

## Weinandt enjoying the ride with Dassel-Cokato

### Wabasha native has Chargers soaring to new heights

BY JASON FELDMAN  
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Ryan Weinandt clearly remembers what drew him to the St. John's University football program in Collegeville. "I always thought it would be fun to play for a winning program," Weinandt, a Wabasha native, said. "I got to St. John's and it was so fun to be part of a very successful program."



Weinandt and the Johnnies won plenty during his college career. It culminated in 2003, Weinandt's senior season, when legendary head coach John Gagliardi led the Johnnies to an NCAA Division III national championship. Weinandt, a tough-as-nails nose tackle, was named to the All-MIAC First Team that season and was named the conference's Most Outstanding Lineman.

It was also at St. John's that Weinandt met some men who put him on the course to his current profession.

"St. John's, it was a hub for retired long-time (high school) coaches from Central Minnesota at that time," he said. "Jim Mader from Albany, Dean Taylor from Sartell, Gary Fasching from (St. Cloud) Cathedral, and of course coach Gagliardi. Just being around them, I find myself every day doing things that they (instilled) in me."

Weinandt has brought the Johnnies' winning tradition with him to Dassel-Cokato, where he is in his 16th season as the football team's head coach. And he has the 9-3 Chargers breathing some rare air.

Dassel-Cokato is in the state tournament for just the third time in school history and the first time since 1973. And the communities — approximately 40 miles south of St. Cloud and 60 miles west of Minneapolis — are thrilled, to say the least.

"There's a ton of excitement here," Weinandt said. "We've had some good teams in my (16) years but we've

never made it so far."

#### 'QUITE A THRILL'

Not only did this year's Chargers team snap a 45-year state-tournament drought, it held off Cannon Falls 26-22 to win its Class AAA state quarterfinal game last Saturday and advance to this week's state semifinals. That came a week after beating Providence Academy 26-13 in the Section 2AAA championship, the fifth time Weinandt had coached a team to the section title game.

The Chargers will face Annandale at 2 p.m. Saturday at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

"It really is quite a thrill to get there," Weinandt said of playing at the Minnesota Vikings' home stadium. "Every one of these games, we sit here and say 'if we can just win this one, we get to go to state,' or 'if we win this one, we get to U.S. Bank.' The wins are exciting but there's always that itch and urge to get to the next level."

"We ask our guys to compartmentalize it as much as they can. We'll have plenty of time when the season is over to reflect and think about this."

Weinandt was a three-year starter at Wabasha-Kellogg, playing for then-Falcons head coach Steve Fredrickson.

"He was a good coach, a great guy and always very, very supportive," Weinandt said.

From there, Weinandt moved on to St. John's, which went 50-7 during Weinandt's four seasons. Now he is in his 16th season as Dassel-Cokato's head coach, and he serves as the Dean of Students at the Dassel-Cokato Middle School.

He's also a tiny bit surprised that this 2019 Chargers team is the one that snapped the program's state tournament drought. D-C lost three-year starters at quarterback, running back and receiver. But the Chargers have four of their five starting offensive linemen back, and, naturally a former lineman is going to be happy about that.

"For sure, everything starts and ends up front, and our staff has done a great job getting both lines ready," Weinandt said, "and we've played in six one-score games this year, and I don't think it's because we're not a good team. We just play really good competition. ... We know how to play in tight games and we know how to stay poised and not panic."



Joe Ahlquist / jahlquist@postbulletin.com

RCTC's Kate Bade takes part in a drill during a practice earlier this season. Bade and the Yellowjackets' volleyball team host the NJCAA Division III national tournament this week and are among the favorites to win it.

# RCTC on a mission

## Yellowjackets have sights set on national title

BY GUY N. LIMBECK  
glimbeck@postbulletin.com

This year the Rochester Community and Technical College volleyball team doesn't want to settle for third place.

The Yellowjackets placed third in the Division III NJCAA National Tournament on their home floor a year ago. Ever since, the Yellowjackets have had one singular goal. And they are now three wins short of that dream.

"They have one mission and all 10 (players) have been on that one mission since Day One," RCTC coach Amber Zitzow said. "That's to win the national championship. But we don't ever talk about it, it's just one day, one game at a time."

The Yellowjackets will try to make that mission a reality when they host the 12-team, single-elimination national tournament on Thursday-Saturday at Rochester Regional Sports Center on the RCTC campus.

"That's a big advantage," RCTC setter Brekkin McCready said of playing at home. "We have a lot of supporters who come and support us and it's nice to be hosting nationals."

McCready, of St. Charles, is one of four sophomores back from RCTC's team that placed third in the nation last season. The others include elite outside hitter Carrie Rutledge of Hayfield, Plainview-Elgin-Millville grad Kate Bade and Rochester Schaeffer Academy grad AnnMarie Jalmasco. P-E-M grad Hayley Dessner also joined

### Tournament time

**WHAT:** NJCAA Division III National Tournament.

**WHEN/WHERE:** Thursday-Saturday at Regional Regional Sports Center.

**WHO:** The tournament is a 12-team, single-elimination event for the championship. The top four teams, including No. 1 and defending championship national Owens and No. 2 RCTC, will receive byes in the first round.

**GAME TIMES:** The first rounds between the eight unseeded team will be at 10 a.m. and noon Thursday. RCTC will play the winner of Harper and Queensborough in the quarterfinals at 4 p.m. Thursday. If RCTC wins, it plays in the semifinals at 7 p.m. Friday. The title match will be 6 p.m. Saturday.

the squad last spring and has worked with the other veterans since then.

"The five sophomores really worked hard in the spring and summer and then when the five freshmen came in they took them under their wing and showed them the ropes," Zitzow said. "And they just jelled from Day One."

The veteran Yellowjackets enter the tournament having won eight straight matches. Rutledge leads the team averaging 4.91 kills per set while Dessner averages 3.99 and Jalmasco 1.83. McCready is averaging 12.15 set assists per set while Bade averages 4.24 digs.

"We all get along very well and I think that it helps that we know we can trust each other and know that any of our hitters can get it done," Rutledge. "We're all really good hitters and we can all put the ball away."

RCTC (30-2) is ranked No. 2 in the nation to defending champion Owens. The Yellowjackets are

the No. 2 seed while Owens is No. 1. The top four seeds get a bye in the first round. RCTC will play the winner of Harper and Queensborough in the quarterfinals at 4 p.m. Thursday.

"I would say our biggest competition is Owens right now," McCready said. "Every game matters, but I would say the first one is the most important."

Rutledge says RCTC's experience could play a big factor in the tournament.

"I think that's really important," she said. "It helped that last year we played together. So we know how each one plays, we know the flow of the game and we can rely on one another. I think it's really important to have our main group of girls be veterans."

McCready said a key will be making adjustments during the course of the tournament. If the Yellowjackets win in the quarterfinals on Thursday, they

See RCTC, Page B3

# Gophers rise in CFP rankings after upsetting Penn State

BY ANDY GREDER  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

The University of Minnesota football team has caught the attention of the College Football Playoff committee.

But the Gophers still have some work to do.

After a nail-biting 31-26 victory against previously No. 4-ranked Penn State last Saturday at TCF Bank Stadium, the Gophers rose from No. 17 to No. 8 in the latest CFP rankings, which were released Tuesday evening.

The top four teams in the CFP at the end of the regular season earn spots in the tournament to determine college football's national champion.

Coach P.J. Fleck's Gophers are ranked No. 7 in this week's Associated Press Top 25 poll.

The top four in the latest CFP



Fleck

rankings include three unbeaten teams — No. 1 LSU (9-0), No. 2 Ohio State (9-0) and No. 3 Clemson (10-0). Georgia is No. 4, with an 8-1 record, its only loss a 20-17 double-overtime setback against South Carolina on Oct. 12.

Alabama sits at No. 5 in this week's CFP rankings, after losing against LSU on Saturday. The Crimson Tide (8-1) are followed by No. 6 Oregon (8-1), No. 7 Utah (8-1) and Minnesota (9-0). Penn State (8-1) dropped to No. 9, and Oklahoma (8-1) rounds out the top 10.

Minnesota's jump from No. 17 to No. 8 was history-making. The nine-spot move is the biggest jump in the history of the CFP rankings, surpassing

six-spot jumps made by Ohio State in 2014 and Oklahoma in 2015.

#### RATINGS HIGH FOR GOPHERS-PSU

A lot of eyes were on the University of Minnesota's 31-26 upset victory against Penn State on Saturday.

ABC said Tuesday its national broadcast of the game between two unbeaten college football teams drew 6.7 million viewers, the network's most-watched college football game in the 11 a.m. central time slot since the Michigan-Ohio State game in 2016.

As the Gophers were fending off the Nittany Lions' comeback in the fourth quarter, ABC said viewership peaked at 8.7 million.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul market set a local record and came in first in the country

with a 19.5 rating, with Pittsburgh second at 12.8.

The networks said the average of 6.7 million viewers made the game the ninth most watched in college football game across all networks this season.

This viewership and a capacity crowd of 51,883 at TCF Bank Stadium could be a boost to possibly bringing ESPN's "College GameDay" show to the Minnesota campus for the first time ever before the Gophers' next home game against Wisconsin on Nov. 30.

#### EXPERTS HAVE GOPHERS IN ROSE BOWL

The Gophers' bowl projections are coming up roses.

After their victory over Penn State, five mainstream predictions have pegged Minnesota to play Utah in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.,

on New Year's Day.

These projections factor in Ohio State as the favorite to win the Big Ten championship — with a potential conference title-game win over Minnesota in Indianapolis on Dec. 7. The Buckeyes, presumed to be undefeated at that point, would then head to one of the national semifinal games.

The U hasn't played in the coveted Rose Bowl since 1961, while they went to the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla., after the 2014 season, losing to Missouri 33-17.

Minnesota, 6-0 in Big Ten play, currently holds a two-game lead in the West division. The U would have to lose one of their next two games to set up a massive all-in game against Wisconsin on Nov. 30.



# Sports



Tim Heitman / USA TODAY Sports

Vikings cornerback Mike Hughes (21) tackles Dallas Cowboys tight end Jason Witten (82) after Witten made a catch in the fourth quarter at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Sunday.

## Hughes held his own in first big test

### Vikings' CB saw plenty of action against Cowboys

BY JOHN SHIPLEY  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Xavier Rhodes got something of a break on Sunday when the Cowboys chose to pick on second-year cornerback Mike Hughes in the Vikings' 28-24 victory in Arlington, Texas.

The Vikings bottled up the Cowboys running game, holding Ezekiel Elliott to 47 yards on 20 carries, but had trouble containing quarterback Dak Prescott, who torched the Vikings for 397 yards and three touchdowns before Jayron Kearsse intercepted his Hail Mary throw in the end zone as time expired.

Rhodes was fairly unbothered by Prescott, and generally inconspicuous — good for an NFL cornerback.

"Xavier played pretty good," coach Mike Zimmer said. "Had one catch on the sideline he gave up and he missed a tackle on a tight end ... but for the most part he covered his guys pretty good. One of his, I think, better games."

Hughes, starting in place of injured Trae Waynes (ankle) on the right side, was busy. He finished with a team-high seven tackles, all solo, and two passes defended in the Vikings' biggest victory of the season. Prescott targeted receivers on Hughes' side of the field 12 times, and as the Cowboys drove into Minnesota's red zone on the game's final series, completed four passes for 49 yards to receivers covered by Hughes.

Amari Cooper caught 11 passes for 147 yards and a touchdown; eight of those passes were caught near Hughes, for 102 yards.

In some ways, Hughes is still a rookie. He blew out his knee in Week 6 last season and missed the rest of the season. Sunday was his 14th

career game. "There were times he wasn't tight enough," Zimmer said. "There's some times technique-wise that he could have been better. He opened up a little bit too much and let the receiver run. But he was in position most of the night. Honestly, (Cooper) made a bunch of great catches and they made some really good throws."

"So, when I looked at the pass defense things, there were a couple of things that weren't very good, but for the most part, we were in the right place. They made the plays, and we didn't."

Zimmer said that Waynes has a good chance of returning for Sunday's game against Denver at U.S. Bank Stadium.

#### COULDA, SHOULD A

The Vikings sealed their victory on Kearsse's interception but had good chances at a few others, including a second-quarter pass that Hughes might have taken for a touchdown.

Mackensie Alexander had a chance at one on the Cowboys' last drive, as well. Afterward, Zimmer and his coaches determined the Vikings defenders "could have, should have, would have had" three other interceptions against the Cowboys.

"You like for him to get them," Zimmer said, adding that he's not inclined to scold a player who was in good position to make a play.

The Vikings' nine interceptions in 10 games this season are tied with Green Bay and Tennessee for fifth among 32 NFL teams. New England leads the league with 19 in nine games.

#### BRIEFLY

The Vikings face Denver at noon on Sunday at U.S. Bank Stadium, where Minnesota has not lost this season. The last time the Vikings played Denver, receiver Stefon Diggs made his NFL debut, catching six passes for 87 yards in a 23-20 loss at Denver on Oct. 4, 2015. ... Former Vikings quarterback Rich Gannon will be the CBS color analyst for Sunday's game.

## DeJong has eyes set on state title

### Red Wing junior a force in 100 butterfly

BY GUY N. LIMBECK  
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Red Wing junior Cecelia DeJong hopes her taper holds for the Class A state girls swimming and diving meet.

DeJong won the Section 1A title last week in the 100 butterfly with a time of 56.19 seconds. She goes into this week's state meet with the top-seed time in the event.

"We tapered pretty hard for this meet," DeJong said after the Section 1A meet, "but hopefully we can hold our taper for state and state finals."

DeJong placed third in the state meet in the 100 butterfly last season. The two swimmers who finished ahead of her are gone.

"Hopefully we can go into state even harder than we did (at sections) and hopefully get a win," DeJong said. "It should be really exciting, but there are a lot of good girls in the state."

The state preliminary round for Class A begins at noon Friday at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center. The finals are at noon Saturday with the top eight in each event advancing to the championship finals and those in ninth through 16th place competing in the consolation finals. DeJong would like nothing better than to set a school record and win a state title in the 100 butterfly.

"As of right now, that's my goal and to break the school record in the 100 fly," she said. "Hopefully I can achieve those at state."

DeJong is also part of two Red Wing relays teams that enter the state meet seeded fourth. The same foursome of senior Grace O'Brien, junior Sammy Kriese and sophomore Teegan Beyers are in both the 200 medley and the 200 freestyle relay for the second straight year at state. They placed sixth in the medley relay last

#### State at a glance

**WHEN:** Thursday (diving prelims), Friday (swimming prelims), Saturday (swimming, diving finals). Each session begins at noon.

**WHERE:** The University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

**LOCAL QUALIFIERS (INCLUDES SECTION 1A FINISH, TIME):** 200 medley relay: 1. Red Wing (Grace O'Brien, Sammy Kriese, Cecelia DeJong, Teegan Beyers) 1:49.03; 3. Winona (Anna MacLennan, Emily Robinson, Carolyn Macon, Mary Hoffman) 1:52.93. 200 freestyle — 2. Carolyn Macon (Winona) 1:58.39; 3. Cecelia DeJong (Red Wing) 1:58.43. 50 freestyle — 2. Teegan Beyers (Red Wing) 24.55. Diving — 1. Issara Schmidt (Winona) 473.40; 3. Morgan Walker (Winona). 100 butterfly — 1. Cecelia DeJong (Red Wing) 56.19; 2. Carolyn Macon (Winona) 57.32. 100 freestyle — 2. Teegan Beyers (Red Wing) 55.23. 200 freestyle relay — 1. Red Wing (Cecelia DeJong, Grace O'Brien, Sammy Kriese, Teegan Beyers) 1:439.71. 100 backstroke — 3. Grace O'Brien (Red Wing) 1:00.61.

year and did not place in the 200 freestyle relay.

"I think the goal for our 200 medley relay is just to improve from last year and hopefully break our record again and just keep moving up," DeJong said. "And hopefully have fun swimming together for a last time."

DeJong was also an individual state qualifier in the 200 freestyle. Beyers qualified in both the 50 and 100 freestyle. Winona sophomore Carolyn Hoffman qualified in both the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle. She was also part of Winona's qualifying medley relay team.

Divers Issara Schmidt, the section champion, and Morgan Walker both earned state berth for the Winhawks in diving.

## SCHEDULES

#### NINE-MAN QUARTERFINALS

**Friday, Nov. 8**  
Mountain Iron-Buhl 42, South Ridge 8  
Hancock 32, Renville County West 20  
Win-E-Mac 48, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo 6

#### SEMIFINALS

**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
Mountain Iron-Buhl vs. Hancock, 11:30 a.m.  
**Friday, Nov. 15**  
Win-E-Mac vs. Mountain Lake Area, 9 a.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
Semifinal winners, 10 a.m.

#### CLASS A

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Saturday, Nov. 9**  
BOLD 33, Deer River 12  
Browerville-Eagle Valley 33, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop 6  
Ada-Borup 20, Underwood 8  
Blooming Prairie 42, Springfield 20

#### SEMIFINALS

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Saturday, Nov. 16**  
BOLD vs. Browerville-Eagle Valley, 9 a.m.  
Ada-Borup vs. Blooming Prairie, 11:30 a.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Friday, Nov. 29**  
Semifinal winners, 10 a.m.

#### CLASS AA

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Friday, Nov. 8**  
Paynesville Area 56, Moose Lake/Willow River 8

Minneapolis North 26, Blue Earth Area 20  
Barnesville 28, Osakis 6  
Caledonia 56, Pipestone Area 14

#### SEMIFINALS

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
Paynesville Area vs. Minneapolis North, 2 p.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Friday, Nov. 29**  
Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.

#### CLASS AAA

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Saturday, Nov. 9**  
Annandale 33, Esko 13  
Dassel-Cokato 26, Cannon Falls 22  
Pierz 58, Perham 16  
Jackson County Central 31, Waseca 21

#### SEMIFINALS

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Saturday, Nov. 16**  
Annandale vs. Dassel-Cokato, 2 p.m.  
Pierz vs. Jackson County Central, 4:30 p.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.

#### CLASS AAAA

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Friday, Nov. 8**  
Hutchinson 52, Fridley 14  
Rocori 35, Delano 7  
Winona 24, Simley 14

#### SEMIFINALS

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
SMB Wolfpack 48, Chisago Lakes 29

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Friday, Nov. 29**  
SMB Wolfpack vs Hutchinson, 4:30 p.m.

#### Friday, Nov. 15

Rocori vs. Winona, 4:30 p.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Friday, Nov. 29**  
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.

#### CLASS AAAAA

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Saturday, Nov. 9**  
Coon Rapids 14, Spring Lake Park 2  
Chaska 35, Mahtomedi 7  
Elk River 58, Moorhead 55  
St. Thomas Academy 21, Owatonna 0

#### SEMIFINALS

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Friday, Nov. 15**  
Coon Rapids vs. Chaska, 2 p.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Saturday, Nov. 30**  
Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.

#### CLASS AAAAAA

#### QUARTERFINALS

**Thursday, Nov. 7**  
Lakeville North 9, Shakopee 7  
Champlin Park 34, Rosemount 7

#### PREP BOWL

**Friday, Nov. 8**  
Wayzata 38, Centennial 21  
Lakeville South 38, Mounds View 14

#### SEMIFINALS

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
Lakeville North vs. Champlin Park, 7 p.m.

#### PREP BOWL

**(At U.S. Bank Stadium)**  
**Friday, Nov. 29**  
Semifinal winners, 7 p.m.

## Wiggins in top form in Wolves' win

Field Level Media

DETROIT — Andrew Wiggins and the Timberwolves spoiled Blake Griffin's return.

Wiggins poured in 33 points and Minnesota earned a 120-114 win over the Detroit Pistons on Monday.

Wiggins surpassed the 8,000-career point mark in the first half and added six rebounds and five assists.

Karl-Anthony Towns supplied 25 points, eight rebounds and six assists, while Jake Layman contributed 16 points off the bench. Treveon Graham added 13 points and six rebounds.

Griffin missed the first 10 games of the season due to hamstring and knee injuries. He had 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists in 23-plus minutes.

Luke Kennard led the Pistons with 25 points and seven rebounds. Langston Galloway tossed in 18 points off the bench while Tony Snell chipped in 16 points and Andre Drummond added 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Timberwolves, who scored 41 first-quarter points, made nine of 16 3-point attempts in the first half and raced to a 66-51 halftime lead. The barrage came one day after Minnesota made just six of 45 shots from long range in a home loss to Denver.

Layman scored 11 points off the bench and made all three of his 3-point tries. Griffin kept his team from completely losing contact with 16 points in 10 minutes.

The Timberwolves steadily built their lead in the first seven minutes of the second half. Layman

made it a 19-point spread, 84-65, with another 3-pointer.

Detroit began to chip away, scoring the next eight points, five by Kennard. The Pistons cut their deficit to nine points before Towns finished the third quarter with a driving dunk.

When Galloway drilled a 3-pointer with 9:34 remaining, the Timberwolves' lead was down to seven. A Wiggins layup midway through the quarter made it 109-98.

Minnesota's offense then stalled and when Snell made a 3-pointer with 2:30 left, the Pistons were within five at 109-104. Wiggins answered 28 seconds later with another long ball.

Towns made an open three with just past a minute left to seal Minnesota's victory.

## SPORTS BRIEF

#### RAYS' NEANDER MLB EXECUTIVE OF YEAR

Tampa Bay Rays senior vice president of baseball operations and general manager Erik Neander, whose team reached the playoffs despite having the lowest payroll in baseball, was named as Major League Baseball Executive of the Year on Monday.

The award capped a bountiful year for Neander and the Rays. Tampa Bay finished the regular season 96-66 for the seventh-best record in the majors, captured an AL wild-card berth, then knocked out the Oakland Athletics in the wild-card game. The Rays took the Houston Astros to a decisive Game 5 before losing in the American League Division Series.

The New York Yankees' Brian Cashman finished second to Neander in the Executive of the Year voting while 2018 winner Billy Beane of the A's and Derek Falvey of the Minnesota Twins tied for third.

— FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

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# Sports

## Bill Guerin keeping the faith in Wild ... for now

BY DANE MIZUTANI  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota Wild general manager Bill Guerin spends most of his nights watching like a hawk from the press box, trying to get a read on what he's dealing with as he tries to build a Stanley Cup contender.

Hired a few months ago to clean up former general manager Paul Fenton's mess, Guerin has lauded how the Twin Cities market has everything necessary to be a perennial powerhouse.

As for whether the current roster falls into that part of the equation, more specifically who from the current roster falls into that part of the equation, that's the biggest thing Guerin has to figure out.

With the Wild sitting 6-10-1 heading into last night's game against the Los Angeles Kings, it sounds like, at the very least, Guerin has figured out this team's identity.

"We cannot just step out on the ice and run and gun," Guerin said. "We have to play with our structure. We have to compete extremely hard. We have to play as a team. When we do those things, we get results. When we start thinking that we're something that we're not, we get in trouble."

The reality is the Wild are currently one of the worst teams in the NHL and lack the type of star power to make a complete turnaround seem plausible.

"It's just disappointing because we've left a lot of points on the table," Guerin said. "You look



Matt Kartoziyan / USA TODAY Sports

**Minnesota Wild GM Bill Guerin isn't ready to give up on a team that is 2-1-1 this month, including a win at Arizona last weekend.**

back at it, and we've been in most games. There were a couple stinkers. Everybody's got those. For the most part, though, I feel like we've been in most games."

Maybe that's the biggest reason Guerin isn't ready to punt on this season. He likes what he's seen out of the Wild on their West Coast road trip and believes things are trending in the right direction.

"If there's an opportunity for me to make the team better, I'll do it," Guerin said. "That hasn't presented itself. I still want to give this group an opportunity. They deserve it."

Guerin may eventually take a step back this season with an eye toward the future.

Even though that's something owner Craig Leipold has long been averse to, it sounds as if it's something he's finally open to if it comes to that.

"We have talked a number of times," Guerin said. "We have

to do what's right for the organization as a whole. Not grasp at straws. We don't want to talk ourselves into something that we don't really want to do. Or think we're something that we're not.

We have to be very honest with ourselves and then move accordingly."

No doubt the biggest want for Guerin at the moment is a game breaker. It's something the Wild have lacked since the days of Marian Gaborik, and as Guerin noted, it's nearly impossible to trade for that type of player.

If anything is clear after talking to Guerin, it's that he's going to have difficult decisions to make over the next few months. Even more clear, though, is that he isn't afraid to make them.

"It's my decision to make," Guerin said about the future of the team. "You know, players play, coaches coach, and managers manage. I'll have to make some hard decisions. But I hope this team keeps getting better like we have been."

## Better choices a key for Gophers

### Pitino wants Minnesota to make good shot selections

BY ANDY GREDER  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Gophers men's basketball team believes it is a much better 3-point-shooting team than it was last season, but coach Richard Pitino said his players forced too many long-range shots in a 71-62 loss to Oklahoma on Saturday.

As the Gophers fell to 1-1 this season, Minnesota made just 8 of 32 shots from deep (25 percent) against the Sooners in Sioux Falls, S.D. The Gophers gave up an eight-point second-half lead, falling victim to a key 9-0 run that put the game out of reach with 90 seconds left.

"We had a segment there, settling for some threes, we missed a couple of front ends of one-and-ones (on the free-throw line) that really hurt us," Pitino said Monday on a conference call.

The Gophers' goal is to make more free throws than the other team attempts, but the opposite happened against the Sooners. Minnesota went 4 for 12, while Oklahoma was 17 for 22 from the stripe.

"When you leave eight points (off) the board, it just changes the game and it zaps your energy," Pitino said.

The Gophers looked to bounce back against Butler (2-0) on Tuesday night,



Kalscheur



Willis

a game that was still in progress as the Post Bulletin went to press.

Pitino wants to see his team attack the basket more in games to come, which he believes will create better looks at the rim and from deep, where they made 13 three-pointers in the season-opening blowout of Cleveland State last week. He is looking for that primarily from guards Gabe Kalscheur and Payton Willis; they were a combined 6 for 20 from 3-point range against Oklahoma.

"We've got to shoot 'em when we're open (from deep) and they've got to be in rhythm and they've got to be good shots, but if not, you have to attack," Pitino said.

Minnesota is approaching the middle a tough stretch against three high-major teams; the first time that has happened during their first four games in a season since 1969.

The Gophers considered traveling straight from Indianapolis to Salt Lake City for Friday's game against Utah, but decided to come back to Minneapolis in between.

Freshman forward Isaiah Ihnen was expected to make his debut Tuesday after injuring his right shooting wrist in preseason.

## SPORTS BRIEF

### BALDELLI IS A.L. MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli is the American League manager of the year. Baldelli edged New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone and Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash in a vote by members of the Baseball Writers Association of America. In his first season as a manager, Baldelli led the Twins to a 101-61 record and an American League Central championship, the team's first since 2010. On the announcement show on MLB Network, Baldelli thanked his

coaches and management, saying, "We needed everybody to come together, and then it really comes down to the players." The 101 wins are second in Twins history to the 1965 team that won 102 games lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series. This year's team was swept by the Yankees in the AL Division Series. He is just the seventh first-year manager in MLB history to lead his team to 100 or more wins. "It was a pretty amazing year," Baldelli said on MLB Network. "I don't accept this award as an

individual, I accept it as a member of the Minnesota Twins." Baldelli, 38, joined Billy Martin (1969), Bill Rigney (1970) and Ron Gardenhire (2002) as the fourth Minnesota skipper to lead the team to the postseason in his first season at the helm. The award, voted on by 30 members of the Baseball Writers Association of America, was first given in 1983. The St. Louis Cardinals' Mike Schildt was named the National League manager of the year. — ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

## RCTC

From page B1

would play in the semifinals at 7 p.m. Friday. The championship match is at 6 p.m. Saturday.

"I think we need to just keep doing what we're doing, stay positive as a group and just keeping working together as a team," Rutledge said.

RCTC has played a number of nationally ranked Division II scholarship schools during the course of the regular season.

"They've played a lot of tough tournaments ... At this tournament, it's nothing that we haven't seen this year," Zitzow said. "We've been prepped, they know what to expect now they just have to keep on performing, especially our veterans."

## TV HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
5 p.m. (ESPN): LSU at VCU  
6 p.m. (BTN): McNeese State at Wisconsin  
6 p.m. (FS1): Villanova at Ohio State  
6 p.m. (CBS Sports Network): Saint Joseph's at Connecticut  
8 p.m. (BTN): Providence at Northwestern  
**PRO BASKETBALL**  
6:30 p.m. (ESPN): L.A. Clippers at Houston  
7 p.m. (FSN): San Antonio at Minnesota  
9 p.m. (ESPN): Golden State at L.A.

Lakers  
**PRO HOCKEY**  
6:30 p.m. (NBC Sports Network): Washington at Philadelphia  
9 p.m. (NBC Sports Network): Chicago at Vegas  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
5 p.m. (ESPN): Tennessee at Arkansas  
**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
7 p.m. (ESPN2): Northern Illinois at Toledo  
**THURSDAY**  
**PRO GOLF**  
Noon (GOLF): PGA Tour, Mayakoba Golf Classic, first round  
**MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY**  
5:30 p.m. (BTN): Michigan State at Michigan  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

5:30 p.m. (FS1): Penn State at Georgetown  
6 p.m. (ESPN2): Towson at Florida  
7:30 p.m. (FS1): Michigan State at Seton Hall  
**PRO FOOTBALL**  
7 p.m. (Fox): Pittsburgh at Cleveland  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
8 p.m. (BTN): Wisconsin at Minnesota  
**PRO HOCKEY**  
7 p.m. (FSN): Arizona at Minnesota  
**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
7 p.m. (ESPN): North Carolina at Pittsburgh  
**PRO BASKETBALL**  
7 p.m. (TNT): Dallas at New York  
9:30 p.m. (TNT): Brooklyn at Denver

TODAY

No local events schedule

THURSDAY

**GIRLS SWIM/DIVE**  
Century, Mayo, John Marshall at state meet (U of M Aquatic Center), 6 p.m.  
**GIRLS HOCKEY**  
Century at Owatonna, 7 p.m.  
Mayo at Waseca, 7 p.m.  
**COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL**  
NJCAA Division III national tournament, RCTC vs. Harper/Queensborough winner (at UCR Regional Sports Center, 4 p.m.)

## FOOTBALL

Professional						
NFL American Football Conference						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	1	0	.889	270	98
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	174	150
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	130	238
Miami	2	7	0	.222	119	268

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	6	3	0	.667	238	191
Indianapolis	5	4	0	.556	194	193
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	203	197
Jacksonville	4	5	0	.444	176	189

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	7	2	0	.778	300	189
Pittsburgh	5	4	0	.556	193	181
Cleveland	3	6	0	.333	171	221
Cincinnati	0	9	0	.000	137	259

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	284	239
Oakland	5	4	0	.556	208	240
L.A. Chargers	4	6	0	.400	207	194
Denver	3	6	0	.333	149	170

National Football Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	5	4	0	.556	251	170
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	224	213
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	203	289
Washington	1	8	0	.111	108	219

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	7	2	0	.778	204	182
Carolina	5	4	0	.556	225	228
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333	260	279
Atlanta	2	7	0	.222	191	259

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	2	0	.800	250	205
Minnesota	7	3	0	.700	262	182
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	162	157
Detroit	3	5	1	.389	217	237

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	1	0	.889	259	129
Seattle	8	2	0	.800	275	254
L.A. Rams	5	4	0	.556	226	191
Arizona	3	6	1	.350	222	281

**Week 10**  
**Thursday's Games**  
Oakland 26, L.A. Chargers 24  
**Sunday's Games**  
Baltimore 49, Cincinnati 13  
Chicago 20, Detroit 13  
Cleveland 19, Buffalo 16  
Tennessee 35, Kansas City 32  
Tampa Bay 30, Arizona 27  
N.Y. Jets 34, N.Y. Giants 27  
Atlanta 26, New Orleans 9  
Miami 16, Indianapolis 12  
Green Bay 24, Carolina 16  
Pittsburgh 17, L.A. Rams 12  
Minnesota 28, Dallas 24  
**Monday's Games**  
Seattle 27, San Francisco 24, OT  
**Week 11**  
**Thursday's Games**  
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 7:20 p.m.  
**Sunday's Games**  
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 12 p.m.  
Dallas at Detroit, 12 p.m.  
Atlanta at Carolina, 12 p.m.  
Houston at Baltimore, 12 p.m.  
Buffalo at Miami, 12 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at Washington, 12 p.m.  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m.  
Denver at Minnesota, 12 p.m.  
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:05 p.m.  
New England at Philadelphia, 3:25 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Oakland, 3:25 p.m.  
Chicago at L.A. Rams, 7:20 p.m.  
**Monday's Games**  
Kansas City vs L.A. Chargers, at Mexico City, Mexico, 7:15 p.m.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### BIG TEN CONFERENCE

East Division				
	Conf.	Overall	W	L
Ohio State	6	0	9	0
Penn State	5	1	8	1
Indiana	4	2	7	2
Michigan	4	2	7	2
Michigan St.	4	4	4	5
Maryland	1	6	3	7
Rutgers	0	6	2	7

### West Division

	Conf.	Overall	W	L
Minnesota	6	0	9	0
Wisconsin	4	2	7	2
Illinois	4	3	6	4
Iowa	3	3	6	3
Purdue	3	4	4	6
Nebraska	2	4	4	5
Northwestern	0	7	1	8

### SATURDAY, NOV. 16

Indiana at Penn State, 11 a.m.  
Wisconsin at Nebraska, 11 a.m.  
Michigan State at Michigan, 11 a.m.  
Massachusetts at Northwestern, 11 a.m.  
Ohio State at Rutgers, 2:30 p.m.  
Minnesota at Iowa, 3 p.m.

## BASKETBALL

### PROFESSIONAL

NBA Eastern Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	1	.889	—
Toronto	7	2	.778	1.0
Philadelphia	6	3	.667	2.0
Brooklyn	4	5	.444	4.0
New York	2	8	.200	6.5

Central				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	7	3	.700	—
Indiana	6	4	.600	1.0
Cleveland	4	5	.444	2.5
Orlando	4	7	.364	3.5
Chicago	3	7	.300	4.0

Southeast				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	6	3	.667	—
Charlotte	4	6	.400	2.5
Atlanta	3	6	.333	3.0
Orlando	3	7	.300	3.5
Washington	2	6	.250	3.5

Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	7	2	.778	—
Utah	6	3	.667	1.0
Minnesota	6	4	.600	1.5
Portland	4	6	.400	3.5
Oklahoma City	4	6	.400	3.5

Pacific				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	7	3	.778	—
Phoenix	6	3	.667	1.0

## UP NEXT

Team	Game	Time	Network
<b>VIKINGS FOOTBALL</b>	DENVER	SUNDAY, NOON (CBS)	AT SEATTLE DEC. 2, 7:15 P.M. (ESPN)
<b>GOPHERS FOOTBALL</b>	AT IOWA	AT IOWA SATURDAY, 3 P.M. (FOX)	AT NORTHWESTERN NOV. 23, TBA (TV TBD)
<b>WILD HOCKEY</b>	ARIZONA	THURSDAY, 7 P.M. (FSN)	CAROLINA SATURDAY, 1 P.M. (FSN)
<b>'U' MEN'S HOCKEY</b>	PENN STATE	FRIDAY, 7 P.M. (FSN PLUS)	PENN STATE SATURDAY, 7 P.M. (FSN PLUS)
<b>WOLVES BASKETBALL</b>	SAN ANTONIO	TODAY, 7 P.M. (FSN)	WASHINGTON FRIDAY, 7 P.M. (FSN)
<b>'U' MEN'S HOOPS</b>	AT UTAH	FRIDAY, 8 P.M. (PAC-12 NETWORK)	CENTRAL MICH. NOV. 21, 7 P.M. (NO TV)
<b>'U' WOMEN'S HOOPS</b>	MILWAUKEE	THURSDAY, NOON (NO TV)	ARIZONA STATE SUNDAY, 3 P.M. (BTN)

L.A. Clippers	6	3	.667	1.0
Sacramento	3	6	.333	4.0
Golden State	2	8	.200	5.5

Southwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	7	3	.700	—
Dallas	6	4	.600	1.0
San Antonio	5	5	.500	2.0
Memphis	3	7	.300	4.0
New Orleans	2	8	.200	5.0

**Sunday's Games</**