February 27, 1997

A school record for the number of victories in a single season, 25 wins, with three regular season games and the NCAA tournament remaining.

The school's highest national ranking ever, No. 2 in both major polls.

The best road record in memory.

Undefeated at home, in the "Barn", our beloved Williams Arena.

Another great year, with. A 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Coach Haskins, now in his 11th season at Minnesota, has mentored hundreds of true champions. Not all of them have won Big 10 titles, to be sure, but they have been winners in the classroom and they have been winners in our community.

Coach Haskins, who served as assistant coach of the 1996 men's Olympic basketball team, has assembled a very special group of young men in this championship season. They all deserve a tribute for the way they came together to surprise the experts and win the Big 10 title.

All Big 10 guard Bobby Jackson, who ranks among the big 10 leaders in steals, assists, scoring, free-throw percentage, field-goal percentage and rebounding.

Minnesota's other guard, Eric Harris, the defensive specialist and most improved player on offense, to be sure; Eric provided the steady leadership only a 3-year starter can.

Minnesota's own Sam Jacobson, a constituent of mine, one of the great natures, in the long, arching outside shots which broke open so many close games. And John Thomas, another native Minnesotan, of the inside force, whose key rebounds and clutch free-throws also won so many nail-bitters this season.

The other big man in the middle, Courtney James, a major factor in this glorious title run, with his strong rebounding and scoring in the paint when we needed it the most.

But perhaps the team's greatest asset, Mr. Speaker, is its bench, the playing depth that is backup roles and come through in the clutch: Quincy Lewis, with his amazing shooting touch; Trevor Winter of Slayton, MN, with his rebound and baseline jumper; sophomore Charles Thomas, a southpaw whose specialty is the 3-point bomb, and who always comes through when we need it the most; Miles Tarver, another sophomore whose leap ability ruled the boards when the other players' legs had tired; freshman guard Russ Archambault, who provided fans with many thrills with his speed, ball handling, and his slashing style on the court; also Jaron and Jermaine Stanfield and Aaron Stauber, who work so hard every day.

Yes, Coach Haskins, you and your team have gone Gopher basketball back on the map. Congratulations, Minnesota, on winning the Big 10 Championship, and best of everything the rest of the way. Go, Gophers.

INTRUDER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlemen from Virginia [Mr. PICKETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Navy honors the retirement of an old friend, the A-6 Intruder. Attack Squadron 75 and Attack Squadron 75 stand down the final two Intruder squadrons in simultaneous ceremonies at Whidbey Island, WA, and Virginia Beach, VA, respectively.

As the backbone of carrier attack aviation for the past 30 years, the A-6E Intruder stood ready to deliver its formidable payload in any weather, day or night. The A-6 put teeth in the term "carrier forward presence." It saw combat in Vietnam, Lebanon, Libya, in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, and over the shores of Kuwait and Iraq. It delivered iron bombs, laser-guided bombs, and every air-to-ground missile available in the Navy inventory for the past three decades.

The Intruder was never the prettiest plane on the flight deck, but it was always the hardest working. The pilots and bombardiers who flew the Intruder affectionately referred to its Grumman ironworks origin. Some swore the aircraft was made of solid steel; whether the shells and missiles it faced flew from Hanoi or Baghdad, many an A-6 returned to the carrier full of holes, but ready to see combat soon after a few steel patch jobs.

We also honor the thousands of Intruder maintainers, both past and present, who kept this 18-ton bombing machine flying day and night, at sea and ashore. Foreign terms such as fly-by-wire and heads-up display never passed the lips of these hardworking men and women. Metal, pulleys, oil, and hydraulic fluid attack kept this archetype of attack airborne.

Finally, let us remember the Intruder crews who never returned. In service to our Nation, they paid the ultimate price flying this machine that they loved. We miss them still, and will never forget them. And every day, on this day, the Navy must continue to carry on the spirit of Intruder attack. Whenever the Navy rolls in hot, a bit of Intruder history rolls in with it.

EXERCISING COMITY ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I am a little out of breath because I had to run down to the floor. I witnessed, as I was watching my television, what was going on on the floor, a very unfortunate situation, and had I been here I could have probably attempted to take down the microphones from Texas [Mr. EDWARDS]. He was attacking another gentleman from Texas. I think it is really unfortunate.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE