

**Minnesota Hoops
Team of the Year 1901-2023
(All Levels)**

Year	Player of the Year	Description
1895	Minnesota Aggies	Hamline athletic director Ray Kaighn arranged the 1 st intercollegiate basketball game ever played, between Hamline and the Minnesota Aggies in the fall of 1894. The Aggies won 9-3. The following February 1895, the Aggies again beat Hamline 9-6. In the fall of 1895, the Aggies also defeated St. Thomas 4-3. They were Minnesota's 1 st basketball power.
1896	Minneapolis YMCA	Basketball had of course 1 st come to Minnesota via the YMCA. By the fall of 1892, the gym at the Minneapolis Y was set aside for basketball every Tuesday and Saturday evenings. The pick-up games played there were surely the 1 st games ever played in Minnesota. So when the Twin City basketball league was formed in 1896, the Y entered a team. Not only that, but they won the inaugural championship. The Aggies finished 2 nd at 6-2 while the Gophers from the Minneapolis campus went 3-5.
1897	Minnesota Aggies (2)	Now the YMCA had at least 4 teams in the TC league. But, by spreading their talent around, they opened the door for the Minnesota Aggies to win the 2 nd league title. The Aggies beat the Gophers 25-1. The U finished 3-6-1.
1898	Red Wing Company G	Red Wing was an early hotbed of basketball activity. Its militia, Company G, had all of the ingredients for a successful team. It had young men in large numbers, it had a room (an armory) large enough to accommodate a game, and it had a philosophical bent toward physical fitness. In their 3 rd season, Company G defeated the Minneapolis Y 22-18 and the Minnesota Aggies 14-4 to establish themselves as the state's best team.
1899	Macalester Scots	Macalester won the TC league title in 1899, beating the Gophers 9-7 and 9-8.
1900	Minnesota Gophers 10-3	The Gophers from the Minneapolis campus of the U of M had hired one of the 1 st full-time basketball coaches in the country in Dr. Louis J. Cooke in 1897. Yet, success was slow to come. But, it came, and in 1900 the Gophers not only became respectable, they clearly became the best team in the state. They finished 10-3, losing only to the Minneapolis Y and twice to Superior Normal.
1901	Minnesota Gophers 11-1 (2)	The Gophers were even better in 1901, losing only to Superior Normal and beating Wisconsin for the 2 nd straight year, now by the comfortable margin of 42-15. The Gophers now were led by William Deering, "a strong shooter" from Fargo, ND, and guard Michael Kiefer, "a good ball handler."
1902	Minnesota Gophers 15-0 (3)	Finally, the Gophers really hit a stride worthy of one of the few colleges in America with a full-time paid coach. Sure, they played and beat 4 high schools and 3 of what are now "small colleges." But they also beat 3 future Big 10 opponents— Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin—by an average of 44-10.

		<p>And when Yale, regarded as the best team in the east, came to town, the Gophers won again, 32-23 with 2 late steals by guard Michael Kiefer icing the win. Based on this win and their 15-0 record, the Gophers were widely recognized as national champions, albeit mythical. Kiefer, by the way, set a record that will never be broken by playing for the Gophers for 8 years. There was no limit on playing in those days, just the requirement that one be enrolled in school. Kiefer played 4 years as an undergrad, and 4 more as a grad student.</p>
1903	Minnesota Gophers 13-0 (4)	<p>The Gophers were again unbeaten, and beat 2 future Big 10 opponents by an average of 39-12. Lacking a signature win like the one over Yale last year, they were not generally regarded as the nation's best team. But many years later the computerized Premo Poll picked them as their mythical national champions.</p>
1904	Minnesota Gophers 10-2 (5)	<p>The Gophers lost for the 1st time in 3 years but were still the state's best team. The losses were to Chicago's West Side Y 36-26 and Washington Continental 21-16, both on the road. The Gophers star now was Mpls. Central grad George Tuck, who became their 1st all-American in 1905.</p>
1905	Minnesota Lady Gophers 45-6 over 8 years	<p>Meanwhile, the U also had a successful women's team in the early years of the 20th century. They won 45 games while losing only 6. But opposition to girls and women playing sports was strong, and the board of regents abolished the team after an outstanding 1905 season.</p>
1906	Red Wing Red Men 33-6	<p>Red Wing was a hotbed of basketball activity, and their elite senior men's team remained among the state's best teams from about 1901 to 1908. During that period, they went 50-1 at home. In 1906, the toured the western U.S., playing 32 games from North Dakota to Washington and from California to Utah. They won 26 games on that tour, including a 20-14 win over Stockton, "the champions of California," plus 7 others before and after.</p> <p>Special Mention Stillwater won the championship of Minnesota's 1st basketball conference, the Tri-City, albeit with a small sample of games, going 4-0.</p>
1907-1908	Minnesota Gophers 10-2 (1907) and 12-7 (1908) (7)	<p>The 1st-ever Big 10 basketball title was awarded in 1906 and it was won by your Minnesota Gophers. They also won the 2nd one in 1907. They won 23 games and lost 4 in those 2 seasons, clinching the 1906 title with a season-ending 5 game conference winning streak. In 1907 they lost 2 of their last 3 games but beat Chicago 21-10 in their final game to clinch the title. Garfield Brown led the Gophers in 1906, scoring 6 points per game to win all-America honors.</p> <p>The Gophers slumped to 4th in the conference in 1908, but they swept 2 home games from eastern power Columbia.</p>
1909-1910, 1912	The Ascensions (3)	<p>By 1909, senior men's ball had become differentiated from college ball. Founded in 1906, as early as 1909 the Ascensions, representing Ascension Catholic Church in north Minneapolis, was the team to beat. In 1913, their record was reported to be 190 wins and just 10 losses over the previous 8 years.</p>

1911	Madison high school	Mpls. Central, Stillwater and New Ulm had been the top high school teams prior to 1911, and each was reported to have claimed a mythical state tournament. Madison high defeated New Ulm, then ran the gamut from A to Z to prove their own claim of said championship. They challenged and defeated Zumbrota, who had claimed the championship of southern Minnesota, and Ada, claimant to the northern Minnesota title, the latter by a decisive 29-10. They were led by the brothers Butch and Slip Little, and the cousins Grant and Len Jacobson.
1913	Fosston Jack Pine Savages 14-1	We have said elsewhere that Duluth Central, who faced far tougher competition at the national championship in Chicago than Fosston faced in Northfield, and finished 3 rd , was Minnesota's best team. But, the team of the year is a different animal, and Fosston was not only the most iconic team of 1913, it was one of the most iconic teams in Minnesota history. They won the 1 st -ever state title, beating Mountain Lake 29-27 by virtue of "some very clever teamwork."
1914	Stillwater Ponies 14-2	Stillwater 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. Their star, Harold Gillen, is one of just 3 Minnesota men ever to win both a state high school championship and a Big 10 championship as a Minnesota Gopher.
1915	Hamline Pipers	Hamline was Minnesota's 1 st small college power and, when a group of colleges formed the Minnesota Collegiate Conference, Hamline won the 1 st 3 titles in 1913, 1914 and 1915 behind the exploits of Slip Little.
1916	Red Wing Company L 20-0 (2)	This time there was no doubt that Red Wing was the best as they defeated their nemeses the Ascensions, Fon du Lac Company E and St. Joseph's.
1917	Minnesota Gophers 17-2 (8)	The Gophers won their 4 th Big 10 title in 12 years as both Harold Gillen and Dobie Stadvold won all-America recognition.
1918	Minnesota Gophers 13-3 (9)	The Gophers dropped to 2 nd place in the Big 10, losing to Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.
1919	Minnesota Gophers 13-0 (10)	The Gophers were unbeaten in 1919 and won their 2 nd more or less unanimous national title, and their 3 rd overall. Guard Erling Platou scored an almost unheard of 12 points per game, while Arnold Oss added 9 and Norman Kingsley 7. They won their games by an average of 22 points.
1920	Minneapolis Central	Mpls. Central declined to play in the MSHSL tournament, traveling instead to Chicago to play in the new national high school tournament. Central finished 3 rd as Martin Norton was named all-American.
1921	Minneapolis Central 13-1 (2)	Central now belonged to the state association and played in the state tournament. Martin 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

		<p>Hall put Norton on his 5-man, 50-year state tournament all-star team.</p> <p>Red Wing won the 1920 and 1922 state titles. In 1921 2 starters stayed home with the flu. Butsie Maetzold, guard on the team and later a prominent coach, always claimed that Red Wing would have had a 3-peat but for those illnesses. We think Central was better both years. Oh, and Duluth Cathedral was better in 1922.</p>
1922	Duluth Cathedral Hilltoppers	Red Wing beat Duluth Central 30-25 in the semi-finals en route to the 1922 state title. Duluth Cathedral beat Central 30-15 and 30-18 in the Lake Superior conference. They (Cathedral) then won 2 games at the national tournament in Chicago. They were led by Joe Benda, later a famous coach at St. John's, and they were better than Red Wing.
1923-1924	Carleton Knights (2)	<p>Records disagree as to whether Carleton actually won the Midwest conference title in 1923. If so, it was their 8th straight. But we do know that they had one of the greatest groups of Minnesota basketball talent to that time. They included Ozzie Cowles from Browns Valley, Joe Hutton from Excelsior, and Carl Nordly from Red Wing, all of whom went on to become prominent coaches; not to mention the coach himself, Everett Dean.</p> <p>Then, in 1924, Carleton was unbeaten and definitely won the Midwest conference title. They had left the MIAC for the Midwest in search of tougher competition. It was the last of 3 years under coach Dean, whose record at Carleton was 46-4.</p>
1925	St. Paul Mechanic Arts Trainers 17-1-1	The Trainers played an unlikely tie with St. Thomas in the regular season. A scoring error was found long after the 2 teams had departed the gym, what looked like a 21-20 Mechanic Arts win became a 21-21 tie. The Trainers won the MSHSL title and St. Thomas the Catholic league title. Mechanic Arts did not lose until its 3 rd game in the national tournament.
1926	Gaylord 20-3	Gaylord won 7 straight upsets from its district semi-final to the state final, a 13-9 win over Gilbert. They are the 1 st state champion to be characterized as a "Cinderella" team. Fans were so excited that they passed a hat in the Kenwood Armory lobby after the final and raised \$500 to help send Gaylord to the national tournament. There they became just the 2 nd Minnesota champion to win 2 games.
1927	Henning Hornets	A so-called Class B tournament was held at Hamline for 5 years in the 1920s. At the time it was called the "Graded" or "Department" tournament. In other words, it was for graded schools that had a high school department, as opposed to a high school proper. In any event, Henning won the 5 th and final such tournament behind Otto Rortvedt, who was described as "a giant center."
1928-1929	Moorhead Spuds 19-3 (1928) and 24-3 (1929) (2)	Moorhead was already playing in a record 6 th straight state tournament when they came from 8-1 down to defeat Mpls. Edison 29-16 in the final. Cliff Halmrast's 20 points were the most in any championship round game between Martin Norton in 1921 and Jim McIntyre in 1944.

		In 1929 they defeated Red Wing 20-16 in OT in the final. Red Wing's Wilburn Olson was the tournament's tallest player at 6-2.
1930	The Ascensions (4)	The Ascensions won their 1 st state amateur title in 1930. Hey, the tournament was only founded in 1927, and the 1 st 3 tournaments were won by Holy Cross church of Minneapolis, Foley and Jesse M. Stasch, a Minneapolis clothier. But, in 1930, the Ascensions beat Skelly Oil of Owatonna 52-21 in the state final. They then beat the Davis Hunt Club of Kansas City 31-24 before losing 15-10 to the Indianapolis Turners. Chuck Wagner and Dallas Ward were their top scorers.
1931	DeLaSalle Islanders 24-3	DeLaSalle won 5 games and the national Catholic championship in Chicago, including a 23-21 win over Jasper, IN, Academy in the final. They were led by center Ray Buffalo, reported to be a native American from the Chippewa tribe.
1932	Carleton Knights 17-1 (3)	By the early 1930s, Carleton had won 46 straight conference games, 64 straight home games, and 7 straight Midwest conference titles. But, this would be the final hurrah of Carleton basketball dominance. Marshall Diebold was now the coach and he built a 55-10 record from 1930 through 1934. 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. From 1917 through 1935 they beat the Gophers twice, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan State, all on the road. In 1932, forward Dick Arney, from Marshalltown, IA, scored 10 points per game and earned Little all-America honors.
1933	The Ascensions (5)	The Ascensions repeated as state champions in 1931 and 1933. In 1933, they drew the 3-time defending national champion Oh Henrys from Wichita, KS, and lost 47-21.
1934	Chisholm Bluestreaks (21-2)	The ever-popular "point a minute" Chisholm Bluestreaks finally won a state title in the 5 th straight tournament appearance. They finished 21-2.
1935-1936	Rock Spring Sparklers (2)	Now, for the 1 st time, there emerged a senior amateur team that could compete, year in and year out, with the Ascensions. They were the Rock Spring Sparklers, sponsored by the Rock Spring bottling company of Chaska. The 1935 Sparklers were led by Otto Rortvedt, the 1927 player of the year with Henning, and Ray Buffalo, the 1931 player of the year with DeLaSalle. By 1936, they were led by Gordon Ditz and Wally Zimmerman, lately of Hamline, and beat the Ascensions 29-24.
1937-1938-1939	Minnesota Gophers 14-6 (1937), 16-4 (1938) and 14-6 (1939) (13)	Now it was the Minnesota Gopher's turn to get the services of the marvelous Marty Rolek. He became a starting guard for the Gophers in 1937 and promptly led them to their 1 st Big 10 title in 18 years. They started 1-3, then finished 13-3 including 10-2 in the Big 10. In 1938, they started 6-0 but lost their 1 st 3 conference games. They finished with a 9-0 run but came up one game short of another conference title. Rolek won all-America honors in 1937 and 1938. In 1939 they won their 1 st 10 games for a 19-game win streak over 2 years but went just 4-6 in their 2 nd 10 games. Still, it was a great 3 years with 44

		wins. It would not be until 1952, 1953 and 1954 that they would win more than 44 games in 3 years.
1940	St. Mary's Cardinals	St. Mary's won its 2 nd and final (through 2022) MIAC title (the 1 st had been in the previous year, 1939) behind Winona native, 6-5 center Clint Wager, who went on to play in the NBA and the NFL.
1941	Bemidji State Beavers	Bemidji, led by Arnie Johnson of Gonvick, MN, won the Northern conference and one game at the NAIA tournament. They repeated both feats in 1942, then won a 2 nd game over the defending national champions from San Diego State 41-32. Johnson went on to play in the NBA.
1942	Hamline Pipers (2)	The NAIA tournament was founded in 1937. Hamline 1 st played in 1940, when it won 3 games. They did not return until 1942 when they won 4 games and their 1 st NAIA title by an average score of 39-33. Glenn Gumlia, from Crosby-Ironton; John Norlander, from Virginia; and Howie Schultz, from St. Paul Central, starred.
1943	Rock Spring Sparklers (3)	The Ascensions won the state AAU title in 1940 and 1941 but, after Pearl Harbor, they decided not to field a team in 1942. Their roster moved en masse to the Sparklers, who went undefeated in city play. There was no state or national tournament, however. Ditto 1943. So the Sparklers entered themselves in the World Professional Basketball Tournament. They defeated the Chicago Studebakers 45-44, but lost to the Washington Bears, an all-Black barnstorming team that went on to win the tournament title, 42-21. It was the greatest roster of Minnesota basketball talent ever assembled, however, and its architect was former Gopher John Kundla.
1944-1945	Minneapolis Patrick Henry Patriots 24-1 (1944) and 24-1 (1945) (2)	Patrick Henry was the 3 rd high school to repeat as state champion. They had the most powerful weapon ever seen in Minnesota high school ball—6-9 Jim McIntyre. He was the tallest boy ever to play in the state tournament with 3½ inches to spare, and he broke virtually every scoring record in the Minneapolis city conference and in the state tournament. What's more, he shot more than 50 percent from the field at a time when people thought 20 percent was pretty good. Not any more. No player and no team has ever changed the game (in Minnesota) as decisively as Patrick Henry and Big Jim McIntyre.
1946	Austin Packers 22-3	Mankato beat Austin twice and won the Big 9 title, but Mountain Lake beat Mankato in Region 2. Austin then beat Mountain Lake to advance to the state final. But, almost nobody noticed because, in the other bracket, tiny Lynd ran the most sensational fast break anyone had ever seen. They were and are the most-talked about team that didn't win the state title. Because, in the end, Austin's awesome size overpowered Lynd's running game 66-35 in the final. But, combined with Jim McIntyre's 55 percent shooting, Lynd's fast break was another nail in the coffin of the old-time ball control style of basketball so long favored among Minnesota coaches.
1947	Mankato State Mavericks 18-4	Mankato won the Northern conference championship to advance to the NAIA tournament, where they won 4 games to advance to the championship game. There they lost to Marshall, who earlier had edged Hamline 55-54. Marshall beat Mankato 73-59. Mankato was led by center Henry Epp, from

		Mountain Lake, and forwards Dewey Nelson and Don Olson, from Mankato.
1948	Minneapolis Lakers 56-19 including playoffs	The Lakers set the bar high in their 1 st year in Minneapolis, winning the NBA title with records of 43-17 in the regular season and 8-2 in 3 rounds of playoffs. Of course, this was because they had stumbled into George Mikan when his Chicago Gears team went belly up. They also won the World Professional Basketball Tournament in its 10 th and final year, beating the legendary barnstorming New York Renaissance 75-71 in the final.
1949	Hamline Pipers 31-3 (3)	This was coach Joe Hutton's greatest team, featuring both Hal Haskins and Vern Mikkelson in their primes. They won their 2 nd of 3 national championships. And, yet, they only got into the NAIA tournament because one district in New York failed to send a team. What happened was that Hamline lost to St. Thomas in an MIAC game. When the 2 teams tied for the title, the league decided on a coin flip rather than a playoff, and the Tommies won the flip. St. Thomas then edged Mankato State 56-55 in the District 13 playoff and the right to go to the nationals. When a spot came open, the NAIA quickly offered it to Hamline, who had been rated as high as #5 in the national rankings behind Kentucky, Bradley, Illinois and St. Louis. The folks in Mankato were not amused. They thought the spot should have gone to them. But Hamline justified its selection by winning 5 games, including against Regis 57-46 in the final. Regis had beaten St. Thomas 53-52 in the 2 nd round but Hamline led Regis 47-27 with 7 minutes to go. Haskins became the all-time leading scorer in the NAIA tournament with 280 points in 14 games.
1950	Minneapolis Lakers 62-19 including playoffs (2)	The Lakers 51-17 regular season record was their best ever (in Minneapolis) and they swept through 4 rounds of playoffs at 10-2. George Mikan led the NBA in scoring with 27 points per game in the regular season and 31 in the playoffs.
1951	Hamline Pipers (4)	Hamline won its 3 rd national championship in 10 years, winning 5 games by an average of 75-58. Lloyd Thorgaard displaced Hal Haskins as Hamline's top scorer in the NAIA tournament with 283 points in 15 games.
1952-1953	Hopkins Royals 25-1 (1952) and 23-0 (1953) (2)	Hopkins became the 4 th team to repeat as state champion, and they might have won a 3-peat but for a one-point loss in 1951. From 1952 to 1954, Hopkins won 65 straight games. Dave Tschimperle was the 3 rd boy to lead the state tournament in scoring twice, after Jim McIntyre and Ray Wall.
1954	Gustavus Adolphus Gusties	Gustavus, coached by yet another Carleton grad, Gus Young, shocked Hamline, breaking a streak of 17 MIAC titles in 20 years by the Pipers. Gustavus would in fact win the MIAC in 1954, 1955 and 1956 and win the District 13 playoff game each year. The Gusties would win 5 NAIA tournament games in 3 years.
1955-1956	DeLaSalle Islanders (3)	DeLaSalle was undefeated in 1955, and was named the mythical national Catholic champion by the Chicago Tribune. In 1956, Mpls. Roosevelt won the MSHSL title, hammering Blue Earth 101-54 in the final. They lost to DeLaSalle twice that year. DeLaSalle was led by guard Paul Lehman and coach Dick Reinhart.

1957	Minneapolis Roosevelt Teddies 27-0-1	Asked which of Roosevelt's 2 championship teams from 1956 and 1957 was better, Tom Nordland said, "Oh, 1957. We beat DeLaSalle." They also tied Duluth East 48-48 in a Gopher prelim game. No OT was played because it was time for the big boys to take the stage.
1958	Austin Packers 20-3 (2)	Austin won its 3 rd state title. Ironically, the Packers never won the Big 9 and the state title in the same year.
1959	Duluth Branch Bulldogs	OK, what is now called the University of Minnesota at Duluth (UMD) was once referred to as the Duluth Branch. And, now, UMD is a member of the D2 Northern Sun conference, but in those days they belonged to the MIAC along with Gustavus, Hamline, et al. Things have changed. Well, except that the Duluth Branch was a basketball powerhouse from about 1958 to 1964, by which time it had made its way back into the Northern conference. Duluth won the MIAC title in 1958 and 1959, and beat St. Cloud State each time to advance to the NAIA tournament, where they won one game in those 2 years. Norm Olson was their coach.
1960	Edgerton Flying Dutchmen 27-0	The most iconic state high school champion ever. The smallest school from the smallest town ever to win the single class title. Not only that, but a thrilling 63-60 OT win over big city favorites Richfield in the semis, and that was the 1 st state tournament game ever to match 2 1,000 point scorers—Dean Veenhof for Edgerton and Bill Davis for Richfield.
1961	Duluth Central Trojans 27-0	Better than Edgerton, one of the best champions ever, they said, and yet they barely survived Bemidji 51-50 in the final. Coach Jim Hastings was the 2 nd coach ever to win 3 titles (1961, 1971, 1979). Terry Kunze went on to play for the Minnesota Gophers and the Minnesota Muskies.
1962	St. Cloud State Huskies 23-4	St. Cloud won the Northern conference 9 times in the 14 years from 1957 to 1970. But, it's hard to remember that the fellows from the now D3 MIAC thoroughly dominated the fellows from the now D2 Northern conference, winning 20 of 22 District 13 playoffs through 1972. St. Cloud was the only one to break through in 1962 and 1968. In 1962, they hammered Duluth 63-42, then won one game at the NAIA. In 1968 they beat Gustavus in a 2-game playoff 41-38 and 79-64, then again won one game at the nationals.
1963	Marshall Tigers 25-1	Marshall came to the state tournament unsung. Bloomington was favored but lost to Cloquet 87-67. Cloquet was then favored but lost to Marshall 75-74 in what some called the greatest final ever.
1964	Luverne Cardinals 20-5	Luverne followed Marshall out of the Southwest conference and pulled a similar upset to win the state title. They surprised unbeaten Proctor in the semis, while Rochester JM did the same to Edina. Luverne then beat JM 72-66 in the final.
1965	Minnesota Gophers 19-5 (14)	John Kundla declared around 1963 that he could no longer win with Minnesota boys, just as football coach Murray Warmath had done 4 years earlier. Kundla brought in Lou Hudson from North Carolina, Archie Clark from Michigan and Don Yates from Pennsylvania. The result was an improvement from 12-12 in 1963 to 17-7 in 1964 and 19-5 in 1965. They went 10-4 in the Big 10 in 1964, finishing just one game out of 1 st place. In 1965 they finished 11-3 and in 2 nd

		<p>place. They finished in the top 10 for the 1st time since 1949. Hopes were high for 1966, but Hudson broke his hand and the Gophers slumped to 14-10.</p> <p>Special Mention Augsburg Auggies won the MIAC title, the District 13 playoff over St. Cloud, and 2 games at the NAIA tournament.</p>
1966	St. Thomas Tommies 24-4	<p>St. Thomas won 7 MIAC titles in 9 years beginning in 1966. They were the 1st unbeaten MIAC champion other than Hamline since Concordia in 1931. They edged St. Cloud State 50-48 in the District 13 playoff, but got swamped by Central State (Ohio) 92-69 in their 1st NAIA tournament game.</p>
1967-1968	Edina Hornets 27-0 (1967) and 26-1 (1968) (2)	<p>Edina was the 1st team ever to 3-peat in the MSHSL tournament, and they also set a record that still stands with 69 straight wins in 1966, 1967 and 1968. Their 3 titles came by an average score of 75-58. The common denominator of their 3 champions was Bob Zender, a 6-8 post who went on to be the Big 8 newcomer of the year and play in 2 Elite 8s for Kansas State.</p>
1969	Shattuck	<p>Shattuck also matched Edina's 3-peat in the MISL tournament, but they were 2 years behind in 1968, 1969 and 1970, winning the 3 title games by an average of 72-54. Shattuck was led by Tony Jenkins, who went on to win all-Ivy League honors as Harvard captain.</p>
1970	Sherburn 26-0	<p>Sherburn was the champion of irony, winning the last single class tournament at a time when the smaller schools were said to be unable to compete. They clobbered South St. Paul 78-62 in the final.</p>
1971	Duluth Central Trojans 23-1 (2)	<p>Central won the 1st overall title of the 2-class era, beating North St. Paul 54-51 in Class AA and Melrose 54-43 in the overall title game.</p>
1972-1973	Minnesota Gophers 18-7 (1972) and 21-5 (1973) (16)	<p>The Gophers won their 1st Big 10 title in 35 years, but not until after a brawl against Ohio State that left 2 Gophers suspended for the rest of the season and their reputation damaged for the 1st of several times over the following quarter century.</p> <p>The following year, the Gophers were in 1st place in the Big 10 and rated #3 nationally when coach Bill Musselman flew to Florida to interview for the Gators job. When he returned, the Gophers promptly lost to 9th place Iowa and 10th place Northwestern. Still, they finished 2nd in the Big 10, which in any other circumstance would have been considered an acceptable outcome.</p>
1974	Melrose Flying Dutchmen 27-0	<p>Melrose played in a state final for the 4th straight year, and this time won 2 of them. They beat Mound 38-32 in Class A, and Bemidji 58-42 in the overall final. Mark Olberding scored a record 112 points in the tournament, albeit in 4 games.</p>
1975	Little Falls Flyers 26-1	<p>Little Falls defeated Robbinsdale 54-49 for the Class AA title, then Chisholm 54-50 for the last of the overall titles. They were led by Frank Wachlarowicz, who went on to set a Minnesota collegiate record that stood for 40 years with 2,357 points at St. John's.</p>

1976	(tie) Bloomington Jefferson Jaguars 27-0 and Minneapolis Marshall-University 28-0	Jefferson beat Hibbing 60-51 in the highly-anticipated matchup of Steve Lingenfelter and Kevin McHale in Class AA. Mpls. Marshall-U edged Mankato Wilson 64-59 in OT in Class A. It was thought—as we now know, erroneously—that there had never been a state final matching 2 unbeatens, so there was much gnashing of teeth over the fact that Jefferson and Marshall-U would not and did not play an overall final. It would have been a hell of a game. Special Mention Redwood Falls (21-1) and Bloomington Jefferson (17-3) won the 1 st 2 official girls championships.
1977	Minnesota Gophers 24-3 (17)	The Gophers went 24-3 and beat national champion Marquette at Marquette, but it was all for naught as they were still on probation thanks to violations from the days of Bill Musselman.
1978	Bloomington Jefferson Jaguar girls 24-0	Jefferson, led by Laura Gardner, was the 1 st official girls champion with an unbeaten record. (St. Margaret's was unbeaten in 1974, but the 1974 and 1975 tournaments long were regarded as exhibitions, and their records not counted. That was changed some 35 years later.) Jefferson beat Regina 53-40 in the Class AA final.
1979	New York Mills Eagles girls 25-1	The girls from the Mills, led by the great Janet Karvonen, won their 3 rd straight state title, this time against a particularly worthy opponent, Albany and Kelly Skalicky. Mills won 61-52 as Karvonen outscored Skalicky 38-23. If you want to be the best, you've got to beat the best, and Albany gave Mills the opportunity to prove itself. It did.
1980	Albany Huskies girls 26-0	Now it was Albany's turn, and they clobbered Austin Pacelli 56-25 in the Class A final.
1981	Minnesota Gopher women 28-7 (2)	The Big 10 did not yet have a regular season for women's basketball, but they had a tournament in which Minnesota won its 1 st and still its only Big 10 title, beating Wisconsin, Ohio State and Northwestern. Linda Roberts, Mary Manderfeld and Debbie Hunter starred.
1982	Minnesota Gophers 23-6 (18)	Now it was the Gopher men who won their 1 st Big 10 title in a decade and just their 3 rd since 1919. They beat Iowa 57-55 in 3 OT to clinch the title. Darryl Mitchell was the Big 10 MVP, Randy Breuer succeeded him in 1983, and Trent Tucker also starred.
1983	Woodbury Royals 24-0	Woodbury shocked favored Coon Rapids, also undefeated, 56-50 in OT to win the state title. Finally, there was a state final matching 2 undefeated teams. What most did not know was that Waseca and Duluth Central had been unbeaten in 1918.
1984-1985	White Bear Lake Bears 26-0 (both years) (2)	Suddenly there were unbeaten matchups all over the place—back-to-back-to-back, with the last 2 being White Bear Lake vs. Mpls. North in 1984 and 1985. White Bear Mariner high school had closed and merged with White Bear Lake high, leaving the Bears with a massive pool of talent and a 9-10-11 man rotation, at least in 1984. They beat North 51-47 and 67-62 in those 2 games.
1986	Mankato State Mavericks women 25-4	Mankato State and St. Cloud State left the Northern conference in 1985 to seek tougher competition in the North

		Central conference. The tougher competition did not prevent Mankato State from winning the conference title in 1986. They were led by Lisa Walters, from Henderson; Anne Christopherson, Austin Pacelli; and Pat Burns, Heron Lake-Okabena.
1987	Bloomington Jefferson Jaguars 26-0 (2)	Jefferson won its 4 th state title, tying Red Wing and Duluth Central in that category. But Jefferson coach Jack Evens was the 1 st to win 4 titles all by himself. They were led by Mr. Basketball, Kevin Lynch, and easily defeated Blaine 54-37 for its 2 nd straight title.
1988	Concordia (Moorhead) Cobbers women 31-1	Concordia won its 2 nd straight MIAC title, both with a stellar 21-1 record. In 1987 they lost to Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the D3 final and settled for 2 nd place. In 1988, they hosted the Final 4 and knocked off undefeated St. John Fisher 65-57 to win the national championship. Jessica Beachy, later a long-time coach at Concordia, starred.
1989-1990	Minnesota Gophers 19-12 (1989) and 23-9 (1990) (20)	The Gophers had slowly improved under coach Clem Haskins, and in his 3 rd year they made it to the NCAA tournament. They beat Kansas State and Siena before losing to superpower Duke in the Sweet 16. In 1990, they returned to the post-season and beat Texas-El Paso and Northern Iowa, then met superpower Syracuse. It was what some called the greatest game ever played by the Gophers (wait, remember Yale in 1902!?), and the Gophers shocked the Orange 82-75. They lost to Georgia Tech in the Elite 8 93-91, and fell just 3 points short of the Final 4. They were led by Willie Burton and Richard Coffey.
1991-1992	St. Thomas Tommies women 29-2 (1991) and 27-1 (1992) (2)	Beginning in 1991, St. Thomas won 8 MIAC women's titles in 12 years with an awesome record in the conference of 217-22 (.908). In 1991, the Tommies beat Eastern Connecticut 91-55 and Muskingum 73-55 to win the D3 championship. In 1992, they won their 1 st 27 games to run their winning streak to 40 games, but lost to Luther, IA, 61-60 in the post-season. Laurie Trow was the star of those teams and finished with 2,607 career points in 1993.
1993	St. Benedict's Blazers women 28-2	St. Ben's matched St. Thomas' 1992 record of 20-0 in the MIAC. They made it to the Final 4 before losing to Central, IA, 60-59 in the semis.
1994	Bloomington Jefferson Jaguars girls 26-2 (2)	The Jefferson girls won their 3 rd state title and their 2 nd straight in 1994, clobbering Osseo 73-50 in the final. The Jaguars were 52-3 over those 2 seasons.
1995	North Tartan 16 & Under girls	North Tartan has been Minnesota's leading girls basketball club for almost 30 years. Their 1 st national title was won by their 13 & Unders in 1992 featuring Coco and Kelly Miller and Maren Walseth. The same group of girls finished 3 rd as 14 & Unders, 9 th as 15 & Unders and won their 2 nd national title as 16 & Unders in 1995. They finished 4 th as 17-year olds and won their 3 rd national title as 18s. Kelly was all-American 5 times, Coco 4 times and Walseth twice. The boom in AAU-affiliated youth clubs in the 1990s was the foundation for a resurgence of Minnesota basketball, and this was Minnesota's greatest group of athletes ever.
1996	Minneapolis North Polars 28-1	

		North, led by Khalid El-Amin, repeated as state champion and won both of the Sweet 16 state tournaments. They beat Staples-Motley 54-52 in 1995, and Fertile-Beltrami 80-47 in 1996. Overall, Class AA schools won 6 games against smaller schools in the Sweet 16 while the smaller schools won 5. Hey, the smaller schools could and did compete. But, the Sweet 16 was quickly killed in favor of 4 classes. El-Amin went on to lead UConn to an NCAA title in 1999.
1997	Minnesota Gophers 31-4 (21)	<p>The NCAA says it never happened, but some people remember the Gophers blitzing the Big 10 with a 16-2 record and ranking #3 in the nation, then winning post-season games against Clemson and UCLA to advance to the Final 4. They finally lost to Kentucky 78-69, but it was the greatest Gopher season since 1919. But, of course, it never happened. Academic improprieties wiped it all away. All-American guard Bobby Jackson, in particular, probably would never have been eligible without illegal tutoring. Bye bye Final 4. Bye bye Big 10 title. Bye bye coach Clem Haskins.</p> <p>Special Mention Rochester Mayo girls 27-0</p>
1998	Minneapolis North Polars girls 29-0	Anything you can do, I can do better. The Mpls. North boys won 3 straight state titles. The Mpls. North girls did, too, in 2003, 2004 and 2005. But 1 st they won 2 straight in 1998 and 1999 with a combined record of 56-2. They played in 8 state finals in 9 years, winning 5 and losing 3. The best of the lot was that 1998 team led by Tamara Moore.
1999	St. Benedict's Blazers women 28-2 (2)	St. Ben's won the MIAC title in 1999 and advanced all the way to the NCAA D3 Final 4 before losing. From 1999 to 2006, they won 155 games, 4 regular season titles and a playoff title in 2005.
2000	(tie) Litchfield Dragons 29-0 and Minneapolis Patrick Henry Patriots 28-1 (Henry 3)	Litchfield won the Class AA boys state title, while Patrick Henry won in Class AAA. Tartan won in Class AAAAA but they had lost to Litch 74-49 in a holiday tournament matchup. Henry lost only to national champion Oak Hill, VA.
2001	Osseo Orioles 30-1	Like Mpls. Patrick Henry the previous year, Osseo lost just once and it was to national power Oak Hill, VA. Osseo clobbered Duluth East 73-48 to win its 1 st state title.
2002, 2003, 2004	Minnesota Gopher women 22-8 (2002) 25-6 (2003) and 25-9 (2004) (5)	<p>The Gopher women had struggled mightily with just 2 winning records since 1985. Then, coach Brenda Freese arrived in 2002, but never mind that. The difference-maker was not coach Freese, but rather it was guard Lindsay Whalen from Hutchinson, who arrived in 2000. The Gophers went just 8-20 in her freshman year, but then improvement came rapidly— 22-8 in 2002, 25-6 in 2003 and 25-9 in 2004.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2002 they finished 2nd in the Big 10 at 11-5 and won one NCAA tournament game before losing just 72-69 at North Carolina to finish ranked in the top 25. Freese quit and moved on to Maryland. • In 2003 they again finished 2nd in the Big 10 under new coach Pam Borton, and won at Stanford before losing to Texas. Now they finished rated in the top 20. • In 2004, Whalen broke her right hand and missed the final month of the regular season as the Gophers lost 4 of 6.

		Whalen came back in time for the NCAA tournament, where they beat UCLA, Kansas State and Boston College to “win” a shot at #1 Duke on Duke’s home court. The Gophers shocked the world, beating Duke 82-75. The run ended only in the Final 4 against the new #1, UConn, 67-58.
2005	Braham Bombers 33-0 and Hopkins Royals 31-1 (3)	Braham won its 2 nd of 3 straight state titles with, overall, its most impressive effort—33-0 for the year, and a 63-39 rout of Crookston in the AA final. Over the 3 years the Bombers were 95-4, as Isaiah Dahlman became, if only briefly, Minnesota’s leading career scorer and also came up just 2 points short of Khalid El-Amin’s career state tournament scoring record. Meanwhile, the Hopkins Royals won their 4 th state title with the most improbable comeback. Down 2 with 2.5 seconds left in the 1 st OT and the ball on their own baseline, Hopkins threw a three-quarter court pass. Blake Hoffarber caught the ball while falling down, then threw it at the basket while seated on the 3-point line. It went in. After that, Hopkins was not going to lose.
2006, 2008	Winona State Warriors 32-4 (2006) 38-1 (2008) (2)	Winona State played in 3 straight NCAA D2 finals, winning 2 and losing once. In 2006, they beat Virginia Union 73-61. In 2007, they coughed up a late lead with a pair of untimely turnovers and lost to Barton, NC, 77-75. In 2008, they beat Augusta State 87-76. Center John Smith; forward David Zellman from Lewiston-Altura, MN; and guard Zach Malvik starred.
2007	St. Paul Central Minutemen girls 32-0	The Central girls were widely regarded as Minnesota’s best girls team ever. They beat Roseville 76-58, Edina 79-41 in the semis, and Mpls. South 81-63 in the final. 5 players scored in double figures in the final. The 81 points was the most ever in a state final.
2009	Mankato State Mavericks women 32-2 (2)	Mankato State won the NCAA D2 championship 103-94 over Franklin Pierce, NH. They won 4 games by an average of 68-55 to advance to the final. Mankato’s Heather Johnson was the tournament MVP, and Alex Andrews and Joanne Noreen also made the all-tournament team. Special Mention Hopkins was regarded as Minnesota’s best team ever with a 29-0 record and a 69-59 win over Osseo in the final.
2010	(tie) Lakeville North Panthers girls 32-0 and St. Paul Johnson Governors 32-0	Lakeville North caused a few people to wonder if maybe they were the greatest girls team ever, supplanting St. Paul Central’s 2007 powerhouse, as it won 32 straight games and beat White Bear Lake 57-47 to win its 3 rd state title. (Yes, these Panthers are the same Panthers who won 2 titles as, simply, Lakeville back in 2001 and 2002. Cassie Rochel was Ms. Basketball in 2010 and Rachel Banham in 2011. Meanwhile, St. Paul Johnson’s boys also won 32 straight games, including a thrilling regular season win over the defending and eventual AAAA state champions from Hopkins. The Gobs then beat Grand Rapids 59-55 to win the AAA title.
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014,	Minnesota Lynx 34-8 including playoffs (2011) 32-11 (2012) 33-8 (2013)	The Minnesota Lynx had struggled throughout their history. But a pair of overall #1 draft picks—Seimone Augustus and Maya Moore—helped, and the acquisition of hometown hero Lindsay Whalen clinched the deal.

2015, 2017	28-11 (2014) 29-15 (2015) 33-9 (2017) (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 was just the Lynx 3rd season above .500, and it was a league-leading 27-7. They then swept 7 of 8 playoff games to win their 1st WNBA title. • They were 27-7 again in 2012 but lost the WNBA finals 3 games to one to Indiana. • They were 26-8 in 2013 and swept 7 of 7 playoff games for their 2nd WNBA title. • In 2014, they were 25-9 but lost to Phoenix 2 games to one in the conference finals. • In 2015, they were just 22-12 and needed 5 games to beat Indiana 3-2 in the finals. • In 2016, they won their best total of 28 regular season games, but lost the WNBA finals 3-2 to the L.A. Sparks. Well, they didn't lose. An L.A. basket that came well after a shot clock violation was allowed in the final minutes, and it was the difference in a one-point game. • The Lynx avenged that defeat in 2017, beating the Sparks in 5 games after a 26-8 regular season. <p>Overall, from 2011 to 2017, the Lynx won 222 games, including the regular season and playoffs, while losing 71 (or, more accurately, accounting for the final game of the 2016 season, they won 223 and lost 70).</p> <p>2012 and 2017 Special Mention The St. Thomas women won 31 games each year and finished 3rd in the D3 national tournament both times. They won 77 straight MIAC games through 2019.</p>
2016	St. Thomas Tommies 30-3 (2)	The Tommies won the 2011 NCAA D3 title under coach Steve Fritz, beating Wooster 78-54 in the final. Now, under coach Johnnie Tauer, they beat Benedictine 82-76 to finish 30-3.
2018	Eastview Lightning girls 32-0	Eastview not only won the state AAAA title unbeaten, they upset heavily favored Hopkins 68-63 to do so.
2019	Hopkins Royals girls 32-0	Hopkins won its 7 th state title after losing in the state final for 3 straight years. Now, led by Paige Bueckers, the Royals would not be denied as they dominated Stillwater 74-45 in the final.
2020	(tie) Eden Prairie Eagles 28-0 and Hopkins Royals girls 30-0 (2)	The state tournaments were cancelled due to COVID. The girls tournament was already underway, and the favorites and defending champions from Hopkins had already won twice to earn a place in the final. But, the final was cancelled. The undefeated Eden Prairie boys had advanced to their section final when their season was cancelled. They beat the highly (which is to say, over) rated Minnehaha Redhawks 78-64.
2021	Chaska Hawks girls 18-0	Chaska became the 5 th school to upset favored Hopkins after Eden Prairie in the 2014 section finals; and Minnetonka, Elk River and Eastview in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 state finals. It was Chaska 67 Hopkins 62 in the state semis, then Chaska over Rosemount 45-43 in the final. The point is to note that if you want to be the best, you have to beat the best, and that

		means you have to go through Hopkins if you want to be a girls championship team.
2022	Hopkins Royals girls 26-1	The Hopkins girls are the choice for the 3 rd time in 4 years. They won the state title with a 26-1 record, but were undefeated against Minnesota competition.
2023	Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs women 31-3	UMD won the NSIC regular season and playoff titles, then won 4 NCAA tournament games to advance to the D2 national final. There they lost to unbeaten Ashland 78-67 to finish at #2 in the nation and with an overall record of 31-3.

Minnesota Hoops Team of the Year 1895-2022

Multiple Awards

- Minnesota Gophers 21
- Minnesota Lynx 6
- The Ascensions 5
- Hamline 4
- Carleton 3 Rock Spring Sparklers 3 Mpls. Patrick Henry 3 DeLaSalle 3 Hopkins 3 Hopkins girls 3
- Minnesota Aggies 2 Mpls. Central 2 Moorhead 2 Minneapolis Lakers 2 Mpls. Roosevelt 2 Austin 2 Edina 2 Duluth Central 2 St. Thomas women 2 St. Thomas men 2 Bloomington Jefferson girls 2 Bloomington Jefferson boys 2 Winona State 2 Mankato State women 2