

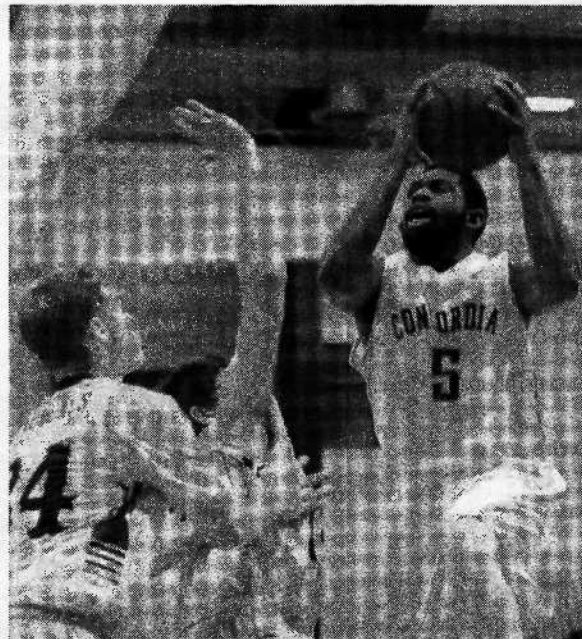
# Male Athlete of the Month

## Keith Crockett

By Karina Schlecht

Snow is here, winter is here, and that means basketball season has finally arrived. Senior Keith Crockett and the men's basketball team have been hard at work under their new coach, Joey James, and Crockett believes there to be "no question" as to whether or not they will find success under this new leadership. Crockett started out playing football at a young age and boxed from age eight until he was fourteen, but he started playing basketball when he was eight and eventually decided to stick with it because he felt like he was better at it than anything else and had more fun with it. Crockett is a point guard and shooting guard for the Golden Bears, and he enjoys his position because he likes having the ball all the time and making decisions on the court.

Crockett came to Concordia because of the smaller family-type feel – he liked the individual attention he could get here that he knew he would not be able to find at a bigger university. He says this is a "good place to focus, cut everything else out." This focus remains both on and off the court as he is majoring in communications and looking to go into sports journalism. He is hoping to either get an internship with the Minnesota Twins or be a graduate assistant here at Concordia next year to write for our men's basketball team. Eventually he also wants to go overseas to play ball just like his brother did, who is currently playing in Israel, and of course, as any college player dreams, he wants to go on to play for the National Basketball Association (NBA).



Dreams don't come without hard work, however, and Crockett is willing to put in the time and effort these dreams will take. He says he never takes any days off – "When it's not one thing, it's the other. When I'm not in the gym or working out, it's making sure I got all my homework done." On the court, he has been working hard in the off-season and has seen a lot of improvement in his shot. And thanks to Coach James, he is already "in way better shape than last year." The hard work has been paying off as Crockett played and started all 27 games last season, averaging 6.8 points and 4.1 rebounds with team-highs of 32 steals and 83 assists. He is also ranked fifth in the NSIC in assist-turnover ratio.

While at Concordia, Crockett has improved more than just his shot – coming from a predominantly African American community in Washington, D.C., he found Concordia to be very diverse. "It's a big thing for me," he says, "I've got a way better understanding of different types of people on and off the court...I've been learning how to interact with different types of people and communicate with them." He also notes that though a lot of people think he comes off as mean, he believes himself to be nice and charismatic, and he usually just has something on his mind that he wants to get accomplished. While Crockett continues to work hard, he keeps his focus on the bigger picture: "I try to just really focus on life after this. That's a really big thing."

# The End of an Era

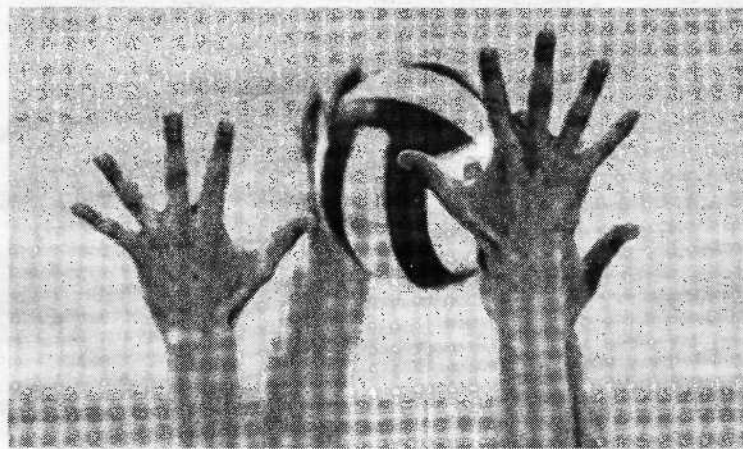
## Race for an Eighth Title Ends

By Tony Kohanek

The campaign for an eighth consecutive championship has ended. The team ended the regular season with a conference record of 18-2 and an overall season record of 25-4. This gave the women's volleyball team a two seed in the NSIC/US Bank volleyball tournament which was hosted by the number one seed University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) Bulldogs up in Duluth.

The team was feeling very excited to get started with this tournament and make a run at another championship. "This year was just like the rest of them," says Coach Starkey. "[We] can't be thinking about how many championships, [we] just have to focus on this year."

The first round of the conference tournament started with round one being played at the highest seed of each game's home. So in this case, Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Concordia University St. Paul, and Wayne State all were home. In each game the home team advanced to the next round, which had Southwest going up against UMD and Concordia against Wayne State. For the second and final round of the tournament UMD



played host since it was the top seed in the conference. UMD won its game against Southwest; however Concordia was upset by Wayne State. The final match was set and after all was said and done, UMD beat Wayne State to win its second consecutive NSIC tournament.

After the conference tournament the championship tournament seeding was picked and the regional tournament host was UMD, the top seed in the region, with Concordia St. Paul in second, with Southwest Minnesota State, Central Missouri, Wayne State, Nebraska Kearney, Washburn and Arkansas Tech being the third through eighth seeds respectively. Concordia would be matched up Washburn and would go on to win this game to play Southwest Minnesota. However, Concordia would eventually go on to lose this match, three sets to one, ending their run for another championship. Southwest went on to beat UMD in the regional final.

The end of an era like this is always hard to watch happen. However, Coach Starkey has prepared this team that they will surely take it in great strides and be ready for the next season.