



NEWSRELEASE

MINNESOTA LYNX PUBLIC RELATIONS | 600 FIRST AVENUE NORTH | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403

For Immediate Release
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Minnesota Lynx Honor Two Teams with the Sixth of This Year's 'Lynx Team of the Week' Awards

Owatonna Boys, Osseo Girls are Week Six Winners

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL – The Minnesota Lynx are proud to announce the two schools that have earned the distinction of receiving the sixth "Team of the Week" awards for the 2008-09 High School season, which includes games played through Jan. 15.

In conjunction with the "Lynx Ballerz Tour Live," the "Lynx Team of the Week" initiative is part of an off-season program that the Minnesota Lynx have brought back this winter in an effort to give back to the basketball community in the state of Minnesota. The "Lynx Team of the Week" initiative celebrates excellence in the classroom, in the community, and on the court.

This is the sixth consecutive week that the Minnesota Lynx have recognized one girls team and one boys team. The program will continue every week throughout the high school regular season.

"I have coached basketball at every level, including winning the Class A state championship when I coached the boys basketball team at De La Salle High School," said Lynx head coach Don Zierden. "The one thing that has impressed me most is the amount of talent that there is in the high schools here in Minnesota. We have some of the nation's best teams playing right here in our own backyard. I am thrilled that the Minnesota Lynx are continuing their outreach to the high schools so these teams and athletes are able to receive the recognition that they deserve for their achievements on the court, in the classroom, and in the community."

This week's winners:

Boys Basketball

Class AAAA's Owatonna Huskies are the Boys Lynx Team of the Week after a pair of wins last week, which improved their record to 8-2. Owatonna kicked off its impressive week on Saturday, Jan. 9, with a 54-37 win over fellow Section 1AAAA and Big 9 Conference rival Rochester Century. Owatonna got off to a strong start, holding Rochester Century to just 18 percent from the floor in the first half to take a commanding 24-9 lead into halftime. The Huskies would cruise from there, coasting to the 17-point win. Huskies senior Kyle Melcher led all scorers with 14 points, and Taylor Steinbauer added 13. Four nights later, Owatonna got its fifth straight win and eighth of the season, defeating host Rochester John Marshall 63-48. Owatonna is currently ranked ninth in the latest Class AAAA poll distributed by the Associated Press. For the season, Owatonna is averaging 58.2 ppg and has outscored its opponents by an average of 7.3 ppg.

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Girls Basketball

The Osseo Orioles are the Girls Lynx Team of the Week after claiming three victories last week. After losing in the first round of last year's State Tournament to Chaska, the 10-3 Orioles are off to a fantastic start in their quest to get back to post-season play. Osseo opened the week on Saturday, Jan. 9, with a convincing 68-30 win over host Andover. Chiamaka Okonkwo led three Orioles in double-figures with a game-high 16 points. Four nights later, the Orioles continued their winning ways, defeating host Coon Rapids 67-47. Osseo's final matchup of the week versus Champlin Park provided the Orioles with their toughest test, pitting two 10-win teams against each other. Osseo came out strong, taking a 32-27 lead at half. The Orioles then withstood a late Champlin Park comeback attempt to prevail over the host Rebels 57-52. For the season, the Orioles sit at 10-3, good for first place in the Northwest Suburban Conference.

Each team will receive a Certificate of Merit, courtesy of the Minnesota Lynx, along with a spotlight on Lynxbasketball.com. All 24 teams will also be invited to a Lynx game during their season next summer.

The Minnesota Lynx open their 11th year of basketball in the Twin Cities on June 6, 2009 vs. the Chicago Sky at Target Center. Season and group tickets for the 2009 season are now on sale. For information on ticket packages, call 612-673-8400, e-mail tickets@lynxbasketball.com, or visit the Lynx website at www.lynxbasketball.com.

About the Lynx Ballerz Tour Live

The Lynx Ballerz Tour Live will stop at various girls high school basketball games over a period of 13 weeks, bringing the experience of the WNBA to high school gyms across the state of Minnesota. At each stop, the Lynx will meet with players, families and fans, bringing the fun and excitement of Lynx Basketball, including autograph sessions, raffle prizes, Lynx T-shirt giveaways, and even basketball clinics at select stops. The Tour will shine the spotlight on girls basketball at local high schools, where the future stars of the WNBA are already competing.

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