

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 238

Commending the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers for winning the
2002 NCAA Division I Wrestling National Championship.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2002

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. DAYTON) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commending the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers
for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I Wrestling Na-
tional Championship.

Whereas the University of Minnesota wrestling team success-
fully defended its 2001 national title by winning the 2002
National Collegiate Athletic Association championship on
March 23, 2002, in Albany, New York;

Whereas the victory was the first back-to-back national cham-
pionship in an intercollegiate athletic competition in Uni-
versity of Minnesota history since the Golden Gophers
captured 2 consecutive national championship football ti-
tles in 1940 and 1941;

Whereas the University of Minnesota won the national crown
with 126.5 points, over Iowa State (103 points), Okla-

homa (101.5 points), Iowa (89 points) and Oklahoma State (82.5 points);

Whereas the University of Minnesota became the first Division I wrestling team since the 1995–96 season to go undefeated in dual meets and win the National Duals, conference and NCAA team titles in a single season and the first team to win these titles in consecutive seasons since the 1994–95 and 1995–96 seasons;

Whereas the Golden Gophers wrestling team has finished in the top 3 in the Nation in the last 6 years: placing third in 1997, being the runner up in 1998 and 1999; placing third in 2000; and winning the national title in 2001 and 2002;

Whereas the University of Minnesota wrestling team has now placed in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships 25 times in the history of the program;

Whereas Coach J. Robinson, as head coach of the University of Minnesota wrestling team, now has finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships 10 times during his 16-year tenure;

Whereas two members of the Minnesota wrestling team, Jared Lawrence and Luke Becker, each earned an individual national crown, marking the first time in school history that two Minnesota athletes were individual champions in a single NCAA sport in the same year;

Whereas Lawrence, at 149 pounds, and Becker, at 157 pounds, captured the 13th and 14th NCAA individual titles in school history, respectively;

Whereas Ryan Lewis, at 133 pounds, was the runner-up, Owen Elzen, at 197 pounds, finished in fourth place, Damion Hahn, at 184 pounds, finished in fifth place,

Garret Lowney, at heavyweight, finished in fifth place, and Chad Erikson, at 141 pounds, finished in seventh place;

Whereas seven University of Minnesota wrestlers, Chad Erikson, Jared Lawrence, Luke Becker, Damion Hahn, Owen Elzen, Ryan Lewis, and Garrett Lowney, earned All-American honors; and

Whereas the Golden Gophers have now had 68 wrestlers earn 111 All-American citations in the history of the varsity wrestling program at the University of Minnesota: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the Golden Gophers of the Uni-
3 versity of Minnesota for winning the 2002 National
4 Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Wrestling
5 National Championship;

6 (2) recognizes the achievements of all the
7 team's members, coaches, and support staff, and in-
8 vites them to the United States Capitol to be hon-
9 ored;

10 (3) requests that the President recognize the
11 achievements of the University of Minnesota wres-
12 tling team and invite them to the White House for
13 an appropriate ceremony honoring a national cham-
14 pionship team; and

1 (4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to trans-
2 mit a copy of this resolution to the President of the
3 University of Minnesota.

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