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MINNESOTA GOPHERS CAPTURE COLLEGE BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP

Los Angeles, CA (May 6, 2007) – The University of Minnesota captured the College Bowl National Championship today, defeating the University of Southern California 330 to 295 in the final match. Ezra Lyon, a graduate student in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior who averaged 72 points per game, was named to the tournament all-star team.

Minnesota compiled a 12-3 record in the preliminary round robin to advance to the playoffs, losing only to the University of Southern California, the University of Washington, and Williams College. Baylor University, Williams, and USC joined the Golden Gophers as the other playoff teams.

College Bowl is a question and answer game of general knowledge and quick recall. It spotlights the fastest minds on campus as they excel on the playing field of knowledge. Game questions cover every conceivable topic, from history, literature, science, multiculturalism, religion and geography to current events, the arts, social sciences, sports and popular culture.

In the first rounds of the double-elimination playoffs, Minnesota defeated Baylor 380-235 and USC 385-135 to guarantee a spot in the finals. USC defeated Williams 320-200 to set up a return match with Minnesota.

In the first game of the playoff finals, USC cruised to a 375-220 win. With each team having one loss, a second game was necessary to decide the championship.

After USC opened up a huge lead, Minnesota came back to tie the match at 125 points apiece with a minute remaining in the first half. USC scored the next 20 points to take a 145-125 lead at the half.

USC opened up the second half with a 120 point run. But Minnesota made a run of their own, and took advantage of a USC penalty to tie the game at 260 apiece with just two-and-a-half minutes remaining. Minnesota kept their streak going with 75 more points. USC mounted a comeback, but were unable to take advantage of a Minnesota penalty, and the Golden Gophers held on to win 330 to 295.

This is the sixth time Minnesota has won the national title, and the third time in four years. The Golden Gophers previously won in 1984, 1987, 1989, 2004, and 2005, and was host of the National Championship Tournament in 1990. Minnesota finished fourth at the 2006 National Championship Tournament, held at the University of Hartford.

Lyon, of Galesburg, Illinois, was joined on the Minnesota team by Robert Carson, a Freshman from Chaska, Minnesota studying Computer Science; Andrew Hart, a Freshman from Chanhassen, Minnesota who is undeclared; and Meredith Johnson, a Junior and Linguistics major from Edina, Minnesota. Andrew Bockover, a Senior majoring in History & Political Science from Rapid City, South Dakota, was team Captain.

Minnesota qualified for the College Bowl National Championship through winning a Regional qualifying tournament held at Hamline University on February 23rd and 24th. Fifteen Regional winners and a wild card team were invited to the National Championship Tournament, which was hosted by USC.

The College Bowl National Championship is produced by the College Bowl Company in cooperation with the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) and was hosted in 2007 by the University of Southern California.

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Full tournament results are available on-line at <http://www.collegebowl.com/nct07/results.asp>. Photos are available upon request from tfm@collegebowl.com.