



# POSTGAME NOTES

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**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

**Williams Arena (Minneapolis, Minn.)**

**Rutgers 77, Minnesota 70 (OT)**

## **SERIES, ETC.**

Today's 77-70 loss was the 14th all-time game between Minnesota and Rutgers, and the Gophers lead the series, 8-6 (Gophers lead 5-1 in Minneapolis). Today's game was the regular season finale for both teams, and the Gophers recognized Eric Curry, Brandon Johnson, and Hunt Conroy before the game. It was the second meeting between the teams this season, as the Scarlet Knights also posted a 76-72 win at The RAC on February 4. Minnesota fell to 13-14 overall and 6-14 in the Big Ten, while Rutgers won its first-ever game in Minneapolis to improve to 14-10 overall and 10-10 in the B1G. Minnesota's all-time record now stands at 1,515-1,143 overall (not counting vacated games). Coach Pitino's eighth-year record at Minnesota is 140-122 and his nine-year career mark is 158-136. Pitino is 6-6 all-time versus the Scarlet Knights.

## **STARTING FIVE**

For the fourth straight game, Coach Pitino went with a starting lineup of redshirt senior forward Brandon Johnson (22nd start at Minnesota, 113th career start), redshirt senior forward Eric Curry (sixth start this season, 12th career start), redshirt junior guard Marcus Carr (27th start this season, 58th start at Minnesota, 85th career start), sophomore guard Tre' Williams (11th start this season, 16th career start), and freshman guard Jamal Mashburn Jr. (sixth start this season, sixth career start).

## **GAME RECAP**

When these teams met back in early February, there were 22 lead changes. Today's game started in a similar fashion, as the lead changed hands five times in the first eight minutes. Four-straight points from Both Gach gave the Gophers their largest lead, 19-16, with 7:31 left in the half, but Rutgers made back-to-back three-pointers to flip the three-point edge. Brandon Johnson put Minnesota back in front with a pair of buckets, but the back and forth action continued as the Scarlet Knights responded with an 8-0 run for a 30-23 lead. A three-pointer from Tre' Williams pulled Minnesota within 32-28, but Rutgers ended the half on a 5-0 run to head to the locker room up nine, 37-28. Johnson led the Gophers at the half with 11 points and five rebounds, while Williams had eight points.

Rutgers built a double-digit lead early in the second half, and led by as many as 14, before six-straight points from Isaiah Ihnen cut the Scarlet Knights' lead to eight points, 52-44. Rutgers twice stretched the lead back to 12 points, before an 11-3 stretch pulled the Gophers within four points, 61-57, with 3:32 left. Jamal Mashburn Jr. kept the run going with a layup at the 2:20 mark to make it a two-point game. Trailing 63-60 with less than a minute remaining, Marcus Carr knocked down his first field goal of the afternoon, a three-pointer that tied the score with 0:50 left and sent the game to overtime. Minnesota outscored Rutgers, 17-5, over the final 8:33 of regulation.

Rutgers scored the first six points of overtime to retake a 69-63 lead, before a three-point play from Mashburn, who later added a pair of free throws to make it a 71-68 game. A three-point play for Rutgers put it back up six, and the Scarlet Knights escaped with the win.

## **JOHNSON HAS DOUBLE-DOUBLE IN LAST BARN APPEARANCE**

With Liam Robbins missing his fourth-straight game with an injury, Brandon Johnson turned in a gutsy performance for the Gophers in his final regular season game at Williams Arena. Johnson, who's been dealing with his own ankle issues, finished with team-highs of 19 points and 11 rebounds for his second double-double of the season. He made 6-of-11 field goals and 6-of-6 free throws, while also blocking a shot in 38 minutes. It was Johnson's best scoring output since having 26 points in the overtime win over Iowa on Christmas Day. His previous double-double had been 13 points and 10 boards versus Nebraska on Feb. 8.

## **MASHBURN FINISHES WITH 17**

Jamal Mashburn Jr. scored 14 points in the second half and overtime to finish with 17 points, while tying his career-high with six rebounds. Mashburn was 5-of-17 from the field and 6-of-7 at the line, while adding two assists and a steal. The true freshman has scored in double-figures 10 times this season, including eight of the past 10 games.

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND NOTES**

Minnesota had a 9-1 first-half advantage in points off turnovers ... the Gophers lost their first overtime game of the season after winning their first two ... Marcus Carr finished with seven points, seven rebounds and two assists ... Tre' Williams had 11 points, six

rebounds and two steals in 38 minutes ... Eric Curry finished with four points and five boards ... Isaiah Ihnen had eight points ... Liam Robbins missed his fourth-straight game due to an injury ... Both Gach had seven points in 18 minutes... the Gophers will open play in the Big Ten Tournament in Indianapolis on Wednesday.