

Spring Air Smells of Success

By Kristina Larson

Successful is one word that describes Comet softball. Our fourteen strong and experienced softball players are ready to defend their conference title this spring. Realistic dreams of the National tournament run through their minds, as the team refines their skills during evening practices in Gangelhoff Center.

Comet softball is back as strong as ever for the 1999 season. The team has great depth in pitching this year from junior Andrea Miller and first year students Kim Schultz, Paige Dopp, and Joey Menart. The middle of the Concordia team is returning, with junior Angie Piche behind the plate, sophomore Steph Wengelski at second base, senior Brenda Giesselmann at short stop, and senior Lynn Peterson in centerfield. In addition, senior Summer Barth, junior Tennille Tobolaski, and sophomore Chelsea Schultz are returning, joined by first year students Jaclyn Erickson, Christine Lofboom, and Ann Gust.

This year the Comets are headed back to California for their spring trip. The team leaves for Orange, CA, on March 26 and returns April 3. While there, the Comets play some familiar teams, such as UW-River Falls, St. Mary's, and Hamline, as

well as the California teams. Concordia University, Irvine, is an opponent of the Comets during their stay in California, too. The team is hoping that their trip will put them on national television—they are on stand by for tickets for "The Price is Right." However, they won't know if they'll be able to participate until a week before the show.

When the Comets return from the warmth of sunny California, they have a season packed full of home games. With newly cemented dugouts and a scoreboard on the way, the team is fully armed for the seven home games and the annual Comet Classic that they host.

To get them ready for the rigorous season ahead, Concordia participates in the Rice and Arlington Dome Tournament on March 19-20. Their first game is against Mayville State at 8:30 a.m., March 19. If you can't make it to the Comets season premiere, don't miss their first appearance in a double-header against Winona State at 4:00 p.m. on April 7. Get out and support Comet softball in their many home games and beyond. Spring looks promising this year for not only the warm weather, but another successful season in Comet softball.

Comet Baseball Preparing for Another Successful Year

By Melissa R Bargfrede

The time has come again for the baseball team to gear up for their annual spring time rituals. They have been practicing as a team since January, getting ready to travel to Florida for their spring trip. During their seven days there, they have ten games on their schedule, some against teams that are among the best in their divisions. As usual, they expect to open their season on a good note under the warm Florida sun.

Under the watchful eyes of head coach Mike Streitz, along with his assistants

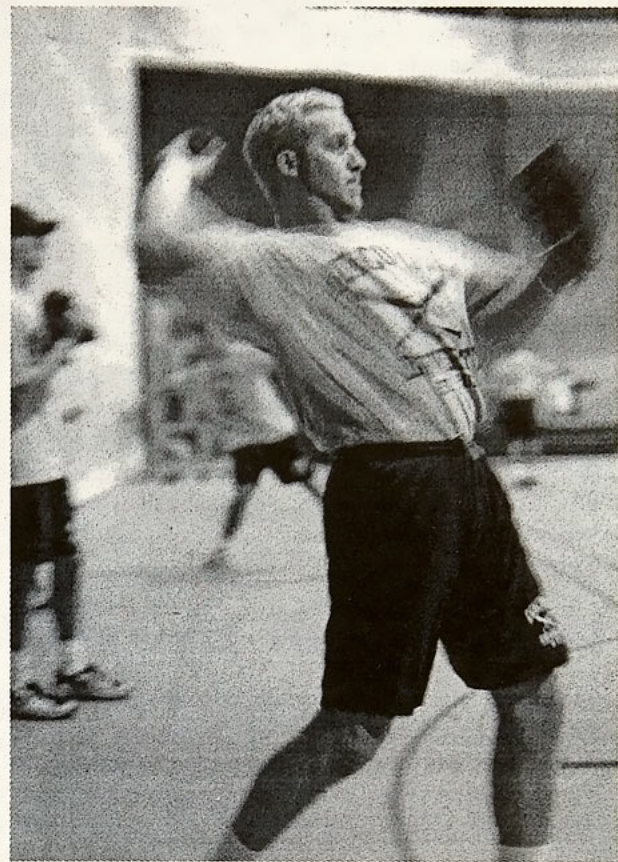
Coradino, The 1999-2000 baseball team is busy preparing for their upcoming season. Photograph by John Hanneman

and Joe Sunde, this year's team offers as much skill and talent as any previous Concordia team. With the amount of strength the Comets have both offensively and defensively, they should easily dominate the conference and the rest of their regular season schedule.

Senior Scott Hollingsworth heads up this team as an experienced leading pitcher, outfielder, and first baseman. Other returners offering their experience as

Comets include juniors Adam Schutte, Dustin Campbell, and Shawn Fondow, as well as sophomores Tony Nault, Adam Carroll, Mike Meyer, Jay Reinhardt, Andrew Fleischman. There is a strong class of freshmen, too numerous to name, as well as many transfer students who will definitely be adding a lot to the team.

This year, as always, the team is looking for a chance to play in the national tournament, but the chances seem even greater than in the past. With their remarkably increased versatility and variety of strengths, the Comets are looking for the best season on record.



Gangelhoff Center hours

Open everyday from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Weight Room hours

Monday-Friday	6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. 12 noon-9:00 p.m.
Saturday	12 noon-8:00 p.m.
Sunday	closed

Concordia Student Runs Hong Kong Marathon

As told to Angie Seifert via Lydia Wittman

Lydia Wittman, CSP student, now serving in China as an English Language Institute of China (ELIC) teacher, is running in a marathon in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong marathon on Sun. Feb. 28 will be Wittman's 3rd marathon in the course of 18 months. Previously, she has run the Air Force Marathon in Sept. 97 and the Hoosier Marathon in June 97. Lydia's sister Natalie originally talked her into doing her first marathon (the Air Force Marathon) because she loved them so much herself and thought it would be special to run in one with her sisters. This will be Lydia's first marathon without Natalie, whom Lydia will miss terribly. Lydia Wittman said, "I read about the HK marathon a year ago in a running magazine

shortly after I found out I would be going to China to teach English for this school year. When I read about it, I thought, 'If I'm put anywhere even remotely close to Hong Kong next year, I have to do this marathon. That would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to run a marathon in China.' (After all, doing anything in China is pretty much a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.)"

"I became even more excited about it when 5 of my 10 teammates (at ELIC) agreed to train for it and do it with me back when I met them in August..."

"I became even more excited about it when 5 of my 10 teammates (at ELIC) agreed to train for it and do it with me back when I met them in August..."

Lydia Wittman
CSP Student Teaching in China

However, since then, one by one they dropped out, some from injuries and some because they got sick of running. But they all have been supportive of Lydia doing the marathon.

Many have taken turns going with Lydia on her late night runs around the safe and well-guarded school campus in China.

"My only concerns with this marathon are that it's hilly. I haven't trained on hills ever. Here's a pretty strict time limit on it throughout the race, meaning I have to get to the 5, 10, 20, and 30 km marks within a

tight time limit. I definitely do not run these things for competition, only for personal improvement. I expect to be bringing up the rear in this race," states Wittman.

Wittman concludes, "I am excited about it being in Hong Kong, a city I fell in love with upon first sight. Also, it will be awesome to run with people from all over the world. Two teammates and I ran a half-marathon in Macau in November and I loved being surrounded by people speaking different languages all around me. I felt like I was in the Olympics or something and that I was there representing my country. I had 'Miss American Pie' going through my head for the whole thing!"