

# Male Athlete of the Month

## Eric Fasnacht

By Tanner Peterson

Spring is approaching and baseball season is here, but before the season has even started one Golden Bear has already been awarded two honors. Senior shortstop, Eric Fasnacht, was honored on January 26th and 28th by being named to the NCBWA Preseason All-Central Region Team and named a NCBWA Preseason All American-honorable mention, respectively.

Fasnacht started playing baseball at age four, when his dad put a bat and ball in his hands. He played in the Babe Ruth Baseball League World Series when he was 14 years old. CSP Senior infielder, Alex LaPorte, was also on the team. Fasnacht played his prep baseball at Minnetonka High School, where his dad was a coach, and continued his baseball career when he signed to play at Concordia. Fasnacht started every game the past two years for CU, and last year, he led the team in batting average (.361), doubles (12), and homeruns (9).

Fasnacht doesn't specifically plan on improving any individual statistics for this upcoming year. Instead, he mentioned a focus on team goals: "I have been 0-4 in conference tournament games, so I think our goal this year is to go in there, make some noise, and win some games. Hopefully, we can come home with a conference championship." Eric went on to praise the senior leadership of the Golden Bear baseball team saying, "We have great senior leadership from Zach Rengel, Yuji Suzuki, Alex LaPorte, Ryan Poppitz, Tyler Schmitz, Kody Knaus, David Henke, Austin Hebig, and Alex Eernisse." He followed that up by



Photo By Maria Cruz

saying that with senior leadership like the Golden Bears have this year, "freshmen don't feel like freshmen." With all of the returning seniors, and the leadership that they will bring, you can expect to see the upper classmen play an important role in 2016's success.

Fasnacht will graduate this spring with a degree in business. He plans to go into operations or sales after his baseball-playing days are over. On and off the field he has made a significant impact over his three-year career as a Golden Bear and his success will continue over his final season sporting a Golden Bears uniform.

# Female Athlete of the Month

## Wakpor Ighovojah

By Tony Kohanek

Wakpor Ighovojah first started her sports career when she was six. As a young child she was in track, gymnastics, basketball, and volleyball. At the age of eight Wakpor started to play competitive sports. She attended Woodbury high school, where she competed in basketball, track, and volleyball. While at Woodbury, she lettered in all three sports, she was named captain in volleyball and track, and she was also named all-conference in track for the long jump, hurdles, and the 4x100.

Besides sports, Ighovojah was also involved in a college readiness program called Be the Dream; women's empowerment club called She-club; dancing group called, Step club; performed in a yearly show called *Coffee House*; worked part time as a PCA (personal care assistant), and was involved in public speaking.

Ighovojah was recruited by schools of all levels in the Midwest. Ighovojah wanted to play volleyball in college, however both her and college coaches saw more success coming in track.

Concordia stood out from the rest because it gave her the chance to run at a high level. "The NSIC has so many talented athletes and it's



a blessing to compete in this conference." Her first year at Concordia was a year growing physically and mentally. However it was shortened, when she was attempting the long jump up at Bemidji state and on her third jump, she tore her ACL, MCL, and Meniscus. This required surgery that made her take on a supportive role from the sideline.

Converting from high school to collegiate level sports was an adjustment for Ighovojah. One thing that was a big difference for her was "becoming a multi-eventer." "Everything changes when you get into a college program and you just have to have the mindset of stepping out of your comfort zone to do things you aren't use to."

Outside of track, Ighovojah has made connections and friends that are going to be kept for a lifetime. She is definitely not the same person as she was three years ago. "It may only be fifteen minutes from home, but choosing this school has been one of my best decisions," she said. She has a goal to make nationals and to become the best multi-eventer in the history of Concordia.