

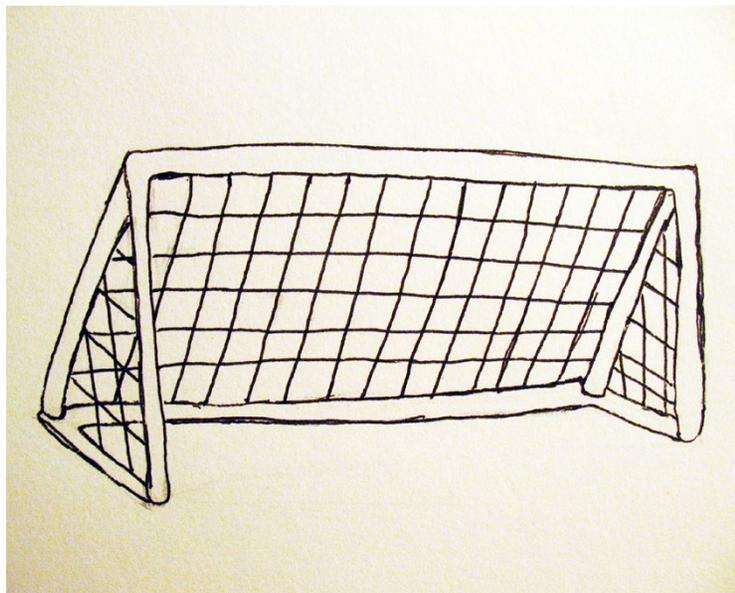
The Resurgent Season

Golden Bear Soccer Update

By Jake Kounkel

No one wants to end their season with a loss. No one wants to put in months of in-season and off-season work, which includes weight training, conditioning, long practices and pounds of stadium turf everywhere and not come out on top. Unfortunately though, for all teams besides one, this is the result. Saddening? Yes. Heart-breaking? Yes. It shouldn't be overlooked, though, that this season was a successful one for the Golden Bear soccer program. This is the first time they made the tournament since 2009, and matched their record for wins set in 2006.

The Golden Bears had three players achieve All-Conference honors (Jessica Bianchi, Rachel Gratz, and McKenzie Buck) and two players receive honorable mentions (Taryn MacMillan and Emma Gartner). The team made leaps both on and off the field. One of the captains, Meg Poulson is happy with the season: "...the team this year was truly like a family. We worked so hard for each other and our team chemistry was outstanding. Both on and off the



field, which I think is a huge contribution to the success we had this season." This year's highlights included, as previously stated, making the playoffs for the first time since 2009 and having five players receive All-Conference honors. Additionally, they got a huge 4-0 win against Upper Iowa, which kick-started the Golden Bears' push to the postseason. The team also hosted an impressive four game road-winning streak early in the season, which was integral in getting them to the playoffs. This group of girls dedicated themselves to soccer all year, starting practices weeks before students were in school. Their commitment and hard work should be revered by everybody, and future Concordia soccer teams will have big shoes to fill.

Concordia can expect much of the same results next season with a strong recruiting class coming in. Although it will be tough losing the seniors, especially since only seniors were the only ones to earn All-Conference honors, it can be expected that the young up-and-coming talent will be able to step into more prominent roles.

Men's Basketball Update

By Jake Kounkel

After starting the season 0-2 in Missouri, men's basketball looked to turn their season around quickly as they began NSIC play. Although 0-2 isn't the start they were looking for, the two teams they played on their Missouri trip were of the highest caliber in Division II basketball. The first matchup was against East Central (Oklahoma) where the Golden Bears suffered a heart-breaking loss, 82-81, on a step-back three-pointer by one of East Central's guards. The next team they played was Central Missouri. Although unranked right now, we will probably see Central Missouri in the nation's top 25 teams by season's end.

Everyone is expecting the year to go well, even after a small blip in the beginning of the season. Jon Sobaski, the sophomore starting point guard knows the team is going to get things going, especially at home. In regards to the trip to Missouri, he said, "0-2 is just a record. It doesn't define our team; it doesn't define anything. When a team starts 0-2, everybody goes into panic-mode." He goes on to say, "If we would've lost two games in a row during the middle of the season, nobody cares. When we start winning, nobody is going to go back to the beginning of the season and talk about how we dropped the first two...besides, we're about to start playing at home and against teams we're more familiar and comfortable with. We'll get it going."



Photo By Reeve Currie

The NSIC will have a lot of talented teams in the running, so it's going to be anything but a breeze for Golden Bears basketball this season. However, the Golden Bears have a good mixture of young and veteran talent themselves. Jon Sobaski is the sophomore starting point guard and anchor on the hardwood for the team. He controls the offense and makes sure things run smoothly on the court. Diallo Powell, one of the starting shooting guard, is an offensive matchup's nightmare. He shoots the ball well, knows how to attack the basket, and can get to the foul line. On the other side of the floor is Bryndan Matthews. His overall athleticism and ability to play on both sides of the ball is as impressive as the fact that he's only a freshman. Cole Olstad, one of the team's seniors is one of the best players in the NSIC. He has the ability to play multiple positions and defend the perimeter as well as the block. He's a troubling presence for other teams, and if talking to any of the coaches or players will

ensure you they're pleased he's wearing navy blue and gold. The big man in the five position is Shea Mandli. He knows his way around a good post-move, and is known to keep other team's big men in check defensively.

The Golden Bears are in the midst of a great season. As they push to finish at the top of the conference this year, they will be an