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The Badger Road to Pasadena



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Three for the road: The student journey to Pasadena

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During the next three days, we'll track three groups of students — Team Minnesota, Team ASM and Team Wisconsin, as they make the 31-hour trip west ahead of the Rose Bowl.

Team Minnesota, led by sophomore Josh Lieberthal of Plymouth, Minn., is the first to depart, heading out of Minnetonka, Minn. this afternoon, anticipating a northern route that will take his group through mountains, Utah and a brief stop in Las Vegas.

Lieberthal, headed toward a major in strategic communications, is armed with a smartphone and a video camera and plans to send back snippets from the road, especially as he visits famous Food Network dives and drive-ins along the way.

Here's how he describes his group and the motivation for driving:

"We have all been witness to an incredible season; the magic of the opening kickoff return beginning our upset of No. 1 Ohio State (and the continuing magic late into the night on State Street), the fake punt and fourth-quarter rally at Iowa that kept BCS bowl dreams alive, the ascendancy of the Badger offense to bona fide juggernaut status, a share of the Big Ten title, and our first Rose Bowl bid in a decade. How, you might ask, could we simple fans do such a memorable season justice? Road Trip.

"Eight guys. Two cars. And 1,925 miles. This is the stuff of Legend (or B-rate comedy movies). We intrepid travelers will set out from Minneapolis, spend two days in a car, and bring our loyal little slice of Badger Nation to Pasadena for a Jan. 1 date with destiny. Along the way there will be adventures, mishaps, and the tomfoolery one would expect from eight college guys in a confined space for an extended period of time, and a Badger's eye view across these United States."

Check back here for more from their trip and from the other two teams that are preparing to head out for separate Rose Bowl adventures.

— *John Lucas*

This entry was posted in [Badger Pride](#), [News](#), [On the Road](#).

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Josh Lieberthal

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Team Minnesota: Student spirits high at the two-mile mark

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Josh Lieberthal and Team Minnesota report that the group is two miles into their road trip, braced by a load of snack food, brownies, apples and beef jerky and a case of energy drink.



Team Minnesota prepares to abandon the snowy northern landscape.

Only 31 hours and 1,923 miles to go

"We just took off, but only after huddling up and putting our hands together for a 'Go, Badgers!'" Lieberthal says of the eight-person, two-car team.

This entry was posted in [News](#), [On the Road](#).

« [Expect Badger spirit at 'Party at the Pier'](#)

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3 comments on *Team Minnesota: Student spirits high at the two-mile mark*

[December 29, 2010 at 1:33 am](#)

drive safely guys. looking forward to watching your travels.
bonnie

— *bonnie goldish*

[December 29, 2010 at 2:20 am](#)

Take me with you!!!!!!

— *Jim and Liz Anderson*

[December 29, 2010 at 1:52 pm](#)

Hi, Josh and Jeff -
Hope your trip is going well. I am so excited for you! Have fun!
Love, Lolly

— *Lolly Silverberg*

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« Team ASM: Off and running

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Team Minnesota: A long night in Nebraska

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From the road at 12:09 a.m., Josh Lieberthal sends a Haiku:

Nebraska most flat
No sights or scenic places
I saw a shooting star.



"It really sums up the entirety of the state," he says. "To be fair, the stars do look really bright and clear with the absence of light pollution."

In other news, he reports that the group has begun to employ our broad array of electronic aids on the trip.

"Lining the dash is a radar detector, a gps, and a walkie talkie to keep in constant contact with the other car. We have dubbed ourselves 'Sparrow' for our callsign because we have a smaller, swift car while the large minivan has the callsign 'Albatross.'

Hope you get some sleep soon, Josh!

This entry was posted in [On the Road](#).

« Team ASM: Off and running

Team ASM: Meet the team »

5 comments on *Team Minnesota: A long night in Nebraska*

December 29, 2010 at 4:06 pm

Josh, congratulations on your journalistic endeavors from the road. Thanks for keeping your "old Badger" dad in the loop on your trip! I wish I was there with you guys! Have fun!

— Daniel Lieberthal

December 29, 2010 at 5:05 pm

Keep those posts coming. No author ever had a more eager readership. Where are you now?

Jim Anderson

— Jim and Liz Anderson

December 29, 2010 at 5:20 pm

Joshua,
Please be nice to the old girl. 'm not sure that she would like to be called an albatross right to her grill. You do want her to treat you nice so maybe something a little more upbeat like "the gentle manatee" or "our favorite walrus"?

— Larry Pepper

December 29, 2010 at 9:43 pm

Well said Larry!

— Dana Yugend-Pepper

December 30, 2010 at 1:44 pm

Hi, Josh and Jeff – I've enjoyed your 'odyssey' descriptions. It's now Thursday morning and I'm wondering how close you are to "Destination Rose Bowl." Keep on truckin' and Go Wisconsin! Love, Lolly

— Lolly Silverberg



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Team Minnesota: Snow forces change

Posted on [December 29, 2010](#) by [University Communications](#)



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Team Minnesota, after departing a few hours ago, has hit the first bump in the road. Snow forecast for Colorado has forced a change in the team's route that will lengthen the trip.

Here's what Josh Lieberthal just reported, as the team made a mid-course correction:

"Due to almost certain snowfall past the Rockies, we have made an executive decision to take an alternate route through New Mexico instead. It would add a few hours to the overall trip but it's worth not being trapped in Colorado until Friday," Lieberthal says.

"We just recently passed through Stewart, Iowa en route to the border of Nebraska. The amount of snow is finally diminishing," he adds.

This entry was posted in [News](#), [On the Road](#).



[« Team Wisconsin: Pulling out for Pasadena](#)

[Charters start to depart for Rose Bowl »](#)

One comment on *Team Minnesota: Snow forces change*

[December 29, 2010 at 1:17 pm](#)

Good decision men

— *Dana Yugend-Pepper*

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Team Minnesota: Snow in Arizona?

Posted on December 30, 2010 by University Communications

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Snow continues to complicate matters for the men of Minnesota. Josh Lieberthal filed several reports this afternoon, the last reporting snow in northern Arizona.



4:30 p.m. "As you can see in the picture, there is a heavy amount of snowfall in central Arizona. We're on a two-lane highway stuck in police-regulated traffic. They local police seem to be turning those around who are without snow chains. We unfortunately are part of that demographic. We are unsure of our plan for now but will most likely go back the way we came and find an alternate route."

12:30 p.m. "Having resorted to a back-up route, we stopped for an epic re-nourishing in the form of waffles and hash browns."

"Anyways, we've been cruising through New Mexico dominating the other two teams. We've logged 1,400 in 22 hours across the nation only stopping when absolutely necessary. The winter weather has altered our travel plans but has not dampened our spirits. Onward we go through the Land of Enchantment toward Arizona. Along the way we've seen falling rocks, ghost towns, and withered stone."

This entry was posted in [Badger Pride](#), [On the Road](#).

« Watch parties bring Badgers together

Team Wisconsin: It's all good at Hogs Family Diner »

One comment on Team Minnesota: Snow in Arizona?

December 30, 2010 at 3:26 am

I listen for weather reports every day, especially for the west coast but also for all the states between here and LA. I'm so glad to hear that the trip is going ok. You must be almost there by now and you all will have a blast once you're all together in Pasadena. Be sure to do your best Bucky routine when you get to the Rose Bowl! Have a great time and GO BADGERS!!!
LOTS OF LOVE, GRANDMA 😊

— G'ma

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Team Minnesota: The eagle has landed!

Posted on December 30, 2010 by University Communications

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Josh Lieberthal and his Team Minnesota earned the distinction of being the first group of our student road-trippers to arrive in Los Angeles. Congrats, Josh— get some sleep! You've earned it!

6:05 a.m. "We have finally arrived in Burbank, CA at 3:30 a.m. PST. Check-in is soon and sleep soon to follow once we finish breakfast at Denny's across the street.

1:17 a.m. "Well, as Wednesday finally comes to an end we have a lot to report. First off Josh has taken over the driving so this is coming from Asaf Segal. Second off, we are extremely happy to be putting Arizona behind us.

We trudged through sleet and fog and have decided to make the push for LA tonight. Our caravan was briefly split up during one of the worse stretches, but thanks to quick wits and calm composure, we have reconvened.

We are currently rolling along 28 miles from the border of California. The team is very excited to complete this final leg of our journey. With clear skies ahead (with just a tad of lightning to the north) and full tanks of gas we drive on into the night in search of our destination.

As we close in on the gold strewn terrain of the Golden State, so aptly named, we can't help but smell roses. Team Minnesota over and out."

This entry was posted in [Badger Pride](#), [On the Road](#).



[« Team Wisconsin: Oh, what a night!](#)

[Team ASM: Almost there »](#)

3 comments on *Team Minnesota: The eagle has landed!*

December 30, 2010 at 10:22 am YIPEEEEEEE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
— Dana Yugend-Pepper

December 30, 2010 at 11:41 am Enjoy boyz.. Levey family sends our love!
— Ben Levey

December 30, 2010 at 8:38 pm Cool...have fun and continued safe travels.
— Paula Selland

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