

Kickball: Not just for third graders anymore

By Rachel Wellington

Landon Anderson has been called a lot of things in his day; biker, potter, fashion extraordinaire, but this fall he has added another name to that list, pitcher. As of September you'll find sophomore Anderson and senior Olivia Mulvey playing for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation kickball team, The Bloody Noses. I recently sat down with the two "ballers" to get the scoop on kickball in the 21st Century.

It's so rare to hear about kickball being played by adults and within a league, how'd that come to be?

Mulvey: A lot of my friends had been part of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation league this summer but due to the fact that I was out of the country I wasn't able to join until this fall. Basically the team is made up of recent college grads (aged 23-29) who wanted an excuse to get together, drink a few and have a good time.

Is kickball something the two of you have been playing for awhile?

Mulvey: Absolutely not.

Anderson: Nope, not since grade school.

How many team members are on "The Bloody Noses?"

Mulvey: 28 minus 6

Anderson: 22

I'm going to ask the question no one wants to...why the name "The Bloody Noses?"

Interested in supporting your fellow CSP classmates? The Bloody Noses play every Wednesday night at Logan Park in North East Minneapolis. Times vary, check website for details:

http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/activities/adult/kickball_2s.pdf
Interested in starting your own kickball team? For more details visit:
<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=859>



Photo by Lindsay Hartleben

With a quick flick of the wrist, pitcher Landon Anderson sends the kickball toward his opponent. Since September, Anderson has joined the Bloody Noses for a weekly kickball game for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation league.

Mulvey: I can't speak on behalf of the whole team, but I think it was the obvious choice.

Anderson: Yes, much better than the Runny Noses.

How did Landon get involved?

Anderson: Well, Olivia asked me at the beginning of the year how I felt about kickball. I told her that back in elementary school I was a kickball sensation and the rest is history.

Mulvey: I recruited him in August after learning I was going to be part of The Bloody Noses. The pitcher they had over the summer moved to Boston and I knew if I could talk the rest of the team into giving Landon a chance, he'd be M.V.P. no problem. I mean, have you seen the pots he throws?? I figured if he could channel that upper body strength into a wicked curve ball, we'd have a good chance of going all the way, the kickball team that is.

And going all the way is what the Bloody Noses are all about. As of this week the team is undefeated with a record of 4 and 0. Last week Anderson pitched a no kicker and with 4 more games to go the bloody noses are feeling pretty optimistic. "We always have such a great time playing the game and winning just adds to the excitement" Mulvey said. "Yeah," added Anderson, "They call me the dirtiest pitcher this side of the Mississippi, I'm just happy to pitch. And drink the free beer, but mostly to pitch."

Extravaganza honors, supports student athletes

By Jordan Watson

As an institution that provides athletics, Concordia must have funding for such a program. The upcoming event "Put Me In, Coach", a second annual gala for athletes and their families will do just that.

Development and planning for "Put Me In, Coach" started several years ago when a group of athletes' parents worked with David Herbster, who was the director of athletics at that time and: "they wanted to create something that would raise money that would support the athletic department," said Michelle Kahn, of the University Development Department, a coordinator for the event.

"At that time the coaches were doing their own fundraising - we decided that we could do one big fundraiser instead. We thought it would be better for the coaches and parents to get it all done at once, as a team," said Jesse Stremcha, Director of Alumni Relations and a coordinator for the event.

The event was kicked off in the fall of 2004 and held in the Buenger Education Center, this year the event will be held at the Sheraton Four Points on Oct. 22.

Several improvements have been made to the fundraiser. Kahn and Stremcha explained that there will be a live auction and a raffle drawing. The prizes for the raffle will include airline tickets, a vacation package, and four front-row tickets to a Timberwolves basketball game. The auction will also include autographed sports memorabilia.

Stremcha hopes that the event will continue to improve and grow throughout the years.

"Last year we had about 150 attendees. This year we expect over 200. It's possible that someday it will be big enough to host in the Gangelhoff Center," Stremcha said.

This event, according to Stremcha and Kahn, allows the athletics department to connect with the community and showcase that Concordia is a well-rounded school.

"There will be a video presentation that honors both the coaches and the athletes who will be graduating in 2006," Stremcha said. The presentation will also include two student speakers. "It will allow students to put in their own words what being a collegiate athlete is all about. Part of how students change in four years is the result of being an athlete," Stremcha said.

The conclusion of the presentation will be the unveiling of the championship banners from 2004. These banners are from the NSIC championship and the NCAP tournament.



Photo courtesy Athletic Department

Student Desirae Jones represented Women's Basketball at last year's Put Me In Coach Dinner. This year's event will be held at the Sheraton Four Points on Oct. 22.

"Last year we started a tradition of creating banners to honor the championships. After the banners are unveiled, they are hung in the Gangelhoff Center," Stremcha said.

When asked to explain the benefits of this event both Kahn and Stremcha present their views.

Stremcha believes that it is important for the community to know that the athletes can excel in academics as well as sports: "We can demonstrate that the athletes are not just 'big dumb jocks'."

Kahn explains how the event benefits the community and Concordia, "It Concordia family.

allows us to grow partnerships in the community to spread the word about Concordia so we can get donations. It is an opportunity to celebrate our excellence. It is an exciting event to be part of. It is something that could become a long-time tradition," she said.

Though it is important for students to excel in their academics, it is also important for athletes to do not only that while excelling in their various sports, but also in connecting with the community and extend the

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