Gustavus Men’s Basketball: Celebrating A Century of Excellence

The year started out slow for the Gusties as they lost their first three games and fell to 3-6 after a loss to Macalester. Suddenly the team came alive and was on fire, as they went on a seven-game winning streak before losing to Augsburg, Bethel, and Concordia. In the next game, Gustavus defeated beat Saint Mary’s and won the MIAC crown outright for the first time in 20 years. After defeating St. Thomas in the semifinals of the MIAC Playoffs, Head Coach Charlie Brock and the Gusties faced Saint John’s in a rematch of the 1986-87 MIAC Playoff championship game. The roles were reversed in this year’s championship game as it was Gustavus with the MIAC regular season title and it would be Saint John’s walking into Gus Young Court packed with screaming Gustie fans. The Gusties proved strong in the first half and showed the Johnnies why they were the MIAC Champs by building a 28-23 lead. But even a half-court basket at the end of the first half couldn’t help Gustavus as Saint John’s buried all hopes with a 61-49 win. The season was a huge success. The team being led by top scorer Mike Haldorson and captains Steve McDermott and Jay Gutierrez helped this success become the reality it was. These two captains will be missed but the future looks promising for the team, as Haldorson and freshmen Andy Schultz and Dean Katzung will be returning.

The Gustavus men’s basketball program is celebrating its 100th season this year. To commemorate this special occasion, there will be an insert in each game program highlighting one of the 16 MIAC Championship teams as well the outstanding individuals and coaches that have helped make the Gustavus men’s basketball program one of the most successful programs in the history of Division III basketball.
Homes of the Gustavus Men’s Basketball Team

The first gymnasium, a 30 feet by 70 feet wooden structure, was built in 1886 through student fundraising efforts. There were two heating stoves in two of the corners, but no electricity or dressing/bathing facilities in the building. Students were allowed to use the restroom on Saturdays for a nominal fee.

The next gymnasium, which currently serves as Alumni Hall and the Dive, was built in 1921-22 at the price of $200,000. The structure included an official basketball court, a swimming pool, a cork running track, a squash-handball court, and competitive gymnastic equipment.

Myrum Memorial Fieldhouse was dedicated in Spring 1939 in honor of George Myrum, athletic director and coach from 1924-38. Myrum, who was the driving force behind fundraising efforts for the facility, was killed in a bus crash on September 12, 1938 returning from a football game against St. Norbert. However, basketball games were not played in the fieldhouse until the 1948-49 season when it was converted from an ice rink to a basketball court.

The current home for the Golden Gusties, Gus Young Court, was dedicated on December 1, 1984 in honor of the former head coach. Young coached the men’s basketball team to three MIAC championships during eight seasons at Gustavus from 1949-1957. Gus Young Court, which has a 3,500-spectator capacity, has been host to many MIAC and NCAA Tournament games, and is considered one of the most difficult places for opponents to play in all of Division III.

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