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**(Neb.)-Gophers name Eliason team captain**



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 01/15/2014 02:39 PM

MINNEAPOLIS - Chadron native Elliott Eliason has been named the fourth captain for the University of Minnesota basketball team, Coach Richard Pitino announced during his Wednesday news conference.

"I think he deserves it, I think he's worked his butt off and he's separating himself as a leader," Pitino said. Pitino called Eliason one of the most improved players in the Big Ten, if not in the country.

"His attitude is phenomenal," Pitino said.

In his junior season for the Gophers, Eliason has averaged career highs of 6.5 points, 8.6 rebounds and 2.7 blocks per game. He was previously a standout for Chadron High School, earning Gatorade Player of the Year honors as the best player in the state of Nebraska during both his junior and senior years.