

Comets Advance in Conference Tourney

By Joe Neuenfeldt

The CSP men's basketball team advanced to the semi-finals of the very first-ever Upper Midwest Athletic Conference tournament with a first round victory over Martin Luther College on Tuesday, February 23. The Comets dominated Martin Luther right from the beginning by taking a 6-0 lead on two three-pointers by junior co-captain Dan Dreifke. The Comets never lost that lead and outdid Martin Luther in every aspect of the game. Big rebounding by junior co-captain Ben Bauer and senior Ryan Benson gave the Comets second-chance shots and prevented Martin Luther from getting any of their own. Juniors Chris Garcia and Beau Tordsen, as well as Bauer and Dreifke led the offense. With this win, the Comets avenged a previous loss to Martin Luther on February 6.

The Comets now travel to Rice Lake, Wisconsin to face host Mount Senario on Friday, February 26, in the semi-finals of the conference tournament. CSP and Mount Senario split their two conference games this season, each team winning at home. The Comets defeated Mount Senario 59-56 on January 26, and lost to them 78-68 on February 13. The Comets led at halftime, in their loss, and played Mount Senario (conference champions) close right until the end. The Comets are confident about their chances this time with the return of starters Kyle Peterman and Brandon Newman. Peterman and Newman were injured and unable to play against Mount Senario on February 13. Their ability to play on February 26 will be extremely valuable for the Comets.



Comets play basketball on their home court during Conference Tournament.

Photograph by John Hanneman

Heartaches and Heartbreaks

By Melissa R. Bargfrede

There was great disappointment due to "should've been" and "could've been" games. However, these games also continued to offer hope to the women's basketball team for the chance to come back with a surprise victory at any time in the season. However, that surprise victory remained elusive until the end. The Lady Comets capped off their season on Tuesday, February 23, with a loss to Saint Scholastica in the first round of UMAC play-offs. This loss ended a rough season for the women's basketball program that had started with high hopes and great potential for success.

This was Coach Crystal Flint-Holloman's second year as head coach, with assistance from Treka McMillian, Connie Kiedrowski, and Jessie Boman. These four minds never lost sight of the possibilities that had been so promising at the start

of the season, when the team started out 7-7. Unfortunately, they didn't win any games in the back half of their schedule, despite great effort put forth by all.

Seniors Lynn Peterson and Brenda Giesselmann were given a fond farewell at the last home game against Northland College. Their leadership and four years of dedication will be greatly missed as the team faces the transition to Division II with only one upper classman, Elise Williams, sophomore, returning. Brenda is among the leading point-scorers and rebounders in Concordia's history, and Lynn is among the top assist leaders.

The five first-year players added a lot of talent, and will continue to do so as they work and play together. Next year, look for strength to come in the form of experience as this year's freshmen have the opportunity to gel as a team.

Indoor Track Wraps up Season, Outdoor Set to Start

By Melissa R. Bargfrede

The Concordia Invitational Track Meet was held at Gangelhoff Center on Friday, February 19, with six schools competing. It was the final indoor meet of the season for the Comets, who are currently preparing for the outdoor season.

The outdoor track season gets underway over spring break, with a trip to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. The first meet closer

Carl Brewer and sophomore Andrew Bosl.

The women are also fielding a particularly gifted crew. Senior Melissa Beise leads the group in experience as a middle and long-distance competitor, along with

Jodi Werman and Jessie Lazer. Laurie Steffenhagen and Jenny Danielsen are long jumpers and short-distance sprinters with experience in Outdoor Nationals. Jessica Breikreutz was also a member of that team that went to Nationals last year. She runs 200-M and 400-M events and



Head Coach Tom Kerr and Assistant Coach Jonathon Breitbarth.

Photograph by John Hanneman

to home will be April 10, at the All-Lutheran Meet in Sioux Falls, SD.

The men's sprints are very well-rounded for practice against each other and for competition in relays and individual events. Freshmen Ben Coquette, Terry Ballis, and Brian Stodola add their talents to those of Sophomores Dwayne Palacio (first year), Jason Muzik, and Robin Bliss. Anchoring the distance runners are junior Kevin Yamabe and freshmen Jeremy McDonough and Josh Legband. (Yamabe and Legband are also hurdlers). The field events categories belong mostly to junior

relays. Kerri Schoessow shows her versatility as a pole vaulter and mid-distance runner, planning to add throwing events for the outdoor season. And, of course, Erin Buecksler qualified for a trip to the NAIA Indoor Track Nationals in the pole vault. Her qualifying effort of 9'3" placed her in the top 20 women in the nation.

The teams are coached by Tom Kerr, with assistance from CSP alum Jonathan Breitbarth.

Concordia Invitational Highlights

*not all results appear here

- Terry Ballis (fr.) posted his best-of-season in the 200M with a time of 24.66 sec.
- Andrew Bosl (so.) also recorded his best-of-season in the pole vault - 13'3", earning him first place.
- Jessica Breikreutz (jr.) 1st in 400M (66.4), 1st in high jump (1.32M)
- Carl Brewer (jr.) 3rd place, pole vault
- Erin Buecksler (fr.) 1st in the women's pole vault (9')
- Ben Coquette (fr.) 4th in the 55M with a time of 6.85
- Jenny Danielsen (so.) posted a 1st place finish in the 55M, 2nd in 200M, 2nd in high jump, and 2nd in long jump
- Josh Legband (fr.) 5th in 55M hurdles
- Jeremy McDonough (fr.) 2nd in 1500M (4:52.46), 2nd in 3000M (10:32.12)
- Dwayne Palacio (so.) 3rd in 200M (24.08)
- Kerri Schoessow (so.) 2nd in pole vault
- Laurie Steffenhagen (so.) 2nd in 55M (7.84), 1st in 200M (28.27)
- Men's Sprint Medley (Coquette, Ballis, Yamabe, Legband) 3rd (4:03.39)
- Women's Sprint Medley (Danielsen, Buecksler, Steffenhagen, Schoessow) 3rd place (4:50.67)
- Women's 4x800 M Relay (Lazer, Breikreutz, Werman, Beise) 1st, 10:50.47

CONGRATULATIONS TRACK TEAM!