

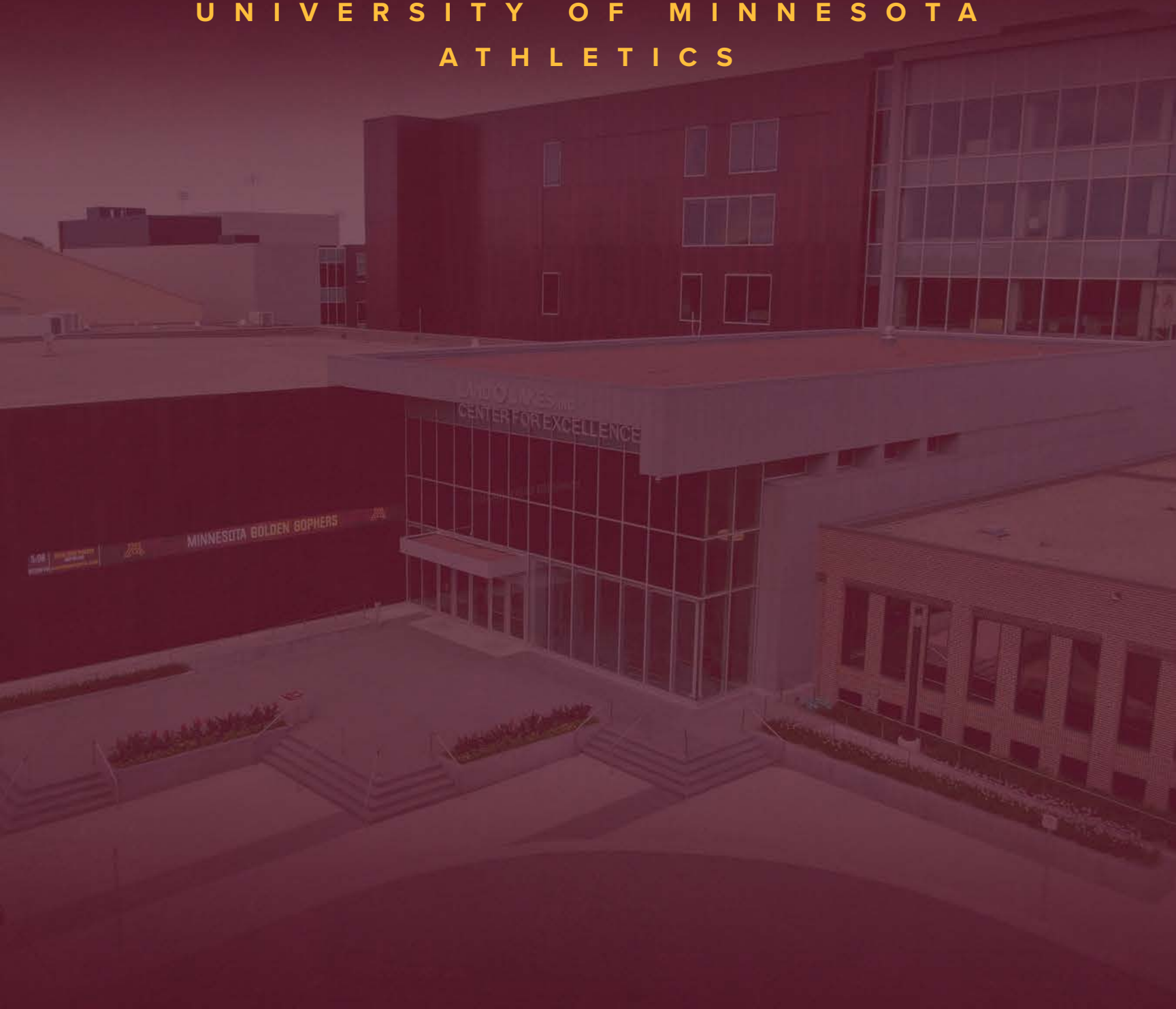


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ANNUAL

REPORT

U N I V E R S I T Y O F M I N N E S O T A
A T H L E T I C S



“ THE FIRST STEP TOWARD CREATING AN IMPROVED FUTURE IS DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO ENVISION IT. VISION WILL IGNITE THE FIRE OF PASSION THAT FUELS OUR COMMITMENT TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE. ONLY VISION ALLOWS US TO TRANSFORM DREAMS OF GREATNESS INTO THE REALITY OF ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH HUMAN ACTION. VISION HAS NO BOUNDARIES AND KNOWS NO LIMITS. OUR VISION IS WHAT WE BECOME IN LIFE. ”

– TONY DUNGY, '77





Friends of Gopher Athletics,

First and foremost, I hope you are safe and healthy as we continue to navigate the pandemic. It has been a year unlike any other and we dearly miss having you on campus and at games cheering on the Gophers.

I continue to be amazed at the resilience of our students and staff as we compete in such unique and challenging circumstances. Please know how much your continued support through the Golden Gopher Fund impacts our department and allows us to provide meaningful competition opportunities for our students.

All of us have had to adjust our daily lives this year, but our staff has remained committed to providing our students with all necessary support for them to excel academically, athletically and socially – with proper distancing, of course.

We are excited to share that our students have continued to achieve record-setting success in the classroom. Gopher student-athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.36 during the spring 2020 semester - a school record. Minnesota is also tied for first among Big Ten public institutions with a 94 percent graduation rate.

I also wanted to highlight the department's strategic plan as we move forward (located on the inside back cover of this report). Our vision and mission are concise while I will expect our students, coaches and staff to carry out our actions of:

- Be Accurate
- Be Competitive
- Be Honest
- Be Inclusive
- Be Kind

These achievable actions will ensure our department represents you and the “M” in the way you expect. When you invest in us, we take pride in that partnership and hope your pride in the department will only be enhanced moving forward.

Most importantly, I want to thank you for your investment in our students. We can only achieve greatness if we are all aligned in our mission and we are thankful to have you on our team.

While uncertainty exists, we look forward to sharing special moments with you at games and events in the future. Thank you again for your continued support.

Go Gophers!

Mark Coyle

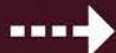
Mark Coyle
Director of Athletics



30



COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



40



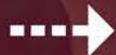
STATES
REPRESENTED



105



MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOLS
REPRESENTED



40%



OF STUDENT-ATHLETES
FROM MINNESOTA



138



MAJORS
REPRESENTED



324.4



SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED
TO STUDENT-ATHLETES





THE GOPHER FOOTBALL TEAM WON 11 GAMES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1904 AND POSTED TWO TOP 10 WINS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1956

FIVE GOPHERS WERE SELECTED IN THE 2020 NFL DRAFT INCLUDING ANTOINE WINFIELD JR.

TWO GOPHER WOMEN'S HOCKEY PLAYERS WERE DRAFTED IN THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS OF THE 2020 NWHL. ALEX WOKEN AND PATTI MARSHALL JOIN THE MINNESOTA WHITECAPS.

DANIEL OTURU BECAME MINNESOTA'S FIRST BASKETBALL ALL-AMERICAN IN 21 YEARS AND WAS TAKEN 33RD OVERALL IN THE 2020 NBA DRAFT.

LEXY RAMLER MADE PROGRAM HISTORY BECOMING THE FIRST GOPHER TO RECORD BACK-TO-BACK PERFECT 10S ON THE BALANCE BEAM

MAX MEYER WAS SELECTED NO. 3 OVERALL IN THE 2020 MLB DRAFT BY THE MIAMI MARLINS, MATCHING PAUL MOLITOR AS THE HIGHEST DRAFT PICK IN GOPHER HISTORY.

GOPHER VOLLEYBALL ADVANCED TO THEIR THIRD FINAL FOUR IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



3.36



CUMULATIVE GPA
OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

THROUGH SPRING 2020 (SCHOOL RECORD)

94%



GRADUATION RATE
PROGRAM RECORD



TIED FOR 1ST AMONG BIG TEN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS



119

BIG TEN
DISTINGUISHED
SCHOLARS

6



PROGRAMS WITH
PERFECT APR
MULTI-YEAR SCORES

19



PROGRAMS WITH
PERFECT SINGLE-YEAR
APR SCORES

8



COSIDA ACADEMIC
ALL-AMERICANS

AMBER FISER (SOFTBALL),
LINDSEY KOZELSKY (SWIMMING) &
BLAISE ANDRIES (FOOTBALL) WERE
AMONG THE EIGHT GOPHERS TO
EARN ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA
HONORS IN 2020



LED THE BIG TEN FOR THE 5TH STRAIGHT YEAR



BATTLING BACK FROM INJURY

GADIVA HUBBARD

Fifth-year senior **Gadiva Hubbard** had started 43 games in her first two years on campus and was coming off a 2017-18 campaign where she ranked 10th in Minnesota history for 3-pointers made in a season (69) and put up eight 20-point games.

However, in October of 2018, she had surgery on her right foot and missed the entire 2018-19 campaign.

"It was very hard mentally," Hubbard said. "It was really hard to watch my team go out there and play and I couldn't contribute in any way."

During this time, Hubbard dedicated herself to cheering her teammates on while undergoing intensive physical therapy. She also took advantage of the time she was sidelined to learn more about the game. She watched and learned as head coach Lindsay Whalen and her staff began to build new systems at the beginning of their tenure.

All the long hours and hard work paid off for Hubbard, though, as she made her return to Williams Arena for the 2019-20 season opener against Missouri State. She started all 31 games, averaging 11.2 points and 3.4 rebounds, while earning All-Big Ten Honorable Mention honors.

The upperclassman has taken what she learned while sidelined and grown in her role as a player and teammate.

"I think I've become more of a leader because I can show what to do or how to do something," she said. "I now treat my practices and games like it could very well be my last. You can learn to come in and get extra work in. It's a cliché, but you learn to not take the game for granted."



TOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

ANGUS FLANAGAN

Minnesota senior **Angus Flanagan** made history as the first active Gopher to ever compete in a PGA Tour event as he competed in the 3M Open thanks to a sponsor's exemption.

He earned that distinction by winning the Minnesota State Open. Holding a one-shot lead after 53 holes, Flanagan stuck his approach shot on the par-5, 505-yard 18th within six feet of the cup, and sank his putt for an eagle to finish his round at 8-under-par 64 and 15-under-par for the tournament (68-69-64—201). Flanagan won by two shots and broke the course's 18-hole record.

The announcement that Flanagan would play in the 3M Open was made in the trophy ceremony following the State Open, but reality took a while to set in for Flanagan.

"It took until the Sunday before the 3M when I was out there practicing and Dustin Johnson put his bag next to me and started hitting balls, that's when it sunk in," Flanagan said.

Ultimately, Flanagan shot consecutive rounds of 73 and missed the cut, but he knows he wasn't far off.

"I was happy with the way I played," he said. "I know I shot 2-over, 2-over, and didn't really hole too many putts, but I think if I had a couple putts holed at the start, it would've been a different story. But that's the way golf is really."

In addition, it was an experience he knows he can build on.

"Seeing this makes the dream come true, kind of makes it more real for me," the Woking, England, native explained. "Seeing what these guys get and everything like that, it's going to push me to keep practicing and doing what I'm doing every day because I'm definitely seeing improvements in my game."



BACK FOR MORE

MOHAMED IBRAHIM

While all of the struggles and complications of COVID-19 dominated collegiate sports conversations in 2020, redshirt junior running back **Mohamed Ibrahim** was one of the brightest spots for the Golden Gophers. The Baltimore, Md. native had one of the greatest seasons in program history, despite playing in just eight games.

Ibrahim set a new school record for rushing yards per game (153.7) and broke the 100-yard mark in all eight contests, setting another school record. He scored eight touchdowns in the Maryland and Illinois contests combined, setting a new mark for scores in consecutive games. For the season, he racked up 15 rushing touchdowns and 1,076 yards and was named the Big Ten Running Back of the Year and was a unanimous First Team All-Big Ten selection. He also became the first Gopher running back in 15 years to earn All-America honors.

With much more to accomplish in his collegiate career, Ibrahim announced he will return for a fifth season in 2021 with eyes on a Big Ten title. Ibrahim wrote, "Minnesota, I am extremely grateful for all of the individual success that I have been fortunate to accomplish during my four years as a Gopher. However, I know that I would not be able to accomplish any of it without my teammates and coaches. Every yard gained is a result of countless hours and sacrifice in the weight room and on the practice field by the entire team. Every touchdown scored is a result of our coaching staff having trust in the 11 individuals on the field to execute the play. Football is the ultimate team game and any honor I receive is shared with everyone in the program. With that said, I am looking forward to coming back and making more memories in 2021 – which will also include getting my degree."



CHASING PERFECTION

LEXY RAMLER

Lexy Ramler has chased perfection all her life. The Minnesota native was the Junior Olympic champion in the all-around and bars in 2013. She won the all-around at the L'international Gymnix Challenge hosted in Canada in 2016 and even has a skill named after her called "The Ramler" in the JO Code of Points. However, when competing for a spot on the Olympic National team at the Olympic Trials in 2016, she fell one spot short and was the final gymnast cut behind a group considered the deepest collection of gymnastics talent in the world.

Despite the setback, Ramler had a renewed determination for her gymnastics journey. She decided to compete collegiately for her home state and has become one of the most decorated student-athletes in Gopher history. After finishing second overall in the all-around competition at the 2019 NCAA Championships, Ramler reached perfection for the first time with a perfect 10 on beam in January of 2020. A week after her first perfect 10, she did it again, becoming the first Gopher gymnast to reach perfection in Maturi Pavilion and have multiple perfect 10s in one season. Ramler is a two-time Region 2 Gymnast of the year, two-time Big Ten Gymnast of the Year, and a Honda Sport Award

Finalist.

Outside of the gym, Ramler has been just as successful. A member of the team's leadership committee since her freshman year, she has spent 37.1 hours volunteering this year between academics and athletics. After vying for perfection throughout her life, Ramler has found it here at the University of Minnesota.



SCHOLARSHIP SEATING DONATIONS

Providing scholarships to our student-athletes requires tremendous investment. When you purchase tickets in our scholarship seating areas it provides critical funding to create a complete collegiate experience for our Gopher student-athletes. Scholarship seating includes the prime seating locations for football, men's hockey, men's basketball, women's basketball and volleyball. By purchasing these tickets you also provide a contribution, where the funds go directly to support student-athletes. Your investments help us to tackle our ever growing student-athlete support costs which have grown dramatically in recent years with new NCAA rules allowing us to provide more than ever to our student-athletes.

The experience we provide at Minnesota is not possible without you. Scholarship seating contributions give student-athletes an opportunity to excel academically, athletically and socially. Together, Gopher fans who invest in scholarship seating are a powerful, supportive community that provide every Gopher student-athlete the chance to chase lifelong dreams.

ANNUAL FUND

The annual fund encompasses all of our fundraising efforts. Annual giving donations may be directed to any fund in athletics. Donations to the annual fund can support scholarships, sport specific funds, scholarship endowments, in-kind and trade donations and special projects. Growing the annual fund is a top priority of the department and serves as a vital backbone to a championship program.

MONTHLY GIVING

Monthly gifts are donations that automatically recur each month at a set amount. Monthly giving is an easy way donors can provide valuable support to what's important to them, on a schedule that is manageable for your budgets and busy lifestyles. Once a monthly gift is set up, it will automatically repeat each month, providing a convenient way to spread the contribution over time. Your monthly donation makes an impact by making manageable payments in an amount that's right for you. Monthly giving provides a convenient, relevant method of giving for donors. It also helps build a predictable source of funding for the University while reducing administrative costs.

SPORT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS

Supporting a specific team is possible as every team in Gopher Athletics has an enhancement fund. Investment in a team's enhancement fund allows coaches to go beyond their team's most basic needs and put funds toward helping their student-athletes and programs grow and sustain championship-caliber performances. Winning (and continuing to win) in the Big Ten and the NCAA is only possible due to investors supporting our teams with these team-specific gifts.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Endowments are a lasting legacy of support for Gopher student-athletes. The initial investment is preserved as principal and the interest produced by this investment is used to support Gopher student-athlete scholarship costs, notably tuition assistance, textbooks, and room and board. Endowed scholarships are long-term investments in the University of Minnesota and our student-athletes. They provide essential financial support for students year after year, generation after generation. Because an endowed scholarship lives in perpetuity, it provides a meaningful way for supporters to leave a lasting legacy — in their name or the name of a loved one — in support of Gopher Athletics. An endowment fund can be opened with an initial investment of \$50,000. A fully endowed scholarship at \$750,000 covers the educational costs for one student-athlete.

When a supporter establishes an endowed scholarship, the contributed funds are held and managed by the University of Minnesota Foundation (UMF) and invested by UMF Investment Advisors (UMFIA), a nonprofit subsidiary of the foundation. The investment and spending policies for the endowment are set to achieve maximum impact for the long-term and ensure that gifts are used according to supporters' wishes. Our long-term goal is to fully endow all of our scholarships, creating a sustainable system where your investments in scholarships can provide an outstanding collegiate experience for generations of Gophers. Currently, endowments cover only about eight percent of our annual scholarship investment.

PREMIUM SEATING

There are a variety of premium seating options for donors and season tickets at TCF Bank Stadium, 3M Arena at Mariucci, Williams Arena, Maturi Pavilion and Ridder Arena. With the purchase of season tickets in these areas, donor support scholarship seating which covers educational costs for student-athletes in every sport program.

TCF Bank Stadium features suites, loge boxes, indoor club and outdoor club seating. Amenities and benefits vary with each location. Premium seating at Williams Arena for both men's and women's basketball includes courtside seats, balcony club seats, suites and access to the Williams Club Room. Club seats are also available for men's hockey at 3M Arena at Mariucci and for women's hockey at Ridder Arena. Our newest premium seating area is at Maturi Pavilion for volleyball with club seating in the Robert K. Eddy Athletic Performance Center.

Full details on premium seating options are available at GoldenGopherFund.com or by calling the GGF at (612) 626-4653.



CAPITAL GIVING

Gifts to capital projects are critical to the continued success of the program by allowing student-athletes to train and compete at a championship level. Recent projects have improved facilities for all students with the Lindahl Academic Center, a state-of-the-art nutrition center and leadership center. In the past three years, new or renovated practice facilities have been completed to support football, men's and women's basketball, wrestling, men's and women's golf, volleyball and hockey. While much progress has been made, there will continue to be a need to provide the facilities needed to support the recruitment and development of our student-athletes. Capital projects also address competition venues and the amenities for Gopher fans attending games.

A capital gift can be paid in one lump sum or can be pledged out over a set number of years. These gifts are 100 percent deductible and significantly boost Gopher Score priority while also supporting the top priorities of the department in our pursuit of greatness.

ELITE FUND

The Elite Fund has helped the Gopher Football program reach new heights. Whether it's guest speakers and team outings or suits for every football player and recruiting trips, each of these items has helped us create our Elite culture. The Elite Fund is our annual resource to directly invest in our football student-athletes. The culture and hard work are starting to pay dividends but we could not do this without you. Your investment is one of the main reasons we will achieve new heights to showcase the University of Minnesota and Gopher Football. The Elite Fund has helped fund:

- Student-Athlete Development events such as the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive, leadership meetings with speakers like Rachel Baribeau and Ryan Leaf to weekly visits to the Masonic Children's Hospital.
- Head and assistant coach recruiting travel
- Team building events such as attending a concert, waterpark or professional sporting event

FRIENDS OF THE BARN

Friends of the Barn is the annual resource to directly invest into our men's basketball student-athletes. From guest speakers and team outings to new equipment and recruiting trips, each of these items help build the Gopher Basketball program. Friends of the Barn has helped fund:

- Community event involvement
- Technology and equipment upgrades including a camera and video analysis system that makes post-practice film breakdown more efficient.
- Athletic performance items such as vibrating foam rollers for enhanced postgame recovery and muscle stimulation pregame and new weight equipment.
- Team trip to Italy, touring the country and playing three games.

CHAMPIONS FUND

The Champions Fund is the annual resource to directly invest into our women's basketball student-athletes. Your investment is the reason we will achieve new heights to showcase the University of Minnesota and the Women's Basketball team. Whether it is resources for enhancing our relationships with top recruits or team outings and new equipment these items help build the Gopher Basketball program. The Champions Fund has helped fund:

- Community event involvement
- Technology and equipment upgrades including the Noah Shooting System measures shots from anywhere on the practice facility court while storing data for later review and gives instant, verbal feedback for shot arc, depth, and left right, allowing players to correct their shot in real-time.
- Team building events such as attending the Minnesota State Fair, enjoying a Thanksgiving meal together and learning life skills such as a Finances 101 seminar



GOPHER SCORE PRIORITY SYSTEM

The **Gopher Score** priority ranking system is used to assign a rank to each eligible donor for the process of:

- Postseason ticket sales (including Bowl Games and NCAA Tournaments)
- Away game ticket opportunities (location and quantity)
- Season Ticket upgrades
- Priority for single game tickets
- Gopher Loyalty Program selection dates and number of benefits

Gopher Score uses a formula that balances the importance of season ticket loyalty and philanthropic giving to Gopher Athletics. All current season ticket holders (all sports) and current athletics donors (with an annual giving of \$50 or more) will be given a score and rank. The point criteria for Gopher Score is listed below:

- **Current Year Giving to Athletics** – 10 points per \$100
- **Previous Giving to Athletics** – 3 points per \$100
- **Consecutive Years of Season Ticket Purchase** – 10 points per year (per sport)
- **Planned Giving to Athletics** – 1 point per \$1,000
- **Gopher Athletics Letterwinner** – 50 point one-time allocation
- **\$5,000 or higher of giving to the University of Minnesota** (any giving outside of Athletics i.e. Masonic/ Carlson/ Arboretum) – 150 point one-time allocation
- **University of Minnesota Alumni** – 25 point one-time allocation
- **Student Season Ticket Holder** (allocated upon Graduation) – 5 points per sport/per year

A LOYALTY PROGRAM LIKE NO OTHER

The **Gopher Loyalty Program** provides a customized experience in which every fan selects benefits most important to them. We have given fans more choices and more interaction with coaches and student-athletes. The higher the Gopher Score the earlier and more benefits a fan receives. To start, everyone with a Gopher Score receives our base package which includes:

- 15% discount at the Golden Gopher Fan Shop
- Gopher Sports Pass for two (2) complimentary tickets to any regular season home games for Gopher baseball, cross country, women’s hockey, men’s and women’s gymnastics, soccer and wrestling (excluding postseason)
- Discount on concessions - \$5 off a purchase of \$25 at our venues
- 20% discount at University of Minnesota Bookstore
- Discount on open skating at 3M Arena at Mariucci
- Numerous hotel discounts

Based on your Gopher Score you can choose from a variety of events including meeting with coaches or behind the scenes tours of our stadiums and arenas. There are family-friendly events such as Movie Night at TCF Bank Stadium, Skate with the Gopher hockey teams and Goldy’s Kids Club Memberships.

You can also upgrade your tickets at various events, hear from Athletics Director Mark Coyle at exclusive events, high five the Gopher football team as they head out onto the field or practice your golf swing with our golf coaches.

These are just a few examples of events donors and season ticket holders can experience through the Gopher Loyalty Program.

For more information go to GoldenGopherFund.com and click “[Loyalty Program](#).”

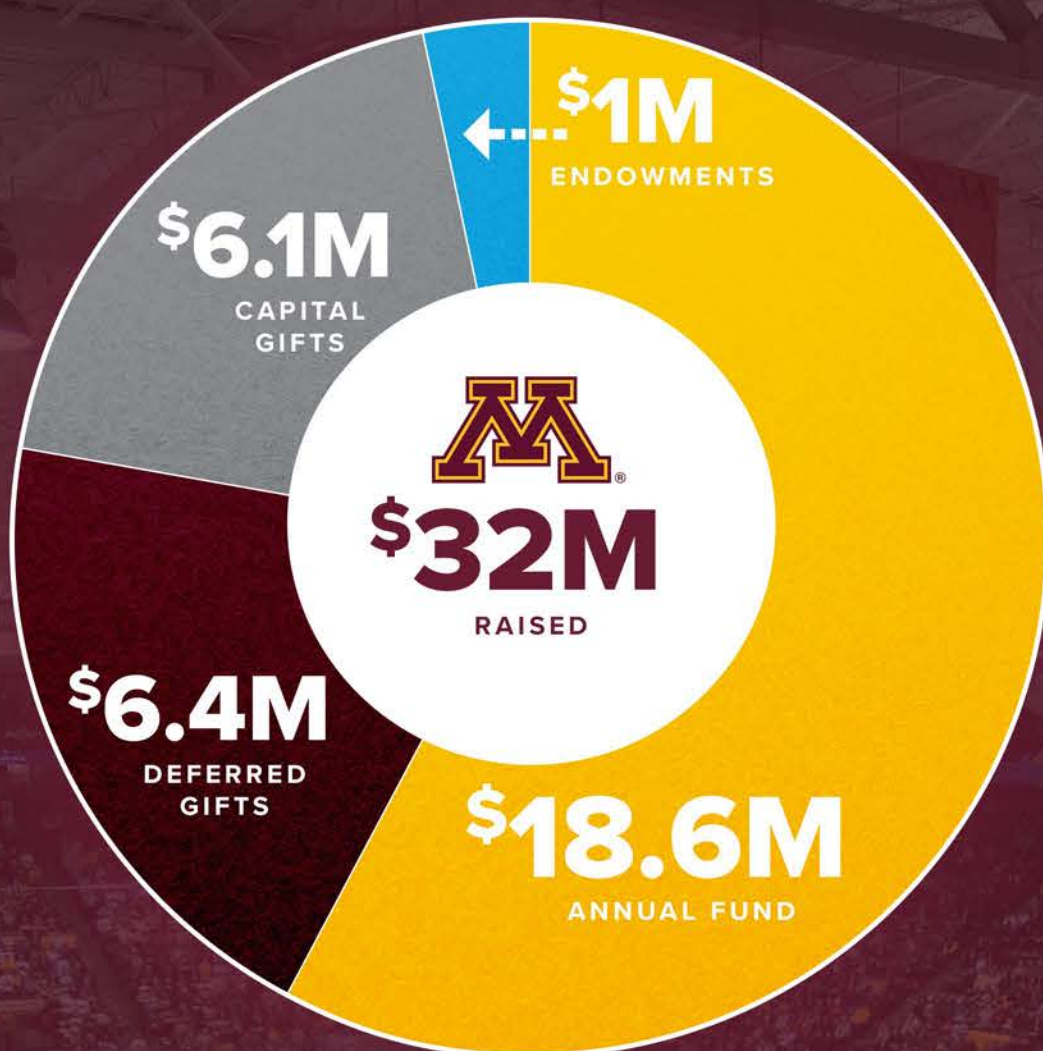


MOVIE NIGHT AT TCF BANK STADIUM

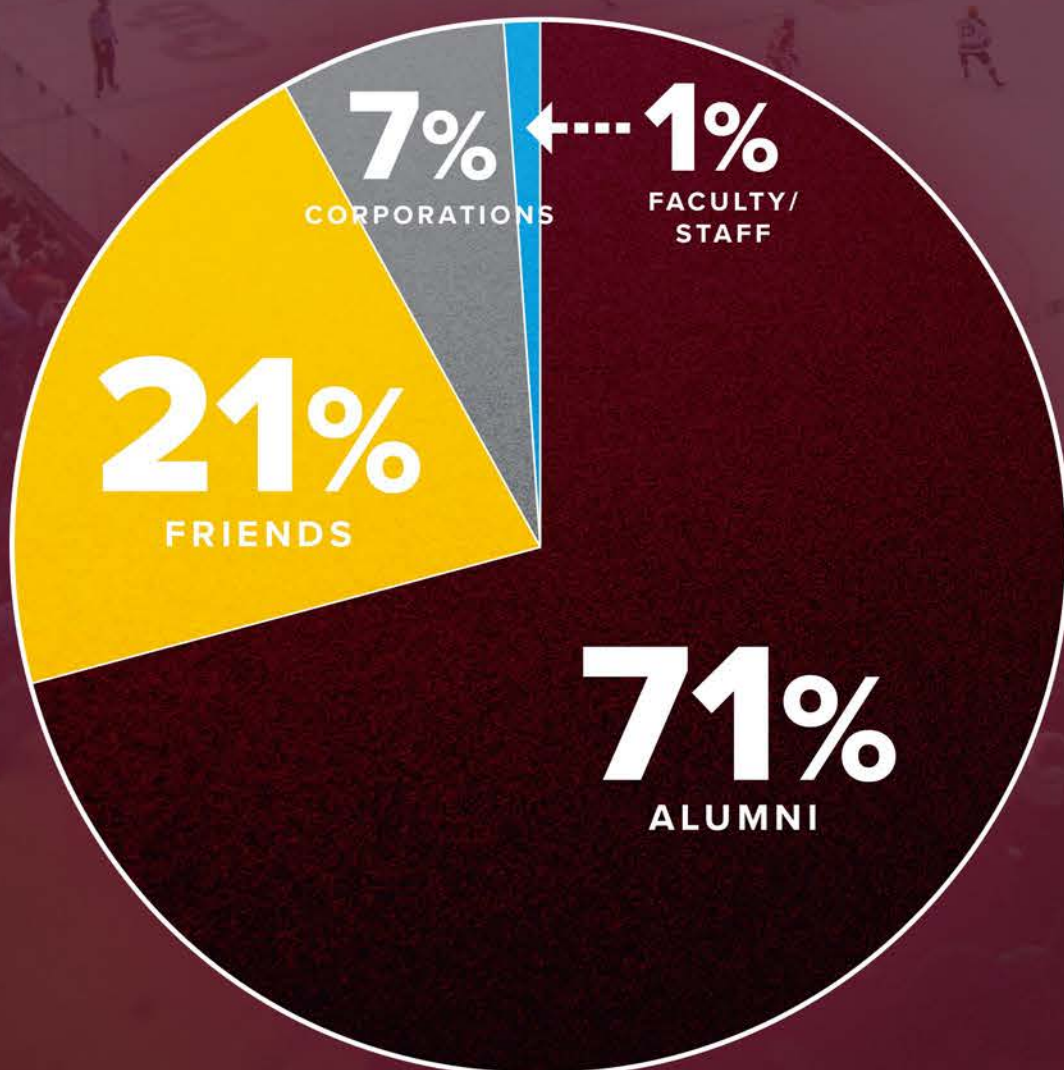


PRE-GAME TUNNEL ACCESS IS ONE OF THE MANY GOPHER LOYALTY PROGRAM BENEFIT OPTIONS

WHERE THE FUNDS COME FROM



WHO GIVES TO ATHLETICS?





DUSTY CLEMENTS

Deputy Athletics Director



RANDY HANDEL

Associate Athletics Director
Development



JOE QUINN

Senior Director of Development



GRETCHEN AMBROSIER

Director of Development



LINDSAY SCHUTTER

Director of Special Events



MICHAEL THOMAS

Director of Development



ELLIOT POWELL

Director of Development



LAURA HALLDORSON

Assistant Director of Annual Giving



MICHAEL KELLY

Assistant Director of Annual Giving



KARLI KRIEWALL

Associate Development Officer



DANA NELSON

Assistant Director of Special Events



ELIZABETH WALTERS

Development Coordinator



UNITED ARE WE.

OUR VISION

Champions for Life

OUR MISSION

WIN by intentionally focusing on unique athletic, academic and life-changing experiences propelling the Maroon and Gold to greater heights and career success.

OUR ACTIONS

- Be accurate.
- Be competitive.
- Be honest.
- Be inclusive.
- Be kind.



G O L D E N
G O P H E R
F U N D