

# SPORTS

## CSP Baseball Bounces Back at Tucson Invitational

BY BEN DIERS

After starting the season on a 0-4 slump, the Concordia, St. Paul Baseball team has bounced back and won four games in a row to bring their record to 4-4 for the season so far.

On February 21st and 22nd, the Bears began their season with a three-game series against fourth-ranked Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri. The Bears were defeated handily in all three games, losing by scores of 11-1, 16-0, and 7-0, respectively.

On the following Wednesday, the Bears took on St. Cloud State in an afternoon doubleheader. The teams split these games with the Huskies winning the first game 7-0 and the Golden Bears taking the second game 7-6 to pick up their first win of the season.

From that point on, the Golden Bears have been red-hot. Starting on March 1st, the Bears began to play in the Tucson Invitational. In their first game, the Bears defeated Mount Mary (South Dakota) with a score of 9-5. In game two of the invitational, the Golden Bears cruised to an 18-0 victory over Presentation (South Dakota). The team continued their dominant streak with a 16-5 win over Northwestern (Iowa) in their third game of the invitational.

Leading the way for the Bears so far this season has been junior Ryan Christopher. Christopher has racked up 13 hits and eight runs while batting .464 in 28 at-bats this season. Sophomore Chandler Ibach has also impressed with his seven hits and two runs in just 14 at-bats. In total, six Bears with a minimum of 20 at-bats are hitting above .300 so far this season. Senior Patrick Bordewick has the team's only home run at this point in the season.

On the pitching side, senior Blake Stelzer has shined for Concordia. In his 9.1 innings pitched, Stelzer has only allowed nine hits, seven runs, and an ERA of .96.

On March 13, just a day before the Bears were set to begin conference play with a doubleheader against Duluth, it was announced that the rest of the NSIC baseball season had been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the rest of the season called off, the Golden Bears finished 7th in the NSIC standings.

## Golden Bears Women's Basketball Wraps Up Season

BY ISABELLA D'BURKE

With a 15-14 overall record, the Golden Bears Women's Basketball team certainly battled this season. The ladies had a roller-coaster season, going back and forth with wins and losses. The ladies finished the season with a 9-5 home game record and 6-8 away game record. Recently, the women ended their regular season with two wins against Winona State and Upper Iowa before falling to Northern State in overtime in the first round of the NSIC Tournament.

On Friday of the two-game weekend, the Bears won 66-47 against the Warriors by shooting 51.4%. Overall, they went 19-16 in turnovers and scored 25 points off of Winona's turnovers. Leading the ladies were Riley Wheatcraft and Sydney Schultz, both scoring 17 points throughout the game. After the win on Friday, the ladies followed up with a 90-39 win against Upper Iowa. Upper Iowa ended the game shooting 24.1%; the lowest Concordia has held a team since the 2014-15 season. The ladies' top scorers were Danielle Schaub, Sydney Zgutowicz, and Jadyn Hanson, with 14 points each.

After the regular season, the women sat top five in the conference for five categories. They are the best three-point shooters in the NSIC and rank fifth in assist/turnover ratio. They also have three women ranked in the NSIC: Riley Wheatcraft, Danielle Schaub, and Sidney Wentland. Leading the team and averaging 13.6 points per game, Wheatcraft is ranked 13th. Schaub is ranked 19th and is the team's second-leading scorer with 12.5 points per game. Finally, ranked 22nd is Wentland, scoring 12.2 points per game. With her success on the court and 3.93 GPA, junior Sidney Wentland was recently named to the 2020 Academic All-District Team. Wentland is majoring in sport psychology.

On February 26th, the Golden Bears took on the 13-15 Northern State Wolves in the first round of the NSIC Tournament. The game was hard fought throughout, eventually entering overtime with each team locked at 55. In overtime, the Wolves took control and went on to beat the Bears 72-68, knocking CSP out of the tournament in the first round.

## CSP Lacrosse Season Cut Short After Stellar Start

BY JAID PERRY

The Lady Bear Lacrosse Team got off to an extraordinary start to their season. With four games under their belts, the Bears remain undefeated. While their win/loss statistics show their victorious start, the Bears have also added several other victories along the way, including finding an interim coach and becoming a nationally ranked team. Without the standout performances and teamwork of the Bears, these successes could never have happened.

This season, the Lady Bears have switched up the coaching staff a bit. Joe Nelson was appointed as the interim coach for the Bears in place of the previous coach, Heather Coppola. Nelson was the goalie coach for CSP in 2019 but has stepped into a larger role for the team this year. With his extensive knowledge and background in lacrosse, as well as being familiar with the team, Nelson has the potential to fill this spot in great ways. Along his side, Summer Fowler aids in commanding the Bears. Lydia Sutton and Remi Larson contribute as the assistant coaches this season.

For the first team ever in program history, CSP

has put their names onto the US Lacrosse Magazine ranking list! Sitting in the sixteenth spot, the Bears have earned themselves their first national mention on the Nike/US Lacrosse Magazine Division II Top-20 poll. Not only are they ranked as a team based on their overall performances, but the Bears have earned rankings amidst the nation's best in several statistical categories. The Golden Bears occupy the third spot in both scoring defenses (4.5 goals/game) and ground balls (31.75/game). In addition, they are fourth in save percentage (0.647), fifth in scoring margin (12.0), and seventh in caused turnovers (17.5/game). Impressively, the Bears also contribute to the list in the points category sitting in the 12th spot and scoring offense as well with a ranking of 14th. Just sneaking onto the list as #19 in assists earns the Lady Bears rankings in a total of nine statistical categories.

The rankings that the Bears received was due to their hard work and a strong start to the season. The victory over Colorado Mesa, a team ranked fourteenth in the nation, was crucial to the Bear's national ranking. Prior to this game, the Bears had lost thirteen games in a row to opponents that were ranked.

On March 13, the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) announced the cancellation of all athletic events through at least May 31, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 threat. With the lacrosse season over, the Golden Bears were ranked #25 in the final Division II IWLCIA poll of the season. Though they had been previously ranked in the US Lacrosse poll this season, this is the first time in program history that the Golden Bears have appeared on the coaches poll.

## Wild Look To Make Postseason Push After Midseason Shakeup

BY ANDREW WYLIE

The Minnesota Wild, for the second straight year, has shaken up their team right before the trade deadline. Last year, GM Paul Fenton sent away team favorites Charlie Coyle, Nino Niederreiter, and Mikael Granlund. The main pieces the Wild got back were Ryan Donato, Victor Rask, and Kevin Fiala. The Wild eventually trailed off in the standings and missed the playoffs last season. The Wild and their fans had to watch many of their former core players get deep in the playoffs with their new teams and were left to wonder if they had lost all three of Fenton's big trades last season.

This season, the trades are starting to look a lot better for the Wild. Although Rask is a fixture on the bench, Kevin Fiala has turned his play around from an exciting player that turned the puck over too much to a must-watch goal machine. Fiala looks to have the skill set to be the star winger the Wild have been looking for since Marian Gaborik left over a decade ago. Ryan Donato is also starting to improve and is scoring in bunches as of late. The future looks bright for them both as well as for the Wild.