

Swing and It's Gone!

Concordia Softball Looks for Return Trip to NSIC Tournament



Stephanie Kappes

By Tony Kohanek

The Concordia University Softball team's season is finally starting, and the women will have their first opportunity to play at Concordia at Carlander Field on April 9 against Winona State, assuming the weather holds up.

As of March 24, the girls softball team has played in three different tournaments, one in St. Cloud, one in Florida, and one in Missouri. The Golden Bears lost all of their games in the St. Cloud tournament. In Florida, they won two out of nine and had two of the games canceled. After this, the team was off to Missouri, where they picked up their fourth and fifth wins of the season.

Heading into conference play in the coming weeks, the team is looking forward to being able to play at home and get some wins at home. At this time last year, however the team was boasting a 12-5 record; however this small amount of games was mostly due to the weather circumstances, which made the field unplayable.

Last year, the team was fortunate to make it to the third round of the NSIC tournament, and the hope is that this team will be able to turn around its season and be able to make a bid for the tournament and possibly win a seeding in the NCAA tournament.

CSP Golf 2014

Participate in an Excellent Year

By Lauren Erath

Forget the quiet claps, CSP's golf season will be too exciting for that—according to junior-year golfer Andrea Dwyer. "I can't stress enough on how this season is going to be good," Dwyer said. She also added that golf matches are more intense and lively than people expect. "They say on TV it's like watching paint dry," Dwyer said. "But in reality, when you watch in person it flies by." Dwyer also revealed that fans are free to cheer on their teams. "You don't have to be quiet when you watch. A true-hearted golfer won't let voices or birds or cars interrupt them."

Although snow still coats CSP's campus, the boys and girls golf teams have already participated in a tournament. It took place in Missouri during Spring Break, during which sophomore Rachel Gray finished in 4th place with a score of 80. However, the tournament was not an official Division II event so it will not count for or against the Golden Bear's record. Even so, Dwyer said it was a good experience that helped the teams learn what they need to improve and practice before upcoming matches. "We got that tournament out of the way so now we have nothing but to kill," Dwyer said.

The Golden Bear golfers have plenty of chances to "kill" in their upcoming invites including ones in Omaha Nebraska (April 6-7), Sioux Falls South Dakota (April 12-13), and Waterloo Iowa (April 26-27). Although the locations make it difficult for fans to attend the events, they have an opportunity to cheer for the Golden

Bear teams during the Central Region Championship which CSP will be hosting at Tartan Park in Lake Elmo, Minnesota (May 3-6). Students can use this chance to test their golf-course cry. "If we hit a shot and it is really good and you clap and scream, power to you," Dwyer said. "That does not only boost my confidence but it gives you your freedom as well."

This does not mean the teams lack confidence. Regarding the girl's team, Dwyer said, "Students should be expecting to hear a lot about us. We have a big chance of making it past regions to nationals."

One source of the teams' confidence comes from powerful bonds between the athletes. "We call ourselves the Big Golf Family or the CU Bear Family," Dwyer explained. "I consider the guys my older brothers and I consider my girls my sisters." Although the teams already have a "Big" family, they encourage fans to join them on the course. "Not many people have really watched a match and I think it would be really interesting if people actually came out and watched," Dwyer said. "I'd love it."

If students cannot make it to the teams' matches, but still want to support their Golden Bear golfers, they can keep track of the teams' progress on their blog site at <http://cugolf.blogspot.com>, where the golfers

and coaches write about their season experiences and post pictures and videos. For those preferring Twitter, they can follow at CU Golf @GoldenBearGolf. The teams also have a fan page on Facebook which students can access at www.facebook.com/cugoldenbearGolfTeam.

