

Comets Close First Track Season With Pride

by D.W. Bauer & D.C. Gilles

As the first season reaches a close, the Comets can look back on their hard work and impressive improvements with pride. Coach Schmit had his reservations about the potential of the season, and with due cause. With half of the team lacking track experience, and most of the others being away from the sport for years, Concordia should have expected nothing. But the work ethic of those athletes, the motivation of the coaches, and the support of a growing number of fans pushed CSP to success.

Originally, Schmit had a goal to "Just find out what we could compete in and to get comfortable with the events." Junior Dave Bauer reflected on the achievement of that goal. "I was surprised at how suddenly everyone was throwing farther, running faster, talking technique, and starting to compete with the others. I knew the competition was going to be tough, in fact I saw them as unattainable (with all the Division II and even Division I teams). But suddenly I was used to seeing their uniforms and felt accepted by them. I and the others were not some small school out for 'Track and Field Day'. We were a Varsity Intercollegiate Team!"

These thoughts were backed up by fine performances and personal records towards the end of the season. Freshman Steve Kuhnau in a recent meet at St. Thomas placed 2nd over all with a 4:17 performance in the 1500 meter run. Junior Jon Heintz broke the 1 minute barrier in the 400 m hurdles at that same meet. Freshman Brian Kubicki crushed his best throws in the javelin by close to 20 feet, putting him around 120.

Recent achievements with the women include personal bests in the discus by sophomores LaDonna Ressie and Tammy Kunze, with Ressie throwing five feet over her previous best mark. Also throwing the disc impressively, sophomore Lana Golnitz and freshman Deanna Ressie have been flirting with 90 feet.

Both teams have completed their last meet of the season, mostly against NCAA Division I & II teams at the University of Minnesota. This shows that Concordia is an accepted Track team in the intercollegiate world. Captain Dawn Gilles summed it all up, "We had fun establishing a team, and we can be really proud of it."

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COMET TRACK & FIELD

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Twins Rebuilding for '95

by Ryan Smith

After a brutal month in April, plagued by injuries and poor pitching, the Twins have started showing some signs of life.

Scott Erickson has come to life with three consecutive quality starts, including the Twins' first no-no since 1967 and the first ever in the Homerdome. The Twins have also collected victories in Pat Mahomes first two starts of the season, as Mahomes is showing signs of maturity.

Shane Mack's bat showed no signs of slowing down after coming off the disabled list, and the Puck has been...well, the Puck—on pace to collect another 100 plus RBI while keeping his average well above the .300 mark.

Another bright spot for the team has been the acquisition of free agent outfielder/speedster, Alex Cole. Cole is among the league leaders in batting average and stolen bases.

Indeed the Twins will welcome back Kent Hrbek when his aches and pains heal. The team could really use his big left-handed stick in a predominantly right-handed lineup.

Now that the team seems to have hit a groove, showing their fans exactly what

they have to offer, it's time for me to offer my season predictions:

1: The Twins will break out of the cellar, surpassing Cleveland and Milwaukee in the process, but will finish no higher than third. Unfortunately, the Twins were forced to leave the AL West when realignment took place. If they had remained in the West along with Oakland, California, Seattle and Texas, a shot at reaching baseball's first four team playoff may have existed.

2: Kirby Puckett will enjoy another All-Star season, batting .325 with 20 home runs and 115 RBI. Puck will also lead the league in hits with another 200 hit season. Definitely expect a great season out of Puckett, but no MVP or Gold Glove award and no batting title.

3: Scott Erickson will reestablish himself as the team's ace, replacing Kevin Tapani who has been knocked around too often to actu-



Ryan Smith

ally be considered a staff ace on a Major League team. Erickson is finally throwing the ball with confidence. At times, his fastball seems to have regained the movement it had during his twelve game winning streak in 1991. Watch for Erickson to win about 18 games as he collects the AL Comeback Player of the Year award.

4: I see a trade in the Twins' future. Many have suggested that the Twins dump off closer Rick Aguilera and Shane Mack. Aguilera is an obvious choice to be traded because of his high salary and his market value. He has been among the league leaders in saves since taking over as the team's late inning stopper. Look for Aguilera to be traded to a contender for starting pitching help, probably in the form of minor league prospects.

As for Mack, the Twins would be crazy to dump him if he continues to swing a hot

bat. He is a valuable hitter in the cleanup role, where he should be able to put up big numbers hitting between Puckett and Winfield in the order.

5: Kent Hrbek, riddled with injuries, will stick out the season before officially announcing his retirement from baseball. This home town hero has yet to prove that he can stay healthy for more than a couple weeks, but he will hear many cheers for any contribution he can make to the team.

Though the Twins may not be a big factor in the pennant race, the team is bound to make some major strides as they truly make 1994 a rebuilding year. I'm almost sure that whatever decisions the front office makes, they will pay off. After all, they're due to win their next World Series next year.

Till then, enjoy the games.

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