Who'll Make It to Omaha?

By Jack Bogaczuk
Sports Writer

In Minnesota, the Twins are training post-
nest. With the Minnesota Twins rising atop the American League West, there's early-
season hope for more than Red Capes at Metropolitan Stadium.

But with the Twins out of town this weekend, Minneapolis will be punishing
other of its teams seeking a pennant—wars of the College World Series.

The NCAA Midwestern Regional begins at Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Field; the Golden Gophers hosting Virginia Tech, Central Michigan and Florida State in the dou-
ble-elimination event.

All four underdogs have reached the point before—the region. Only two have
made it to Omaha, where the College World Series has become an institution.

But only one—Minnesota—has won the ti-
tle. And the Golden Gophers have done it three times in the tournament's 35-year his-
tory.

With a 3-4 record at home this season, it's no wonder Minnesota figures it has a
careful field. But a look at the field at the Hub Midfield shows the Ga-
olds have been working hard to get the five
males without least going to bat—... or the record.

Tech and Central Michigan meet in the tournament opener at 1 p.m. CDT Friday, with Minnesota meeting Florida in the 4 p.m. double. The Gophers have a tough start, but a look at the
field at the Hub Midfield shows the Ga-
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males without least going to bat—...

VIRGINIA TECH (14-7): The Hokies
make their second straight NCAA appearance and fourth in history. Bring a
33-game winning streak into the tour-
ament. That's the nation's longest current
streak, and those games behind the nation's record of 24 consecutive wins was established by Texas at the start of the 1977 season.

Tech received one of the Midwest's big
holes, and enters the field with the

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (14-2): The
Chippewas qualified as champions of the Mid American Conference, outplaying 10
of Ohio in the final two weeks of the season. They compiled an 8-4 record, but finished with 17 wins in its last 18 games, including seven in a row to finish the year.

Coach Dave Kline, in his seventh sec-
son at the Mid, Flames, Michigan State, Missouri, and
Wisconsin, the Chippewas are averaging 4 runs per game versus 5.4 for the opposition.

Designated hitter Ben Bonk leads CMU
with a .347 average, 46 runs, 38 RBIs, 31 doubles and 21 walks. Senior catcher Scott Gebser and shortstop Peter Frazee earned All-Mid American Conference honors.

The Chippewas entered this season with a 35-19 record and were ranked No. 1 in the nation.

OMAHA (28-6): The Huskers roll into the Big Ten conference, and are second in the
nation, trailing only Nebraska. They are the highest-scoring team in the Big Ten, with 14 doubles and second baseman John Hultgren's .390 batting average and American League classification.