

Joe Mauer Retires: *Thank You #7*

BY GENESIS CARREON

IN MID-NOVEMBER, it was announced that Joe Mauer would no longer be returning to the plate at Target Field. After spending all fifteen seasons of his major league career with the Minnesota Twins, Mauer officially announced his retirement on November 9th, 2018.

Joe made the announcement to fans through a letter that was released by the Twins organization. Joe writes, “The decision came down to my health and family. The risk of a concussion is always there, and I was reminded of that this season after missing thirty games as a result of diving for a foul ball.”

Joe’s 2013 season was cut short due to head injuries that lead to concussion complications. Adding head injuries to knee troubles, Joe was forced to move from catcher to first baseman at the start of the 2014 season.

He played his final game at home in Target Field on September 30th. The Twin Cities local writes about his final game, saying, “I wanted to finish on my home field in front of our amazing fans, my family, my friends, and the organization that means so much to me. Being able to do that for a brief moment as a catcher, made that day even more incredible than I could have imagined.”

Mauer was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was the first round pick in the 2001 draft as an eighteen year-old. He later made his first Major league appearance with the Twins in 2004. Fans will agree that Mauer has been an extremely loyal player to the Twins. He gave fans hope, remaining with them during the good times and the bad.

His friendship with #33 Justin Morneau will always be known as one of the most memorable duos in Minnesota’s sporting history, the pair being coined with the nickname “The M&M Boys.” Mauer writes about the honor it was to play for the Twins, stating, “I walked into the clubhouse everyday with pride and never once took for granted the opportunity to put on that uniform. I have never wavered that playing for this team is exactly where I wanted to be.”

When you step into the Target Field, the most common name on the back of fans’ jerseys is Mauer, in fact, the first Twins gear I ever owned was a Mauer shirt. No one has touched the Twins community like Mauer has.

The newly-retired athlete said, “Thank you Minnesota Twins, and thank you fans, for making my career as special and memorable as it was. Because of you, I can leave the game I love with a full and grateful heart.” Twins fans will always cherish the times we got to see Mauer play, from Metrodome to Target Field to the home tv. “Your attention please, now catching for the Minnesota Twins, number seven... Joe Mauer!” This commentary will stay with us for years to come. Thank you, Joe, for your undeniable commitment to the Twins family! †



Photography provided by Brace Hemmelgarn

Men’s Basketball Team Starts Season on the Right Track

BY ZACK MOELLER



Photography provided by Cole Schuessler

THE CONCORDIA-ST. PAUL MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM have started their 2018-2019 season in a successful manner starting with a 4-2 record while being undefeated at home posting a 3-0 record at the Gangelhoff Center. The good start is an excellent sign that the team may be having a turnaround season.

Their early season wins almost equal the total wins the team has earned each of that last two seasons in which they have only won 5 and 6 games, respectively. The start of the season has been highlighted by the teams thrilling triple overtime victory against the Bulldogs from Arkansas Tech. The Golden Bears won the marathon game by a score 118-113, with senior graduate transfer, Isaiah McKay leading the way for the Bears with 36 points and senior Bryndan Matthews right behind him with 34.

Much of the team’s early success can be contributed to McKay and Matthews who are near the top in nearly every statistical categories for the team. “I feel like as far as leadership goes being a graduate transfer, having experience for four year in a university, and knowing as much as I do playing this game for as long as I have played it, I know that I can offer leadership to the team,” said McKay in an appearance on the CSP Bears Podcast. Matthews and McKay’s tag team partnership to begin the season has been putting up absolutely ridiculous numbers for himself as well. Matthews is right with McKay in all most statistical categories, as well as near the top in most categories in conference as well.

The name of the game for the team so far has been offense particularly three-point shooting. The Bears are scoring quite a few more points per game so far this season than they averaged last season. This is largely do to shooting from beyond the arc in which they take and make more than in previous seasons. The team is currently shooting much better from three-point land, with McKay stating, “I think the key is just trying to get better every day and taking it one day at a time, one game at a time, one practice at a time”.

If McKay and Matthews can continue to be the dynamic duo that they have been so far, and the rest of the team continues to play hard and contribute when called upon, the Golden Bears should be a force to be reckoned with as the team takes on NSIC play. †