

KG Returns To Minnesota As Player, Wants To Stay As Owner

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Garnett never wanted to leave Minnesota when the Timberwolves traded him to Boston nearly eight years ago, never wanted to jump from a sinking Celtics ship before Paul Pierce convinced him to follow him to Brooklyn two years ago. And he sure didn't feel great about uprooting his family in the middle of a season when the prospects first arose to return to his beloved 'Sota last week.

Sitting at his Malibu home over the All-Star break, the only true superstar in Wolves history thought long and hard about what that move would mean. He thought about mentoring Ricky Rubio and Andrew Wiggins.

He thought about going back to the state where he was drafted and where he met his wife, setting down

roots and one day following stars such as Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson into ownership. He thought about restoring a relationship with a franchise that was tattered when he was traded.

He was born in South Carolina, became a high school sensation in the Chicago area and a champion in Boston.

But for him, Minnesota will always be home. And in the end, that lure and the possibility of a much greater role down the road proved too great to resist.

"It's perfect," Garnett said on Tuesday at a re-introductory news conference that came five days after he was acquired from Brooklyn in a trade. "If you have a story, this is a fairy tale. This is a perfect ending to it. This is how you want to do it."

For Garnett, it actually may be

the beginning.

He made the jump straight from Farragut Academy to the NBA in 1995, a groundbreaking move at the time that ushered in a new era and ultimately compelled the league to change its rules to require players to be out of high school for at least one year before being eligible to be drafted.

He spent 12 years in Minnesota, growing from a skinny, 19-year-old rookie into a two-way force and one of the best power forwards in league history.

He made 10 All-Star teams, was the MVP in 2004 and led the Wolves to the only eight playoff appearances in franchise history, including a stirring run to the Western Conference finals in his MVP season.

"He's our history. He's it. He is the face of the franchise," said Sam

Mitchell, a former teammate and now an assistant coach on the team.

"So to bring him back and these guys get to experience and be around him and learn from him and say, 'I spent time with Kevin Garnett' it's going to enhance their growth by leaps and bounds."

The Wolves fell on hard times after losing to the Lakers in 2004 and former GM Kevin McHale and Glen Taylor, who still owns the team, decided to trade Garnett and start a massive rebuilding project in 2007. Garnett saw it as the organization turning its back on him, and relationships were frayed.

"He's the most loyal human being alive," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "He's going home. It's where started and it's where he's going to end. It says a lot about him."

He maintained a home here, but

really only kept in close contact with Flip Saunders, his coach for 10 years who returned before last season as president of basketball operations.

"I obviously won't forget certain things, but it's time to move on from certain things," Garnett said on Tuesday, adding that his relationship with McHale, who now coaches the Houston Rockets, has improved over the years.

He said he "always had an understanding" with Taylor.

"I wouldn't have come back if the relationship was to the point where it's not ... reachable or something like that," Garnett said.

"I would not have come back if it wasn't a chance that I can refurbish it or it was going to get better. I'm looking forward to this opportunity, and I'm embracing this change."

Girls

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grabbed six rebounds, and Ashton Vaith had three steals.

Freeman plays Parker for the District 9B championship on Friday in Menno.

Freeman (9-13).....12 17 23 31
PARKER (16-5).....9 22 32 41

Raelin Jurgens grabbed 12 rebounds for Parker (9-13), which will face Freeman for the district title on Friday in Menno.

In the season-ending loss for Scotland (8-13), Carley Skorepa had 11 points and eight rebounds, and Shannon Fanning added four steals.

PARKER (9-13).....16 27 39 46
SCOTLAND (8-13).....7 13 18 32

District 12B

Avon 59, Gregory 38

AVON — In the District 12B semifinals, Heidi Cap scored 28 points and snatched 23 rebounds to lead Avon to a 59-38 victory over Gregory Tuesday night in Avon.

Cheylee Nagel totaled 16 points for Avon, and Kacie Mudder grabbed 11 rebounds.

For Gregory Briana Leber and Megan Presilicka each tallied 10 points. Leber grabbed nine rebounds, and Hannah Juracek had seven rebounds.

Avon advances to the finals at the Corn Palace on Friday to play Burke-South Central, and Gregory ends its season with a 5-17 record.

GREGORY (5-17).....10 16 25 38
AVON (14-7).....9 25 44 59

Burke-South Central 84, Marty Indian 30

BURKE — In the semifinals of the District 12B tournament, Burke-South Central triumphed over Marty Indian 84-30 Tuesday night in Burke.

Tressa Bull put up 16 points for Burke-South Central. Sierra Volav added 14 points, and Grace Hazen grabbed 10 rebounds.

For Marty Indian, Armanda Iron Elk totaled 14 points, and Apollonia Zepher tallied 11 points.

Burke-South Central will advance to the tournament finals Friday night in the Corn Palace, and Marty Indian ends its season with a 11-10 record.

MARTY INDIAN (11-10).....4 12 14 30
BURKE-SOUTH CENTRAL (13-8).....24 43 68 84

Region 4A

Beresford 51, Tea Area 42

BERESFORD — Holly Van Gelder scored 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Beresford Watchdogs beat Tea Area 51-42 in the first round Tuesday of the Region 4A Tournament.

Hannah Hepner added 13 points and Molly McInnis scored 10 points for Beresford (12-9), which plays either Dakota Valley or Canton on Thursday in Elk

Point.

Ally Kacmarynski scored 11 points for Tea Area, which finishes its season 6-15.

TEA AREA (6-15).....9 18 28 42
BERESFORD (12-9).....13 20 32 51

Dakota Valley 74, Canton 31

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Abby Faldmo scored 23 points as Dakota Valley rolled past Canton 74-31 on Tuesday in the first round of the Region 4A Tournament.

Haley Hoffman added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the hometown Panthers (11-10), who play Beresford on Thursday. Claire Johnson dished out six assists.

In the loss for Canton (3-18), Bailey Johnson, Kristen Jennings and Kacey Gaughenbaugh all scored six points, while Elizabeth Woods and Julie Vandeweerd both grabbed five rebounds.

CANTON (3-18).....6 15 24 31
DAKOTA VALLEY (11-10).....18 34 53 74

Lennox 36, Vermillion 35

LENNOX — In the opening round of the Region 4A tournament, Lennox reduced Vermillion 36-35 Monday night in Lennox.

Jordan Kruse totaled 18 points and six rebounds for Lennox. Courtney Weeldreyer added nine points, and Harlie Breck had six rebounds.

For Vermillion Haleigh Melstad cashed 17 points.

Lennox will play Elk-Point-Jefferson in the semifinal round Thursday, and Vermillion ends its season with a 7-14 record.

VERMILLION (7-14).....11 13 23 35
LENNOX (10-11).....7 21 25 36

Region 5A

Tri-Valley 55, Wagner 48

SALEM — In the first round of the Region 5A tournament, Tri-Valley took out Wagner 55-48 Tuesday night in Salem.

Sammy Kasowski tallied 18 points for Tri-Valley, and Brooke Kulzer added nine to the win.

For Wagner, Ali Kuca cashed 22 points, and Emily Brunung totaled 15 points.

Tri-Valley will play Mt. Vernon-Plankinton Thursday in the semifinals, and Wagner ends its season with a 14-7 record.

WAGNER (14-7).....8 22 35 48
TRI-VALLEY (15-6).....17 28 41 44

MCM 68, Bon Homme 38

SALEM — With 31 points and 11 rebounds from Morgan Koepsell, McCook Central-Montrose thrashed Bon Homme 68-38 Tuesday night in the first round of the Region 5A tournament in Salem.

Nicole Roth tallied nine points for MCM, and Rachael added eight points and 15 assists to the win.

For Bon Homme, Bailey Kortan put up 14 points, and Sierra Mesman totaled 13.

MCM will play West Central on Thursday in the semifinals, and Bon Homme ends its season with a 6-15 record.

BON HOMME (6-15).....7 16 31 38
MCCOOK CENTRAL-MONT. (18-2).....17 38 55 68

District 6BB

SC-W 59, Wolsey-Wess. 32

HURON — Myah Selland had another solid all-around game as Sanborn Central-Woonsocket beat Wolsey-Wessington 59-32 in the District 6BB Tournament on Tuesday in Huron.

Selland recorded 20 points, nine rebounds, six assists and four steals for SCW, which plays



James Valley Christian for the district title on Tuesday.

Viborg-Hurley's Hannah Jorgensen goes up for a shut during the Cougars' matchup with Irene-Wakonda in the semifinals of the District 10B Girls' Basketball Tournament on Tuesday in Alcester.

James Valley Christian for the district title on Tuesday.

Morgan Selland chipped in with 16 points in the win.

For Wolsey-Wessington, Bailey Zerfoss scored 13 points, Britany Bergquist grabbed 10 rebounds and Jadyin McCreedy added eight points.

James Valley Christian 54, Wessington Springs 38

HURON — Khivee Held scored 23 points and Samantha Dowling grabbed 10 rebounds as James Valley Christian beat Wessington Springs 54-38 in the District 6BB Tournament on Tuesday in Huron.

Tierra Decker added 11 points for JVC, which plays Sanborn Central-Woonsocket for the district title on Thursday. Hannah Loban posted 10 points, seven steals and four assists.

Shyanne Brodtkorb scored 18 points for Wessington Springs, while Maddie Gran and Shyanne Kogfman both added six points.

WESSINGTON SPRINGS.....9 13 23 38
JAMES VALLEY CHRISTIAN.....7 19 36 54

Regular Season

Pierre 72, Huron 55

HURON — In the final game of the regular

season, Pierre thrashed Huron 72-55 in Huron on Tuesday night.

Sydney Palmer netted 18 points for Pierre. Nikky Farnsworth totaled 15 points and had five steals. Jory Mullen tallied 11 points and grabbed six rebounds, and Hallie Jerome added 10 points to the win.

For Huron Sarah Carr scored 20 points. Jazmin Newton totaled 13 points, and Jacey Hupp added 10 points.

Pierre and Huron will play each other on Monday in the District 3AA tournament opener in Pierre.

PIERRE (16-4).....18 40 55 72
HURON (5-15).....13 28 44 55

Sioux Falls Washington 64, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 63

SIOUX FALLS — Ending Sioux Falls O'Gorman's perfect record, Sioux Falls Washington trounced O'Gorman 64-63 Tuesday night at Washington.

Both Anna Goodhope and Sydney Arrington scored 23 points for Washington. Goodhope grabbed nine rebounds, and Arrington had eight. Madison Aasen added 11 points to the win.

For O'Gorman Jessica Mieras tallied 15 points, and Dalee Stene put up 14 points. Kate Cartwright scored 13 points, and Rachel Townsend totaled 10 points.

Both teams will begin the District tournament

Monday.

SIOUX FALLS O'GORMAN (19-1).....18 32 46 63
SIOUX FALLS WASHINGTON (10-10).....18 29 45 54

Harrisburg 54, Watertown 44

HARRISBURG — Danni Honner totaled 19 points for Harrisburg in the regular season closer against Watertown Tuesday night in Harrisburg, leading Harrisburg to a 54-44 victory.

Hailey Bruggeman added 11 points to Harrisburg's win.

For Watertown, Tatum Hemiller, Madigan Moore, and Alexa Gloe each scored eight points. Both teams will start the District tournament Monday.

R.C. Stevens 57, R.C. Central 45

RAPID CITY — Taylor Molstad scored 19 points as Rapid City Stevens beat city rival Rapid City Central 57-45 on Tuesday night in Rapid City.

Alexis Marsico added 11 points for Stevens, while Kiara Maxon had eight points.

In the loss for Central, Kari O'Brien scored 12 points, Maddison Sullivan had 11 points and Audrey Bunge added eight points.

R.C. STEVENS.....14 33 46 57
R.C. CENTRAL.....13 21 30 45

Melee After Kansas State's Upset Puts Spotlight On Safety

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — More than a dozen security officials dressed in bright green shirts gathered behind the basket, just as they were trained. When the final seconds ticked away on Kansas State's stunning upset of rival Kansas, they immediately sprinted onto the floor.

Thousands of students and fans still beat them there.

The surge of humanity crushed Jayhawks coach Bill Self against a press table. His junior forward, Jamari Traylor, was body-checked by another fan. Assistant coach Kurtis Townsend had to peel away still more fans shouting profanities and making obscene gestures at his players.

"This has to stop," said Self, whose eighth-ranked Jayhawks have watched similar scenes unfold countless times over the years, including earlier this month in a loss at Oklahoma State.

"You need to get security to the point where player safety isn't a question."

What should have been an uplifting victory Monday night for a Kansas State program that has struggled all season instead has become the catalyst for deep-seated dialogue on fan decorum.

How far should they take their celebrations? How much interaction should they have with players and coaches? How much responsibility falls on the shoulders of conferences and schools?

"Celebrations are going to happen. We know that," said Dr. Lou Marciani, who directs



Kansas State fans and players celebrate after the team upset eighth-rank Kansas on Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kan.

the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security at Southern Mississippi. "But we have to do a better job of encouraging the conferences and institutions to address this issue in a more serious manner because something is going to happen."

In fact, several scary incidents have already happened.

Joe Kay, a Stanford recruit, was paralyzed in 2004 when he was injured in a maelstrom following his final high school game. North Carolina State's C.J. Leslie once had to rescue a disabled student who had fallen from his wheelchair during a melee after beating Duke.

A year ago, a brawl erupted when New Mexico State players started throwing punches at Utah Valley fans who had rushed the court after the final buzzer.

Longtime coach Fran Fraschilla, who called the Kansas State game as a color analyst for ESPN, remembers winning a conference championship at Manhattan College years ago. His school's fans rushed the floor and nearly trampled his wife and infant son.

"Court storming is a part of college basketball, for better or worse," Fraschilla told The Associated Press. "But there

are certainly ways you can ensure as much as you possibly can the security of the players and coaches and court personnel so nobody gets hurt."

The problem is there are no consistent guidelines. NCAA spokesman David Worlock said it is the responsibility of conference and schools to provide sufficient security, which means there are different protocols at just about every arena in the country.

There are 351 schools playing Division I men's basketball this season. Some conferences, including the SEC, have banned court-storming altogether, levying up to \$50,000 in

fines against schools that are repeat violators. But that has hardly stopped the flow of students onto the floor when national powerhouses such as Kentucky are toppled.

The Big 12 said in a statement Tuesday it was reviewing the postgame celebration at Kansas State, but underscored "home team game management is responsible for the implementation of protocols to provide for the safety of all game participants, officials and fans."

Security can do only so much, though. At some point, holding back a wave of fans can become just as dangerous as letting them onto the floor. That is why for years, the late North Carolina coach Dean Smith had players go straight to the locker room when a court-storming was inevitable, rather than try to wade to mid-court for the traditional postgame handshake.

In rare cases, common-sense has prevailed.

Earlier this season, Notre Dame students began to stream onto the court following a victory over Duke. Fighting Irish star Jerian Grant realized what was happening and motioned for the students to return to their seats — and they did. No security was necessary.

"We've had some pretty good teams through the year and they've rushed the court and I've been bopped and hit and stuff, and it's no fun, especially when you lose," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "Sometimes it's hard. They ran just run right through."

Bulls, Mavs To Play NBA Exhibition In Lincoln

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — If all goes as planned, the Chicago Bulls' Doug McDermott will return to play basketball in Nebraska next fall. But it won't be in the arena where he entertained sellout crowds as a collegian.

Lincoln's Pinnacle Bank Arena announced Tuesday it would host an NBA preseason game between the Bulls and Dallas Mavericks on Oct. 23.

McDermott's exploits for Creighton earned him three-time All-American and 2014 national player of the year honors some 50 miles away at CenturyLink Center in Omaha.

The Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority, which runs CenturyLink Center, began negotiating with the Bulls for an exhibition shortly after the first-round draft pick landed with Chicago last June, spokeswoman Kristi Andersen said.

But Pinnacle Bank Arena was talking with the Bulls well before the draft, said Tom Lorenz, general manager for SMG, which operates the Lincoln arena. Once McDermott ended up in Chicago, Lorenz said, negotiations "heated up."

Lorenz declined to comment on financial terms. He said he sensed the Omaha and Lincoln arenas offered similar deals to the Bulls. Both are NBA-style arenas, with Omaha's seating 17,390 and Lincoln's 15,500.

The arenas regularly compete against each other for events, but word about both bidding for a Bulls exhibition created buzz among area sports fans.

"We are happy they chose us," Lorenz said. "I'm not so sure we stole it. The Bulls appreciate the opportunity in Nebraska, and I don't think this is the last preseason game in the next several years they'll play in this area."

The 2-year-old Pinnacle Bank Arena is home of the Nebraska Cornhuskers men's and women's basketball teams. Creighton and Nebraska play each other every year, but the game was in Omaha during McDermott's senior season. He is yet to play in Lincoln.

MORNING COFFEE

KYNT

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY AM 1450

Wednesday, February 25

7:40 am Books About Yankton (Fraser Harrison)

8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)

8:45 am Mount Marty College (Kristi Tacke)

Thursday, February 26

7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Stephanie Moser)

8:20 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)

8:45 am USD Athletics (Joe Tuentje)