

Minnesota Golden Gophers

By Haylee Barnes

The Minnesota Golden Gopher women's basketball team has come a long way from when they started the club in 1971. The Golden Gophers have been in the Big Ten Tournament 9 times and 5 of their players have gone pro including their head coach Lindsay Whalen. Minnesota is heading into this years Big Ten Tournament with a 7-11 record in conference play. The Golden Gophers are going into the Big Ten with 13 players including guard Jasmine Powell.

"Our team has got to continue to improve our transition defense, we have got to rebound the ball and we have to have really good execution especially towards the end of games, when teams are tired and trying to take different things away from what we are trying to do, so we have to be really good in those areas, especially late in games." Lindsay Whalen said for the Golden Gophers to win. However, that might a little harder than they thought. You might be wondering why, this is because the top seeds in the tournament have just a little advantage over the other remaining Big Ten teams.

Not that being in the Big Ten is challenging enough but coaching young adults is another challenge, challenges that coaches face are "Just trying constantly to keep everyone on the same page, to understand that we have a goal as a team that we are working to accomplish, and to allow everyone to accomplish their individual goals while maintaining the team first mentality." said Whalen. Even though they have 13 players on the team, 5 coaches, and several staff members does not mean that they are always on the same page but that is something that they try to do. "No matter if I was not coaching, I would still be a

part of the game in anyway like broadcasting or something else.” said Lindsay.

Jasmine Powell the guard from Detroit Michigan is no stranger to the game. She has been playing since she was 7 and playing at the YMCA to now playing in the Big Ten is a big leap. In just her freshman year she played an average of 26 minutes a game but now her sophomore year she has played an average of 32 minutes a game which considering that their games are only 40 minutes long.

Since COVID-19 started it has affected the Golden Gophers season by not being able to play their pre-season games which has put them behind on playing. But now they are taking the right precautions and testing every day, social distancing, and not going out a lot. Even though COVID-19 has affected people’s everyday life’s just like the Golden Gophers, but they learned how to prevent them from getting the virus.

Just because you are a female athlete or male athlete does not mean that you should get less attention. “Find and follow your passion and that is going to bring you a long way through a lot of ups and downs throughout your life.” said Lindsay. “You should always strive for your goals and never let anyone determine what your goals will be.” said Jasmine. So no matter if you are young or old male or female you should never give up on what you love because you do not know where it will take you in life.