all-American. Stadvold graduated from Fosston high school in 1910, playing just 5 games in his high school career. He did not play for the Gophers until his 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of college (1913). Then, after finishing college in 1914, he took 2 years off. He returned to the U to attend law school and returned to the Gophers at the age of 24. He went on to coach at West Virginia for 15 years.
1918	Gillen, Minnesota	Gillen was the Gophers 4 <sup>th</sup> all-American in 19188, and he was the first of just 3 Minnesota men to win a state high school title and a Big 10 title as a Gopher.
1919	Erling Platou, Minnesota Gophers	Platou, from Valley City, ND, scored what was then considered a remarkable 12 points per game in leading the Gophers to a 13-0 record and their 3 <sup>rd</sup> national championship. He was the national player of the year in his only season as a Gopher. He was later a pediatrician at the University Hospital.
1920	Martin Norton, Minneapolis Central	Central declined to play in the MSHSL tournament, traveling instead to Chicago to play in the new national high school tournament. Central finished 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Norton was named all-American.  Norton continued to excel in 1921, setting scoring and free throw shooting records that were broken by Jim McIntyre in 1944 and by Cody Schilling in 2008, as Central this time won the state title. In 1963, Halsey Hall put Norton on his 5-man, 50-year state tournament all-star team.
1921	Arnold Oss, Minnesota Gophers	Oss is reported to have led the Big 10 in scoring with 7.5 points per game, and he was named all-American for the 10-5 Gophers.
1922	Ozzie Cowles, Carleton	Carleton continued its rise as a regional basketball power. Indiana grad Everett Dean became Carleton coach and went 46-4 from 1921 to 1924. Ozzie Cowles from Browns Valley, Carl Nordly from Red Wing, and Joe Hutton from Excelsior were his star players, and all 3 went on to become prominent coaches in their own right.
1923	Carl Nordly, Carleton	
1924	Mally Nydahl, Minneapolis South	Nydahl was regarded as Minnesota's best high school athlete, and went on to play basketball and football for the Minnesota Gophers. His Mpls. South team was surprised by Two Harbors in the state final, however, by a score of 21-12.
1925	Black Rasey, Minnesota Gophers	The Gophers went 9-7 in their first season without long-time head coach Doc Cooke, but Rasey starred. He led the St. Paul city conference in scoring at Central high with 14 points per game in 1922. In 1925, he was referred to as the best player the Gophers had ever had, which was probably at least somewhat hyperbolic.
1926	Bennie Lichtenegger, Gaylord	Lichtenegger led Gaylord to 7 straight upset wins, from the district semi-finals straight through to the state final. They were the 1 <sup>st</sup> Minnesota high school team to be described as a "Cinderella" team. After the state final, fans passed a hat in

		the Kenwood Armory lobby to raise money to help Gaylord to get to Chicago for the national tournament, where they won 2 games.
1927	Otto Rortvedt, Henning	A so-called Class B tournament was held at Hamline for 5 years in the 1920s. More accurately, it was the Department or Graded tournament, meaning it was for graded schools that had a high school department, but not a high school proper. Henning won this, the final tournament, behind Rortvedt, who was described as "a giant center." Later reports said that he was 6-5.
1928	Cliff Halmrast, Moorhead	Moorhead became the first school to play in 6 consecutive state tournaments and also the first to win 2 straight. Halmrast led all scorers in 1928 while Moran in 1930 became the first boy to win all-tournament honors 3 times. Both went on to star at Concordia (Moorhead).
1929	Earl Moran, Moorhead	
1930	Chuck Wagner, Ascensions	A team representing Ascension church in north Minneapolis won the Minnesota AAU title and won one game at the national AAU tournament. Wagner scored 46 points in his team's last 3 games.
1931	Ray Buffalo, DeLaSalle	DeLaSalle defeated Jasper, IN, Academy 23-21 to win the national Catholic tournament in Chicago. Buffalo, reported to be a native American of the Chippewa tribe, was named all-American.
1932-1933	Dick Arney, Carleton	This was the final hurrah of Carleton basketball dominance, but what a period it was. Carleton won 5 straight Midwest conference titles as coach Marshall Diebold built a 55-10 record. The 1932 and 1933 Knights earned the nickname of "the Victory Five." In 1932, the Knights went 17-1, losing to the Minnesota Gophers but beating Chicago, DePaul, Iowa, Iowa State, Nebraska and Oklahoma A&M. They beat the Gophers 31-21 the following year and 29-26 in 1935. Forward Dick Arney, from Marshalltown, IA, scored 10 points per game and earned Little all-America honors.
1934	Marty Rolek, Mpls. Edison, the Dominiums	Edison had an uncharacteristically down year though point guard Marty Rolek earned a basketball scholarship to the U of M. After the end of the high school season, but while Rolek was still a high school student, he joined the senior men's team the Dominiums, and played against men who had never won a darned thing. But, with Rolek, they swept to the state AAU title.
1935	Wally Zimmerman, Hamline	Carleton grad Joe Hutton was now the coach at Hamline, and the Pipers would quickly displace the Knights as Minnesota's top small college program, winning 5 straight MIAC titles from 1932 through 1936. Center Zimmerman starred for the 1934 and 1935 champions.
1936	Johnny Dick, Buhl	They lost 2 games in the 1935 state tournament, but in 1936 they shocked the favorites from Mpls. Edison in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round 41-32, shooting an almost unheard-of 50 percent. They were then surprised by Wadena 28-27 in the semis, but clobbered Red Wing 35-16 for 3 <sup>rd</sup> place. As Dick left the court near the end of the game, he was afforded a standing ovation of several minutes duration, and was regarded as one of the best players ever to appear in the tournament. He went on to play for the Gophers.

1937-1938	Rolek, Minnesota Gophers	Rolek led the Gophers to their 1 <sup>st</sup> Big 10 title in 18 years at 10-2 and 14-6 overall. They edged Northwestern 34-33 in their penultimate game to clinch the title. Rolek earned all-America honors. In 1938 Rolek led the Gophers to a 6-0 start with 2 wins on the east coast, including 56-41 over Long Island U. and 36-31 over NYU. They lost their 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 Big 10 games, however, and despite closing with a 9 game winning streak fell one game short of Purdue in the Big 10 race.
1939	Clint Wager, St. Mary's	St. Mary's won its only MIAC titles ever in 1939 and 1940 with Winona native Clint Wager as their star. He went on to play football in the NFL.
1940	Tony Jaros, Mpls. Edison	Jaros was a high-scoring forward and a harbinger of the new, higher-scoring style of play just then coming into vogue. He went on to play for the Gophers and Lakers, then ran Tony Jaros River Garden pub for many years. In 1999, the Gophers chose him over Jim McIntyre as the greatest Gopher of the 1940s in one of the great injustices of Minnesota basketball history. It was a battle of the minister (McIntyre) and the barkeep, and the minister never had a chance.
1941	Arnie Johnson, Bemidji State	Johnson, from Gonvick, led Bemidji to the NAIA tournament in 1941 and 1942. In 1941, they won one game. In 1942, they won a pair including a 41-32 win over defending national champion San Diego State. He scored 46 points in 3 games. He went on to play in the NBA where he scored 8 points per game in 421 games.
1942	Johnny Norlander, Hamline	Hamline defeated Southeastern Oklahoma 33-31 for its 1 <sup>st</sup> national title, rallying from a 28-25 deficit late in the game. Norlander and Howie Schultz starred for Hamline. Like Johnson, Norlander scored 8 points per game in his NBA career which consisted, however, of just 219 games.
1943	Hal Haskins, Alexandria	Haskins set a state tournament scoring record with 19 points per game as Alexandria finished 2 <sup>nd</sup> to St. Paul Washington. He was also the 1 <sup>st</sup> Minnesotan to score 1,000 points in his high school career.
1944-1945	Jim McIntyre, Minneapolis Patrick Henry	<p>McIntyre led the Patriots to 2 state titles. He was the tallest boy ever to play in the state tournament at 6-7½ as a junior and over 6-9 as a senior. He set new game scoring records 3 times in 6 games, with 29 points in his 1<sup>st</sup> state tournament game in 1944, 36 in the 1944 final, and 43 in the 1945 final. He broke the tournament record twice with 86 points in 1944 and an even 100 in 1945. What was even more intimidating was his shooting percentage, nearly 50 percent over 6 games at a time when 20 percent was considered to be acceptable. Well, not anymore.</p> <p>He went on to earn all-America honors twice at Minnesota, and set Big 10 season scoring records and a field goal percentage record as a senior. He turned down the chance to play in the NBA and instead became a minister. But, he scored 14 points per game in 2 years in the national industrial league. When George Mikan retired from the Lakers, they hired Clyde Lovellette as his successor, and he scored as many as 24 points per game in the NBA. But, in the industrial league, he too scored 14 points per game. McIntyre was</p>

		unequivocally one of the 2 or 3 best Minnesota high school players ever.
1946	Jaros, Minnesota Gophers	It was McIntyre's freshman year, and big Mac helped hold George Mikan of DePaul to just 11 points, the lowest total of his college career. But it was Jaros who was named the Gophers MVP that year.
1947	McIntyre, Minnesota Gophers	It has become fashionable to say that Vern Mikkelson was better than Jim McIntyre in high school and/or in college. Mikkelson, after all, went on to a Hall of Fame NBA career. But in 1947, when both were sophomores, McIntyre was 1 <sup>st</sup> team all-Big 10, Mikkelson was 2 <sup>nd</sup> team all-MIAC. The Gophers won 40 games in their last 4 years before McIntyre joined the team. Over the next 4 years, they won 56. He was a consensus all-American in 1947 and 1948.
1948	George Mikan, Minneapolis Lakers	The Lakers got George Mikan because the Chicago Gears franchise folded early in the 1947-1948 season. By 1950 he was recognized as the greatest basketball player ever. By the time he retired in 1954, the Lakers had won 6 league championships in 7 years, plus the last of the World Professional Championship tournaments in 1948.
1949	Vern Mikkelson, Hamline	Hamline won its 2 <sup>nd</sup> national championship in 1949 and now Mikkelson was widely regarded as an outstanding player and a Little all-American. He went on to a Hall of Fame NBA career with 14 points per game and 9 rebounds.
1950	Haskins, Hamline	This time Hamline was shocked in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of the NAIA tournament, but Hal Haskins became the all-time leading scorer in the NAIA tournament with 280 points in 14 games, and he, too, won Little all-America honors. In fact, he was named the best college player to appear in Madison Square Garden during the 1949-1950 season.
1951	Bill Simonovich, Gilbert	6-10 Big Bill led his team to the state title at 26-1. His 1 <sup>st</sup> round matchup with 6-8 Burdie Halldorson of Austin was the most eagerly awaited such matchup until Lingenfelter and McHale in 1976, and Simonovich won it by the outlandish margin of 35-4. Halldorson went on to a vastly better post-high school career but that didn't change what happened in 1951.  Halldorson and Johnny Horan, St. Thomas Academy, combined with Simonovich in perhaps the greatest class of big men ever.
1952	Mikan	Mikan scored 24 points per game and led the NBA with 13 rebounds. The Lakers were just 40-26 in the regular season but 9-4 in the playoffs, and won their 4 <sup>th</sup> NBA title in 5 years.
1953	Dave Tschimperle, Hopkins	Hopkins repeated as state champions at 23-0. By the following year, their winning streak would reach a then-record of 65 straight games. Former Gopher coach Dave MacMillan called Tschimperle the best high school player he ever saw. Tschimperle's teammate Bud Hamilton played with Ron Johnson and Dick Garmaker at the U of M and said many years later that Tschimperle was better.
1954	Mikan	

		The Lakers won their 6 <sup>th</sup> NBA title in 7 years, going 46-26 in the regular season and again 9-4 in the playoffs. Mikan scored 18 points per game with 14 rebounds.
1955	Dick Garmaker, Minnesota Gophers	Garmaker largely escaped notice at Hibbing high school, but led Hibbing Junior College to the national finals in 1953. In 1955, he won all-America honors, scoring 23 points per game with 9 rebounds. Chuck Mencil teamed with Garmaker to lead the Gophers to 2 <sup>nd</sup> place in the Big 10 and also won all-America honors.
1956	Ron Johnson, New Prague	Johnson was the 2 <sup>nd</sup> great low post after Jim McIntyre. Like McIntyre, he led his team to 2 state tournaments but, unlike McIntyre, no titles. And unlike McIntyre, he became Minnesota's all-time leading scorer, albeit briefly, with 2,190 points.
1957	Jon Hagen, Belview	Johnson's record was broken by Hagen the following year, and by just 2 points. Hagen averaged 35 points per game, but in his final game was held to just 15. Not only that, but he made just 2-of-7 FT, and this was a fellow who went on to set a national small college FT shooting record at more than 90 percent. He was lucky to get to 2,192 points and to cement his place in Minnesota basketball history.
1958	Norm Grow, Foley	Norm Grow, on the other hand, obliterated virtually every Minnesota scoring and rebounding record by wide margins. Grow's record of 70 points in one game would stand for more than 45 years. His record of 2,852 career points would stand for more than 20 years (and more than 30 years among the boys). His career record of 1,417 rebounds stood for almost 50 years though rebounds were only tabulated beginning in his sophomore year. Minnesotans were shocked when he did not star as a Minnesota Gopher.
1959	Elgin Baylor, Minneapolis Lakers	The Lakers struggled mightily after George Mikan retired, but things finally began to turn around when the Lakers drafted Elgin Baylor in 1958. Baylor averaged a Mikanesque 25 points and 15 boards, and the Lakers win count improved from 19 to 33. They then shocked the St. Louis Hawks in the playoffs and found themselves in the finals against the mighty Boston Celtics. The Celtics, of course, swept the series in 4 games. A year later the Lakers—that is, the Minneapolis Lakers—were no more, gone to Los Angeles, and bigger and better things.
1960	Johnson, Minnesota Gophers	Like Jim McIntyre before him, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> great Minnesota post, Ron Johnson, also went on to earn all-America honors at the U of M. He scored 20 ppg for his career and won all-American recognition as both a junior and a senior.
1961	Terry Kunze, Duluth Central	Terry Kunze led Duluth Central to the state title with an undefeated 27-0 record. He went on to start for the Minnesota Gophers and to play in the ABA.
1962	Bob Bruggers, Danube	Bob Bruggers, Danube, finished his high school career with 2,364 points, then 2 <sup>nd</sup> only to Norm Grow.
1963	Dan Anderson, Augsburg	Dan Anderson was born in Crookston and played high school ball at Portland, ND. At Augsburg from 1961 to 1965, he scored a then-MIAC record of 2,052 career points. He was selected 89 <sup>th</sup> in the NBA draft but signed with the New Jersey

		Nets of the ABA and scored 41 points in his 1 <sup>st</sup> pro game. He averaged 12 points and 9 boards in 140 ABA games.
1964-1965	Lou Hudson, Minnesota Gophers	Hudson was part of the 1 <sup>st</sup> wave of Black players recruited from outside of Minnesota by the Gophers. Like coach Murray Warmath of the football Gophers before him, coach John Kundla announced that he could not win with Minnesota kids, and he quickly brought in Hudson from North Carolina, Archie Clark from Michigan, and Don Yates from Pennsylvania. Hudson had the biggest impact, scoring 20 points per game over 3 years, as the Gophers went 36-12 his 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 years but just 14-10 after Hudson broke his hand early in his senior season. He went on to score 20 points per game with a high season of 27 in 13 NBA seasons.
1966	Archie Clark, Minnesota Gophers	With Hudson hurt, Clark stepped up for the Gophers, scoring 24.5 points per game as a senior. He went on to score 16 points per game, with a high of 29, in 10 NBA seasons.
1967	Jim Hill, St. Paul Central	Hill came into the state tournament a relative unknown, but left it widely recognized as Minnesota's top high school player. He scored 20 points against the Edina powerhouse, then 41 in a consolation game, and 31 more in the consolation final. His total of 92 points was exceeded only by Jim McIntyre and Ron Johnson.
1968	Bob Zender, Edina	Edina completed its 3-peat with a 3-year record of 79-1, and Zender was regarded as Minnesota's best player of the 1960s.
1969	Tony Jenkins, Shattuck	Jenkins led Shattuck to its 2 <sup>nd</sup> straight independent school title. He would go on to win all-Ivy League honors as Harvard captain.
1970	Tom Mulso, Sherburn	Mulso led Sherburn to the last single-class title.
1971	Como Pontliana, Duluth Central	Pontliana led Duluth Central to the very 1 <sup>st</sup> overall title of the 2-class era.
1972	Jim Brewer, Minnesota Gophers	Brewer helped the Gophers to their 1 <sup>st</sup> Big 10 title in 35 years and just their 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 54 years, and was named Big 10 player of the year.
1973-1974	Mark Olberding, Melrose	Melrose played in 4 straight state finals. Olberding scored 91 points in 1973 though Melrose lost to Chisholm 53-52 in the Class A final. In 1974 he scored a record 112 points in 4 games, and Melrose won both Class A and the overall championship game. Many thought that Olberding was the greatest Minnesota high school player ever.
1975	Frank Wachlarowicz, Little Falls	The high school tournament had begun to lose some of its luster. Attendance dropped from 15,500 per session in 1971 to under 11,000 in 1975. But the high school champions remained among Minnesota's biggest sports stars. In 1975, it was "Frankie Alphabet," that is, Wachlarowicz, who led Little Falls to the AA and overall championships, scoring 75 points in 4 games. He went on to score a Minnesota college record that stood for more than 40 years with 2,357 points at St. John's.
1976		

	Steve Lingenfelter, Bloomington Jefferson	Lingenfelter vs. McHale in the 1976 Class AA final was the most anticipated matchup of classic low post players ever. Lingenfelter outscored McHale 26-21 and Jefferson won the state title over Hibbing 60-51. But McHale set a record that still stands, making 79 percent of his FG attempts. He beat Lingenfelter for a starting spot with the Minnesota Gophers, and of course went on to a Hall of Fame career in the NBA. And, he edged Lingenfelter for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual Mr. Basketball award. We demurred.
1977	Mychal Thompson, Minnesota Gophers	Thompson scored 21 points per game in 4 years as a Gopher, including 22 points per game in 1977. The Gophers went 24-3 and beat national champion Marquette at Marquette, but it all went for naught, as they were still on probation dating back to the tenure of Bill Musselman. He went on to score 14 points per game in 12 NBA seasons.
1978	Janet Karvonen, New York Mills	By the end of her high school career in 1980, Janet Karvonen held every major girls scoring record and her New York Mills team had 3 straight state titles. She held state tournament records of 40 points in one game, 98 points (32.7 per game) for a tournament, and the career record of 328 tournament points (27.4 points per game in 12 games). Her career record of 3,197 points stood for 17 years. She was Miss Basketball in 1980.
1979	Randy Breuer, Lake City	Karvonen and New York Mills won her 3 <sup>rd</sup> straight state title, while 7-foot-3 Randy Breuer and Lake City made it 2 in a row. Breuer broke Olberding's record by one point, scoring 113 points in just 3 games. (Olberding's 112 came in 4 games), and he also did something that no one had done since Jim McIntyre. Not once but twice he outscored Lake City's state tournament opponents all by himself. He outscored Butterfield-Odin 36-32 in 1978 (the final score was 49-32) and Duluth Morgan Park 42-39 in 1979 (the game score was 77-39). He was the easiest Mr. Basketball choice ever.  Breuer went on to become just the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Minnesota man to win a state title and a Big 10 title after Harold Gillen and Dick Seebach. He was the Big 10 player of the year in 1983, and once scored 40 points in an NBA game.
1980	Kevin McHale, Minnesota Gophers	McHale scored 15 points per game in 4 years as a Gopher including 17 as a senior in 1980. The Gophers won 20 games for just the 3 <sup>rd</sup> time ever, and McHale won all-America honors.
1981	Kelly Skalicky, Albany	Janet Karvonen and New York Mills beat Albany and Kelly Skalicky 61-52 in the 1980 final as Karvonen outscored Skalicky 38-23. In 1980, Austin Pacelli shocked the Mills, then lost to Albany 56-25 in the final. In 1981, Pacelli shocked Albany 48-44. Albany ended up meeting the Mills in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> place game, winning 76-70 in OT, as Skalicky scored 35 points. She was Miss Basketball 1981.
1982	(tie) Darryl Mitchell and Trent Tucker, Minnesota Gophers	The Gophers won their 2 <sup>nd</sup> Big 10 title in 11 years, but just their 4 <sup>th</sup> in 64 years. They beat Purdue 53-52, then Iowa 57-55 in 3 OT in Iowa City to clinch the title. Point guard Darryl Mitchell made the game-winning FT in both games, and was named the Big 10 MVP. It was shooting guard Trent Tucker, however, who won all-America honors and went on to a notable NBA career.



1983	Breuer, Minnesota Gophers	The Gophers did not repeat their Big 10 title, dropping to 19-11 and 9-9 in the Big 10, but Randy Breuer was selected as Big 10 player of the year. He scored 15 points per game over 4 years, including 20 as a senior. He went on to score 7 points per game in 681 NBA games, but including 40 in a 1990 game with the Minnesota Timberwolves.
1984	Joe Regnier, White Bear Lake	Regnier was not the high school player of the year, but won our overall player of the year award in recognition of the great season of the White Bear Lake Bears. The Bears went 26-0 and beat likewise undefeated Mpls. North in the state final 51-47. Regnier, then a junior, led the defensively-oriented Bears in both the semis and the finals with a total of 36 points.
1985	Laura Coenen, Minnesota Gophers	The Gopher women had enjoyed reasonable success through 1985, both before and during the tenure of coach Ellen Mosher. Mosher, specifically, was 155-86, in her 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 years at the helm. Her only losing season came in 1984, when Laura Coenen was hurt. Coenen came back strongly in 1985, scoring 42 points the Gophers 1 <sup>st</sup> game. The Gophers went 18-10, 13-5 in the Big 10, as Coenen finished with 25 points per game and more than 2,000 for her career.
1986	Kevin McHale, Boston Celtics	McHale is the only player in 119 years to win our player of the year award despite not playing for a Minnesota-based team. But, frankly, Minnesota basketball was a little bit down while McHale and the Celtics were way, way up, winning their 3 <sup>rd</sup> NBA title in 6 years. McHale scored 21 points per game in the regular season; he was an all-star for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> time, and made the NBA all-defense team for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time. He scored 25 points per game in the playoffs, including 25.8 to lead the Celtics in the finals.
1987	Kevin Lynch, Bloomington Jefferson	Lynch led Jefferson to their 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> state titles in 1986 and 1987. Lynch didn't score a lot, but he was a spectacular defender and a solid ball-handler and rebounder. He was an obvious and an easy choice for Mr. Basketball. He went on to score 11 points per game in 4 years as a Minnesota Gopher, including 18 as a senior.
1988	Jessica Beachy, Concordia (Moorhead)	Concordia won the women's national D3 title, beating St. John Fisher 65-57. Jessica Beachy led all scorers with 20 points. She was the D3 national player of the year as Concordia finished 29-2.
1989	Willie Burton, Minnesota Gophers	Clem Haskins became Gopher coach in 1986 in the wake of a rape scandal that cost Jim Dutcher his job and all but emptied the Gopher roster of any talent. Haskins brought in a solid freshman class but, hey, they were freshmen and they went 6-30 in their 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 years in the Big 10. In 1989, they showed great improvement, going 19-12 and 9-9 in the Big 10, then beat Kansas State and Siena in the NCAA tournament. Willie Burton scored 19 points per game as a junior, including 29 against Kansas State.
1990	Richard Coffey, Minnesota Gophers	Now the Gophers went 23-9 and 11-7 in the Big 10. Burton was still the top scorer and the most skilled player. Still, as their 4 years came to a close, it was clear that Richard Coffey had provided the heart and soul and the physicality that was indispensable to the Gophers success. Burton again scored 19 points per game while Coffey scored 9 with 9 rebounds. The Gophers beat Syracuse 82-75 in their 3 <sup>rd</sup> NCAA

		<p>tournament game in what was described as the best game the Gophers had ever played.</p> <p>Burton scored 10 points per game in 8 NBA seasons, and once scored more than 50 points in a game. Coffey scored one point per game in 52 NBA games. But the Gophers would no more have gone to the Elite 8 without Coffey than they would have without Burton.</p>
1991	Joel McDonald, Chisholm	<p>Coach Bob McDonald would overshadow all of his sons—Mike, Paul, Tom and Joel—with more than 1,000 wins as high school coach. But, for a moment in 1991, Joel was the star of the family, scoring a record 3,292 career points and leading Chisholm to its 3<sup>rd</sup> state title in 19 years. Well, yeah, okay, Bob led the team but Joel led them on the floor, and was named Mr. Basketball.</p>
1992	Laurie Trow, St. Thomas	<p>Trow completed her St. Thomas career in 1993 with 2,607 points. In 1991, she led St. Thomas to the national D3 title with a 73-55 win over Muskingum. Trow scored 33 points in the quarter-final and 33 in the final. She averaged 22 points and 10 rebounds that year. In 1992, St. Thomas went through the regular season unbeaten and Trow was named the D3 player of the year. But Luther (Iowa) shocked the Tommies 61-60 in the NCAA semis.</p>
1993	Voshon Lenard, Minnesota Gophers	<p>After losing Burton, Coffey, Lynch and the rest of their Elite 8 players, rebuilding occurred quickly as the Gophers won just 12 games in 1991, 16 in 1992 and 22 in 1993. They ended the season by winning 5 games in the NIT tournament, including a 62-61 win over Georgetown to win their 1<sup>st</sup> NIT title. Lenard scored 17 points per game in this, his sophomore year. He went on to score 19 and 17 in his junior and senior years, and 17 for 4 years. He went on to score 12 points per game in 11 NBA seasons.</p>
1994	Carol Ann Shudlick, Minnesota Gophers	<p>The Gopher women faded throughout the 1980s as Minnesota girls basketball failed to provide the talent needed for success. But in 1993 and 1994, with Carol Ann Shudlick, the Gophers had their only winning seasons between 1985 and 2002. The 1994 Gophers won an NCAA tournament upset at Notre Dame, and Shudlick was named national player of the year.</p>
1995	(tie) Coco and Kelly Miller, Rochester Mayo	<p>Coco and Kelly Miller led Rochester Mayo to the state tournament in 1993 as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In 1995, as sophomores, they not only made it to the tournament, they won 3 games by 28, 29 and 25 points. Coco scored 75 points, Kelly just 74.</p> <p>They settled for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1996, and won again in 1997, beating Bloomington Jefferson 78-70 in the best-played game in the history of girls tournament, then easily defeating Woodbury in the final. Now, Coco scored 72 points and Kelly 71. Bottom line: Coco and Kelly Miller changed the way the game was played, bringing a fast-breaking, full-court, rambling, gambling style to the girls game. They shared the Miss Basketball award in 1997.</p>
1996	Khalid El-Amin, Minneapolis North	<p>Khalid El-Amin led Mpls. North to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-peat ever in boys high school ball with an 81-4 record in 1995, 1996 and 1997. His biggest moment came in a 1996 semi-final when he made 2 3-pointers in the final 11 seconds to avert a huge upset to St. Thomas 67-65 and finish with 41 points. He finished with a</p>

		then-record 238 state tournament points, and was Mr. Basketball in 1997. He would go on to lead UConn to an NCAA title in 1999.
1997	Bobby Jackson, Minnesota Gophers	The NCAA says it never happened, but there are those who remember the Gophers winning the Big 10 title in 1997 at 16-2, beating UCLA 80-72 to go to the Final 4, where they lost to Kentucky 78-69. Bobby Jackson scored 14 points per game with 4 assists, then scored 10 points per game in 12 NBA seasons. Of course, it was also he, Bobby Jackson, for whom coach Clem Haskins constructed an illegal scheme to keep him eligible. Jan Gangelhoff wrote papers for Jackson and other players, and when she blabbed some 2 years later, Clem's entire edifice collapsed, and Gopher men's basketball has never recovered.
1998-1999	Kevin Garnett, Minnesota Timberwolves	<p>The Minnesota Timberwolves now (as of 2022) have a regular season record of 1049-1581 (.399) and a playoff record of 18-34 (.362) and 2-9 in playoff series. They have won a playoff series in one season out of the 34 seasons in which they have done business. In short, they are a historically inept franchise. Period.</p> <p>One of few things the Timberwolves have ever done right was picking Kevin Garnett with the 5<sup>th</sup> overall pick in 1995, making him the 1<sup>st</sup> player ever to go directly from high school to the NBA. Of course, it took him a few years to mature, but by 1998 and 1999, at the age of 22 and 23, he was a force, scoring 18 and then 21 points per game, with 10 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals and 2 blocks, and the Wolves had their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons ever with a winning percentage over .500.</p>
2000	Jake Sullivan, Tartan	Sullivan led Tartan to the Class AAAA title and became just the 2 <sup>nd</sup> boy to break the 3,000 point barrier. He also broke the 700 FT barrier and made a (still) record of .898 of his FT attempts. He went on to score 15 points per game in 123 college games at Iowa State.
2001	Rick Rickert, Duluth East	Rickert led his team to 2 <sup>nd</sup> place in the Class AAAA tournament, scoring 27, 37 and 26 points in 3 games. He was Mr. Basketball and went on to score 15 points per game in 2 years at Minnesota.
2002-2003	Lindsay Whalen, Minnesota Gophers	The Gopher women had 2 winning seasons from 1985 to 2001 but, now, Lindsay Whalen had arrived. In her sophomore, junior and senior years, the Gophers went 72-23. In 2002, she made it into the AP top 25 and won 2 NCAA tournament games. In 2003 they moved into the top 20 and again won 2 post-season games. In 2004 they made it all the way to the Final 4, beating #1 Duke 82-75 to get there. Whalen finished her Gopher career as the all-time top scorer with 20 points per game over 4 years, #2 in assists and #3 in steals, and as the only 3-time all-American. She went on to score 11.5 points per game in the WNBA while winning 4 WNBA titles with the Minnesota Lynx.
2004	Garnett	Garnett led the Timberwolves to their only 2 playoff series wins ever in 2004, and a team record of 58 wins and their only divisional title ever. He won the NBA MVP award with career highs of 24 points and 14 rebounds per game.
2005		

	Janelle McCarville, Minnesota Gophers	Lindsay Whalen graduated but the Gopher women still had a lot of talent. They went 12-4 in the Big 10 and 26-9 overall. They lost to Baylor 64-57 in the Sweet 16. The Bears went on to win the NCAA title, and this was their closest game. Center Janelle McCarville was named all-American for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> time and was the 1 <sup>st</sup> player selected in the WNBA draft.
2006	Isaiah Dahlman, Braham	Isaiah Dahlman led Braham to its 3 <sup>rd</sup> straight Class AA title. In 2004 and 2005, they won 65 straight games, still 2 <sup>nd</sup> all-time in Minnesota. He set a state career record, since broken, of 3,366 points and scored 236 points in 3 state tournaments, just 2 points short of Khalid El-Amin's then-record. He was an easy choice for Mr. Basketball.
2007	Angel Robinson, St. Paul Central	The St. Paul Central girls went 32-0, beating Mpls. South 49-44 for the state title, and were generally regarded as the greatest girls team ever. Point guard Angel Robinson was their star, making the all-time lists with 6 steals per game. She was an easy choice for Miss Basketball.
2008	John Smith, Winona State	In 2006, 2007 and 2008 Winona State won a total of 15 games and lost just 6. They played in the NCAA D2 national championship game each year, winning in 2006 and 2008 while losing in 2007 on a last second bucket by Barton. In 2006 they defeated Virginia Union 73-61 and in 2008 they defeated Augusta State 87-78. John Smith was the national player of the year and the NSIC rebounding leader in 2007 and 2008.
2009	Tayler Hill, Minneapolis South	Tayler Hill led the Mpls. South Tigers to 3 state finals, finally winning in 2009 while scoring a record-tying 47 points in a state tournament game. She also set a career record with 3,888 points and was the 2 <sup>nd</sup> girl to score 1,000 points in a season. She went on to play at Ohio State, scoring 20 points per game in her junior and senior seasons, and then to play 6 WNBA seasons.
2010	(tie) Rachel Banham and Cassie Rochel, Lakeville North	Lakeville North matched St. Paul Central's 32-0 record, and there were suggestions that maybe North was Minnesota's best girls team ever. Shot-blocking 6-5 center Cassie Rochel was named Miss Basketball in 2010, while guard Rachel Banham was named Miss Basketball in 2011. Rochel blocked 643 shots, still #3 on the career list. Banham went on to score a Big 10 record 60 points against Northwestern for the Minnesota Gophers.
2011-2012	Whalen, Minnesota Lynx	<p>The Minnesota Lynx had struggled mightily through most of their existence but a pair of #1 overall draft picks—whom they parlayed into Seimone Augustus and Maya Moore—started to turn things around. But the acquisition of point guard and hometown hero Lindsay Whalen was the finishing touch, and the Lynx went on to win the WNBA title in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017—oh, and in 2016, too, but that's another story.</p> <p>Whalen went on to average 11 points and 5 assists in 8 seasons with the Lynx, including highs of 15 points in 2013 and 6 assists in 2011. In 2014 she averaged 21 points in the playoffs. She was a 4-time all-star and 4 times all-WNBA, and is the all-time WNBA playoff assist leader. In 2011, the Lynx won their 1<sup>st</sup> divisional title at 27-7, then went 7-1 in the playoffs. In 2012, they were again 27-7 but lost to Indiana 3 games to one in the WNBA finals.</p>

		Whalen now coaches the Minnesota Gopher women.
2013	Tyus Jones, Apple Valley	Tyus Jones was perhaps the greatest phenom Minnesota high school basketball had ever seen—a superstar statewide and nationally right from the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade. By the time he was a junior, his Apple Valley team was rated #1, and a crowd of more than 12,000, the largest for a state tournament in almost 15 years, came out to see Tyus and Apple Valley defeat Park Center 74-57 for the state title. He would go on to lead Duke to a national championship.
2014-2015	Maya Moore, Minnesota Lynx	The Minnesota Lynx continued their winning ways, going 73-29 during the 2013, 2014 and 2015 regular seasons, 17-5 in the 3 playoffs, and winning the 2013 and 2015 WNBA titles. Now it was Maya Moore who emerged as the Lynx' top player and one of the top players in the WNBA. She was the WNBA finals MVP in 2013 and the league MVP in 2014. She led the league in scoring in 2014 with 24 points per game, then scored a personal high of 23 points per game in the 2015 playoffs. She retired after the 2018 season, having scored 18 points per game over 8 years.
2016	Banham, Minnesota Gophers	Rachel Banham played 5 seasons at the U. of Minnesota, getting a 5 <sup>th</sup> year of eligibility in 2016 after being injured in 2015. What a year it was. She scored 29 points per game, and was named Big 10 player of the year. Her 3,093 points was the most ever in the Big 10 and #6 nationally (now in 2022 #8). She tied the national record with 60 points against Northwestern. She went on to score 5 points per game in the WNBA.
2017	Sylvia Fowles, Minnesota Lynx	Sylvia Fowles became a Minnesota Lynx in 2015, and promptly helped the Lynx to their 3 <sup>rd</sup> WNBA title. In fact, she was the WNBA finals MVP in both 2015 and 2017. She was also the WNBA MVP in 2017 when she scored 19 points per game with 10 rebounds, and added 19 and 13 in the playoffs. Her 11.9 rebounds per game in 2018 is the all-time WNBA record. The Lynx went 27-7 and 5-2 in the playoffs.  Fowles had something of an off year, shooting-wise, in 2016, but the Lynx won a team record 28 regular season games and advanced to the WNBA finals. Late in a very close game #5, the L.A. Sparks made a FG that clearly came after the shot clock had expired. Play continued. Surely, the announcers said, they'll wipe that one off the books at the next break. But, at the next break, it was announced that the shot could only be waived off at the time. Now it was too late. It counted though everyone who saw it knew that it was no good. The Sparks won the game by one point and the series 3-2. But, no, everyone knows that this was the Lynx' 5 <sup>th</sup> WNBA title.
2018	Daniel Oturu, Cretin-Derham Hall	Daniel Oturu led Cretin to the state title in an exciting 78-77 win over Apple Valley, though he almost blew the game by shoving Apple Valley's Tre Jones to the floor late in the 1 <sup>st</sup> half. Apple Valley made a technical FT to lead by one at the half, and they still led by one with under 10 seconds on the clock. But Oturu got a stuff with 2 seconds on the clock for the Cretin win. He finished his senior year with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 6 blocks per game. He went on to score 15 points per game with 9 rebounds in 3 years as a Minnesota Gopher.

2019-2020	Paige Bueckers, Hopkins	Paige Bueckers came to be known as Minnesota's best girl player ever, oh, long about her freshman year. She went on to be named Minnesota's player of the year 3 times and national player of the year in her senior season. Over her last 4 years at Hopkins, she averaged 22 points, 5 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals per game. Hopkins lost 3 straight state title games in 2016, 2017 and 2018, but in 2019 they clobbered Stillwater 74-45 in the final. The 2020 state tournament, which Hopkins was favored to win, was cancelled due to COVID. Bueckers then went on to become the 1 <sup>st</sup> freshman ever to be named the college player of the year at UConn.
2021	Chet Holmgren, Team Sizzle	Chet Holmgren was the 2 <sup>nd</sup> straight Minnesotan from Team Sizzle and Minnehaha Academy to be named national player of the year. Jalen Suggs did so in 2020, now Holmgren did it in 2021. Minnehaha won the Class AA state title in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Now they moved up to Class AAA and demolished Alexandria 80-29 in the final. Holmgren averaged 21 points and 12 rebounds. He followed Suggs to Gonzaga where he averaged 14 points, 10 rebounds and 4 blocks as a freshman.  When Holmgren announced his college choice on ESPN, he was surrounded by signage for Team Sizzle. There was no mention of Minnehaha.
2022	Karl-Anthony Towns, Minnesota Timberwolves	The Timberwolves were much improved. Towns stood out by scoring 60 points in one game. His 32 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter points are the 3 <sup>rd</sup> most ever scored in an NBA game. And he won the 3-point shooting contest at the NBA All-Star Game.
2023	Brooke Olson, Minnesota-Duluth women	Olson was the NCAA D2 national player of the year, as well as the NSIC player of the year for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> time. She scored 22 ppg during the regular season, then 27 ppg in the post-season as UMD advanced to the national championship game.

4 awards--Lindsay Whalen, Minnesota Gophers, Minnesota Lynx

3 awards each--George Tuck, Minneapolis Central, Minnesota Gophers; Frank Lawler, Minnesota Gophers, The Ineligibles; Marty Rolek, Minneapolis Edison, the Dominiums, Minnesota Gophers; Jim McIntyre, Minneapolis Patrick Henry, Minnesota Gophers; George Mikan, Minneapolis Lakers; Kevin Garnett, Minnesota Timberwolves

2 awards each--William Deering, Minnesota Gophers; Harold Gillen, Stillwater, Minnesota Gophers; Dick Arney, Carleton; Tony Jaros, Minneapolis Edison, Minnesota Gophers; Hal Haskins, Alexandria, Hamline; Ron Johnson, New Prague, Minnesota Gophers; Lou Hudson, Minnesota Gophers; Mark Olberding, Melrose; Kevin McHale, Minnesota Gophers, Boston Celtics; Randy Breuer, Lake City, Minnesota Gophers; Rachel Banham, Lakeville North, Minnesota Gophers; Maya Moore, Minnesota Lynx; Paige Bueckers, Hopkins