

Cheer Team Energizes Basketball Games



The Concordia Cheer Team travelled to River Forest for CIT at the end of January. Here, they stand on the sidelines to help cheer CSP on to a victory. Photo By Wilda Ugarte

By: Carrie Schierschmidt

If you made it to a football game this fall, you may have noticed Concordia's new cheer team.

This year Jennifer Stam has the opportunity to start something new for Concordia's athletic department, by starting a cheer team.

The last time a cheer team was seen at Concordia was in 1995.

Stam and her assistant Mark Hegan are bringing their experience of cheering for the Vikings to the squad.

The Spirit team is made up of six women and four men.

The men have never cheered before and only two out of the six women have cheered before, so

this year is a learning experience for all.

Stam says, "This year is a learning experience for all of us. We improve everyday," Stam said about the cheer team.

This year is a learning experience for all of us.

The spirit team first started during the football season.

With their improvement from the start of the season, they are excited to start cheering for the basketball games.

Recently, the cheer team made the long eight hour trek to River Forest, Illinois to help cheer on Concordia, St. Paul as they competed in the annual

Concordia Invitational Tournament.

Positioned on the sideline, the cheer team was a constant presence for fans throughout the three day event.

The month of February will be a great chance for all of us to see them in action.

The cheer team has been trying to perfect their lifts and mounts to go along with their cheers.

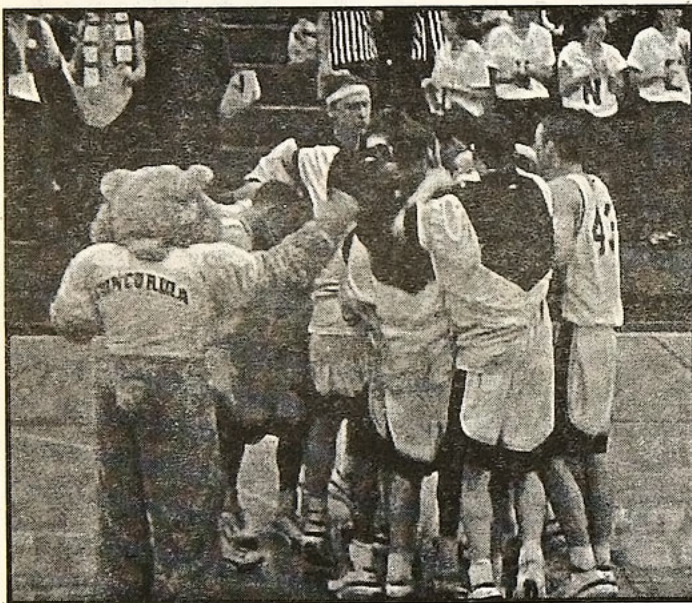
Stam stated that "It's been a challenge, but we are having fun!"

It looks as though the challenges this team has encountered so far is paying off.

The cheer team has been very successful with their lifts and mounts.

You can see the cheer team in action at home basketball games.

Concordia Makes Last Trip to CIT



The Golden Bear advises the huddled team. Photo By Wilda Ugarte

By Carrie Schierschmidt

During the last two weeks of January, the buzz on campus was all about CIT.

This year, CIT was held January 26 and 27.

But what exactly is CIT?

CIT stands for the Concordia Invitational Tournament and it was started in 1951 by Eldon "Pete" Pederson of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

It started out as a basketball tournament between Concordia-River Forest, Concordia Seward, and seminaries in Springfield and St. Louis.

At first, it was a tournament simply for mens basketball teams but in 1965 women's teams were added.

Since then, the Concordias who have participated in the tournament have shifted.

Concordia St. Paul joined the tournament in 1967.

Winning teams are given a travelling trophy. This trophy was donated by Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) in 1957. It stands for not only victory but correlates the true meaning of ath-

letics. The inscription reads, "Inaugurated to sponsor the highest ideals in competitive athletics, in fullest conformity with the Spirit of Christ and its demand in the lives of Christian men."

This year was the 50th anniversary of CIT. Many alumni and special events were incorporated into this year's CIT.

One of the events honored important players and coaches that had participated in CIT over the last 50 years.

Former Men's head basketball coach, Dennis Getzlaff, was honored for his coaching here at CSP.

CIT this year was between Concordia Mequon, Concordia River Forest, Concordia Seward and Concordia St. Paul.

All the schools, except ours, are Division III, NAIA.

Because of this reason, this year was our last year in CIT.

CIT is more than just basketball teams competing.

There is also competition between the cheerleaders, dance lines, pep bands, mascots and fans.

It also exists for the fellowship

between the members of the different Concordia Schools.

The atmosphere is like nothing anyone could imagine. With screaming fans trying to prove to that "their" Concordia school is better than the other Concordias, chants range from "CSP" to "Airball!"

Fan support from CSP was high this year. Between two fan buses and others that carpooled, early 150 fans came down to River Forest, Illinois.

CIT this year was a tough one for Concordia, St. Paul with the Women's Basketball team losing a tough battle in overtime to Seward on Friday night. The men had better luck, however, beating Mequon and advancing to the championship the next night.

On Saturday, CSP women thumped River Forest by 40 points while the men's team fell to Seward in a close game.

Concordia Seward captured both the mens' and women's first place sport for this year's CIT.

25 Quick Facts About CIT

1. The inaugural tournament was held March 9-10, 1951
2. CIT was the creation of Coach Eldon Pete Pederson
3. The first CIT was held simply on a trial basis
4. The site of each year's CIT rotates between the four schools
5. St. Louis Seminary defeated River Forest 50-40 in the first CIT
6. In 1967, Concordia St. Paul entered the tournament
7. In 1965 women's Basketball was introduced
8. The first women's Basketball CIT game was between the Seward "Bulldogs" and the River Forest "Kittens"
9. The winners receive a travelling trophy
10. CIT was originally planned as a post-season tournament
11. For the first 15 years, teams were seeded at discretion of host school
12. In 1963, a bowling tournament was added for the men
13. Due to financial concerns, bowling was dropped in 1978.
14. In 1971, 1972 River Forest and Seward competed in wrestling
15. This year, CIT was held at River Forest, Illinois.
16. Over 150 fans flocked on CSP's behalf to River Forest.
17. River Forest and Seward have hosted CIT 13 times each
18. Eight OT games have been played at CIT
19. In 1986 St. Paul's women's Team scored 117 points in one game
20. The original name of CIT was All-Concordia Basketball Tournament.
21. Dr. Jack Surridge is the winningest women's coach with 9 championships
22. St. Louis won the first three CITs
23. In 1976 no CIT took place
24. In 1990 there were two CITs (in January and in November)
25. This was the last year CSP was allowed to participate in CIT



The Concordia Dance Team performs at the halftime of a CSP basketball game at CIT. Photo By Wilda Ugarte