

The Girls are out to Play

CU Women's Basketball gets off to a Fast Start

By Tony Kohanek



The women's basketball team has started their season off very well. The season kicked off with the Radisson Hotel Roseville Classic Basketball Tournament. Four teams competed in this tournament: Concordia University, Fort Hayes (Kansas), Bemidji State, and Pittsburg State (Kansas). Concordia faced Pittsburg State in the first game and dropped that one 59-66. The next day Concordia took on Fort Hayes and won 70-68 to bring the record up to .500.

After how last year ended with the team winning the regional tournament and advancing to the elite eight, coach Fessler is excited about this year. "Last year was exciting and a good team to en-

joy," said Fessler. "There were a lot of things to build off of this year, everybody will be in different roles this year and have different jobs." "It won't be easy," the coach went on, "to return to the elite eight. No team in the conference has returned to the elite eight after getting there." Even though the team and Fessler are excited for this year the Radisson tournament wasn't the best they could have done. However it's over and they just want to learn from it and move on. Really not much time to worry about it at the moment.

After the senior class from last year graduated, the team has some spots to fill and some depth to maintain. Sophomore transfer Caitlin Russel will help and be a good player coming off the bench. Coach Fessler said "[Caitlin] is looking really good and I am fortunate enough to have her around for three years." The new freshmen are getting accustomed to the style of play and the physicality of the higher level. They all have great attitudes, good work ethics according to Fessler. Biggest thing for them is confidence in their own ability.

As for returners go, Fessler says sophomore Mishayla Jones is the one to keep an eye on this year. How well she plays will have an impact on how the season goes for the team. Aside from the change in players, Fessler is trying to have a faster paced offence, more up-tempo with a lot of ball movement. This could create less double-teaming.

This team loves to play in front of their peers and in front of the student body population. Coach Fessler would like to see more support for extra circulars, not just sports but all extra circulars.

CU Football Season Follow-Up

Dome Up, Season Over

By Tony Kohanek

Concordia University's football season has come to an end. This season was Ryan William's fourth season as head coach and his 10th overall season with the program, having served as the team's offensive coordinator for six seasons prior to being named head coach in 2010.

The season started off slow with the team going 1-6 in their first 7 games winning only to Minnesota Crookston at Concordia's homecoming game 44-3. This win would make the record at the time 1-3. The team would go on to loose the next three games to Sioux Falls, Wayne State, and Minnesota State. However, the team would catch its second wind beginning with an overtime win against Upper Iowa. From then on the team really took off and would go on to win its final four games to finish the season with a final record of 6-5, making it Coach William's second winning season as Head Coach.

The coaching staff was very pleased with the way the season ended. Even though the start was a little slow, all were pleased with the four game winning streak. Coach Williams said that even though the goals for the season were higher and wanted to improve on previous year's record of 5-6. The way the team ended the season and over came the adversity and hurdles made this year's team better than last year. Williams says the leadership of the coaching staff, the confidence and trust to go execute the plays and the team's willingness to play together is what contributed to such a good end of the season.

This was Todd Stropp's second year as the team's defensive coordinator. He felt this season (and the way it ended) was a great way to send off the seniors of the team. Stropp went on to say, "[It was] Also, a very good way to kick off the off-season." Coach Stropp's defense really stepped up this year, placing fourth in the conference.

"Four seniors stepped up and had the best year of their career," according to coach Stropp. Like Coach Williams, Stropp said that from the beginning of the season the team would have liked to have done better but with the way the team finished the season is a good place to be. "A way to finish the season on a high note," says Stropp.

The offseason is a good time to rest up for a bit before hitting it hard in preparation for the next year. This team is more than excited to have some rest, get some work done in the classroom and once January comes around, they will be ready to rock and roll!

