

# SPORTS

## CSP Esports Begins Preparation for Spring Competitions

BY RICHARD MAHLE

It is an exciting time at the CSP arena as the CSP Esports teams have begun the prep for the competitive seasons for February. Some teams have already been competing, such as the League of Legends team, who are 1-1 after their first two games of the season. They have been competing for a couple of weeks, and you can catch their games alongside the other esports teams at [www.twitch.tv/cspbears](http://www.twitch.tv/cspbears). This should be an exciting competitive season for CSP Esports, because this will be the Hearthstone and Overwatch team's first competition. The Rocket League team competed last semester and is poised to come back with a vengeance.

The CSP League of Legends team is comprised of Hung Cao, Dominic Cummings, David Engler, Aidan Farley, Jeremiah Lee, Jonah Peterson, and Josiah Skorseth and under the coaching advisement of Coach Logan Hermes. This group is killing it in these first few games, recording a 2-0 sweep over Purdue Fort Wayne in their first-ever League of Legends match. The team is scheduled to compete in a new match every Saturday at 3 P.M. for the rest of February.

CSP Rocket League is an exciting team of energized players who are ready to get another chance at some wins. The team is comprised of Phung Khang, Rocket Robertson, Colin Warren, and David Voelker. These are all experienced Rocket League players who are climbing the competitive ranks. Before their competitive season is supposed to hit, they are projected to reach diamond or grandmaster on the competitive ladder. The schedule for their next games is still to be determined.

CSP Overwatch has been undergoing drill after drill preparing for their upcoming season. From drills in which only one player is allowed to communicate with others during a match to practicing different roles that may not be their strongest, the team is putting in the work and preparation to start their season off strong. This team is made up of Tamar Anderson, Ian Bergstrom, Madison Buchanan, Danial Carter, Jack Krueger, Richard Mahle, Chufu Thao, and Matthew Walker. They have been running small scrimmages throughout the fall semester, so they are itching to get into full competition.

CSP's final Esports team is the Hearthstone team, comprised of Richard Mahle, Lily Hanson, and Quan Lee. Although it is the smallest team, they've been biding their time waiting for the Tespa competition, as well as any others that pop up along the way. All four teams are eager to make their mark on the collegiate Esports world as their respective competitive seasons approach. Keep an eye on the Esports page of the CSP athletics website to be notified when new schedules are posted and be sure to support all of these teams on their upcoming competitive seasons.

## Golden Bears Softball Preview

BY ISABELLA D'BURKE

With spring around the corner, the Golden Bears softball team is preparing for a home run season. The women had a strong season last year and are looking to build off of that momentum this upcoming season. They finished the 2019 season with a 33-20 overall record, a 19-11 conference record, and placed 6th at conference. Last year, the team hit .309, which is the third-highest in program history. After the eventful year, the women are eager to play in the NSIC playoff tournament for the third year in a row. The release of the annual NSIC preseason poll predicted the women's team to finish 6th this season, a nod to the potential they have.

This year, the team has 12 returners and nine new additions, creating a solid group of veterans and fresh faces. Included in the returning group is senior center fielder Kris McIntyre, the team's preseason player to watch, sophomore Hannah Carlson, junior Cam Veenbaas, and senior Aryka Knoche. The team still has all three of their top pitchers as well, specifically senior Kali Kaestner, CSP's preseason pitcher to watch. Included in the nine new freshmen are Bryanna Olson, Jacey Defries, Annalise Scamehorn, Afton Zemke, Hannah Mihalik, Ani Bell, Grace Besemen, Clara Heislen, and Payton Hanson.

Every fall, the softball team plays a variety of "fall ball" games. This fall, they played South Dakota State on September 22nd, Iowa Lakes Community College September 28th, and the University of Minnesota on October 4th. The team lost to South Dakota State, won against Iowa, and played a scrimmage format against the U of M. When commenting on the fall games, Heislen said, "The team's first games allowed us to get comfortable with each other on the field. We are determined. There is a gritty want to do well this season, and each player is working hard to contribute to this goal. I am excited for the season and believe we have the opportunity to go far with the talent we have this year!"

The team will first showcase their skills this year on February 7th at the Minnesota State Dome Tournament. At this tournament, they will play Northwest Missouri State, Emporia State, and Lewis in Mankato. They will have three more non-conference tournaments before their first home game on March 24th against Minnesota State Mankato. Keep the ladies in mind this spring, and make sure you head over to Carlander Field sometime to cheer them on!

## Golden Bears Men's Basketball Update

BY ISABELLA D'BURKE

The Golden Bears men's basketball team has had a roller-coaster season. With their current 6-14 overall record and 4-12 conference record, the men have been battling for some wins. After a three-game win streak in early January, the men have now lost the past seven games, most recently losing by 13 to MSU Moorhead. So far, the men have recorded wins against North Central, Northland, Southwest Minnesota State (twice), UMary, and Minot State.

Recently, the men played Wayne State and lost 63-66. Leading the game was junior Jacob Shields with 15 points. Before Wayne State, the men lost 54-81 to Augustana, 92-101 to Minnesota State Duluth, 90-100 to St. Cloud State, and 59-74 to Sioux Falls. Leading the games were senior Max Keefe with 13 points, junior Jordan Coblin with 27 points, Coblin again with 28 points, and tying with 13 points junior Cody Carlson, senior Perion Little, and junior Lee Higgins. Though they have struggled to get into the win column recently, the majority of their losses have been fairly close games, proving the team's potential for the rest of the season.

Even though the team has been in a rut, they had a strong three-game win streak on January 3rd, 4th, and 10th. They beat UMary 79-65 with junior Lee Higgins scoring 20 points. Junior Jordan Coblin scored 26 points during their 71-68 win against Minot State. Finally, the team won 79-70 against Southwest Minnesota State, Coblin leading with 22 points.

The men's team has had many transitions to work through this season, the biggest being their new head coach, Eric Johnson. Johnson has been the top assistant for the men since 2014 and also was an assistant at the University of South Dakota before his arrival here. Not only did the team have to adjust to a new form of leadership, but they also added ten newcomers to their team this year. With only five returners, the team contains one senior, three juniors, two sophomores, six transfers, and four freshmen. The men have been working hard to play as a team and have proved their abilities with a 5-4 home record and an average of 73.4 points per game.

The men still have six more games to improve their overall record. They have four more home games, February 7th against Bemidji State, February 14th against Minnesota Crookston, February 21st against Winona State, and February 22nd against Upper Iowa. Make sure you come out and support your fellow Golden Bears as they close out the season!