

Female Athlete of the Month

Bekah Roth

By Tony Kohanek

For the month of March, the female athlete of the month goes to senior softball utility player, Bekah Roth. Roth, originally from Shoreview, MN and a graduate of Mounds View High School, started playing softball 17 years ago. She learned to love the game from her family; her dad was in a police officers' softball league, and her older sister played for the University of North Dakota. Roth saw great success during her high school career. During her final season with the Mustangs, she held a career batting average of .583 which was the second highest in the state of Minnesota. She also won academic honors every year she played as well as being named to the all-section and all-conference teams.

During her freshman season at Concordia, Roth started in 24 games at second base. She had a batting average of .389, led the team with nine doubles, and went two-for-three in stolen bases before an injury cut her season short.

Roth's sophomore season went a lot better as she started all 56 games at second base. During her second season, she had a batting average of .222 and would hit four home runs, good for fourth on the team.

In her junior season, she started all 45 games for the Golden Bears at the second base. She was fifth on the team with a .315 batting average and a .362 on-base percentage, and she led the team with seven homeruns and tied the team with 34 RBIs (runs batted in).

This year, Roth is currently hitting a .323 batting average with one homerun and 19 RBI's. According to Roth, the team is looking good this year. Team chemistry is great as all the play-



ers know each other and are friends on and off the field. It is a young squad, so we will just have to see how the year pans out.

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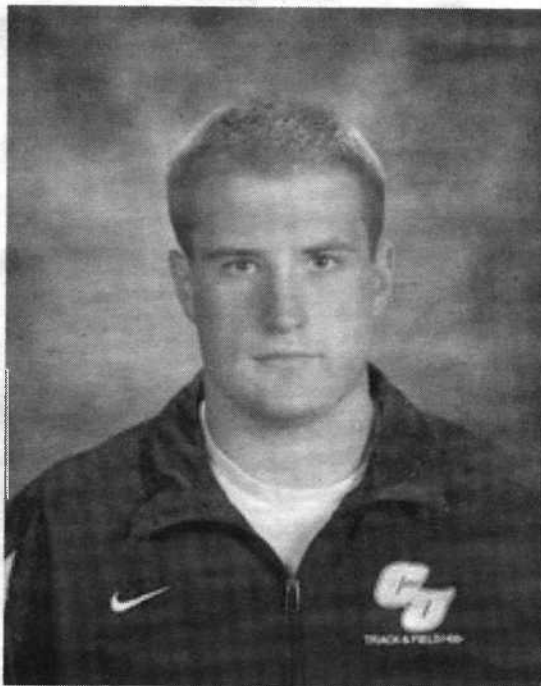
Mike Cullen

By Ren Souvannasoth

Back-to-back Athlete of the Week awards was enough to earn Mike Cullen our athlete of the Month spotlight. Cullen, a thrower on the track team set school records in both the shot put and the weight throw on February 22. The junior's marks were 15.93m and 15.74m, respectively. After falling short of the results he had been hoping for earlier in the season this success meant a lot to him. "Being able to have a huge performance at this meet gave me confidence going into conference," said Cullen. "It was also a huge plus that it just so happened to be two school records in one day."

At the NSIC Indoor championships on March 1st, Cullen was able to qualify provisionally for nationals in the shot put. He was pleased with his showing. "Even though it was under my PR, for the second time I qualified provisionally for nationals," he said. "It felt nice to consistently hit over that mark and score points for the team at conference." With a mark of 15.3 in the shot put Cullen was able to contribute four points to the team's 9th place effort.

Cullen's collegiate career has not always gone this smoothly. His first love was football, and he was recruited by Concordia to be a defensive lineman on the football team. However, he had to deal with injury problems in his freshman year on the football team. After two surgeries and a broken ankle, he thought his athletic career was over. With football no longer an option, Cullen



was able to focus all his attention on track and field. He has a very positive view of everything that happened. Cullen said of his experiences,

"Looking back on it, I believe it was a blessing in disguise. Through all the hardship that I have gone through in my life I now have a firm belief that God only gives you as much as you can handle, and that is the motto that I live my life by."

Throwing has always been a part of Cullen's athletic experience and he credits others for much of his achievements. "The success that I have earned so far is due to hard work and perseverance, but the majority of my accomplishments have happened because of the dedicated throwing coaches I have had since 6th grade through high school and now in college, and I also would not be where I am without the support of my family and close friends."

Looking forward, Cullen and the rest of the track and field team are working toward their outdoor conference meet on May 9th. Cullen's individual goals are to "hit the provisional mark in the shot put for the outdoor season, as well as place high in the conference meet for shot and try and work my way onto the podium for discus and hammer."

Cullen is grateful for the opportunity to remain in a team environment and talks about taking a leadership role: "As a captain I will do anything to help the team in a positive manner." Whether it is football, track, or the next challenge he faces, Cullen has proven that no matter the arena, he will work hard to succeed.