

## **Amazing Minnesota**

By Drew Jensen

It's amazing when you see something so amazing, so outrageous, so out of the ordinary that you think to yourself, "this can't possibly be topped", and only a short time later another act simply overwhelms the act you were previously so amazed about.

One example of this would be when you play golf and you are playing horrible, worse than you ever thought imaginable, and you think, "Well it can't get worse!" Three holes later you've amazingly reached a new low, a new depth or circle of hell you didn't even know a golf game could reach. By the end of the round it doesn't even seem like you were playing "that bad" early on in the round.

A better example of this would be the case of Minnesota. First they vote Jesse "the body" Ventura as their governor, which one would think would be amazing in its own right. I can't personally attest to the job scope of a professional wrestler, but I think it would consist of weight lifting, more weight lifting, and maybe a gymnastics class. I also can't personally attest to the job scope of a governor, but I would assume it would consist of balancing a budget (fair enough- this assumption for a politician is ludicrous), administering a state government, and a lot of negotiating and compromising. Maybe it's just me, but I found Governor Jesse Ventura an AMAZING selection, at the time.

Forward a few years, and California has taken the spotlight with their muscular governor; it is understandable that Minnesota would feel a little jaded. But AL FRANKEN, as a Senator, AMAZING. Of all the people in the world why would Minnesota select AL FRANKEN? Not only has he no qualifications, he was, in my opinion, lousy at his own profession. His most famous roles are Stuart Smiley and the guy with a satellite dish on his head, for God sakes people, AMAZING, at the time (well, this is still kind of amazing).

Amazingly, today in the Lincoln Journal Star I read more shocking news. The Minnesota Golden Gophers had a good season, but ended it poorly, by losing to the Kansas Jayhawks in their bowl game, surrendering a whopping 42 points defensively. Unfortunately for them their defensive coordinator moved on to another probable failure but one with more pressure and Gene Chizek at Auburn.

At this point I try and put myself into the mind of the Minnesota head coach: "We had a pretty good year, but it could have been better. If we would have just been able to slow down Kansas or create some turnovers I think we could have won that game. Who would give us the best chance to do that next year? Who has proven throughout their career to stop that type of offense? Who shall I pick? Who?" I'll leave the coach's mind for a minute and state that in my mind, I would eliminate any candidate who had ever actually given up 76 points to Kansas with a program that had 5 national championships and the 4<sup>th</sup> most wins of all time in college football history. Yet...topped again, AMAZING!

My theory is that the people of Minnesota are masochists. Jesse Ventura, Al Franken, Kevin Cosgrove, and long cold winters, those people have my respect.