

# SPORTS

## Smash Brothers and League of Legends

BY RICHARD T MAHLE

**T**HE NEWEST TEAM FOR Concordia University Saint Paul esports is Super Smash Bros Despite not having any returning players like each other team, Smash has five members, Benjamin Gillespie, itsmeagain, Joseph Gonzalez, Juggz, Andrew Stroming, drewand371, Tyler Wade, Ty Champine; Josiah Skorseth, PapaPlank, Matthew Walker, and Dviper also assists with the team when needed. They are currently in their off-season awaiting the spring semester to start their next competition.

Smash Ultimate is played with a series of one-on-one matches where each player chooses a character from an infamous roster of Nintendo, Sega, Konami, and Capcom. There are also special characters from outside Nintendo such as Steve from Minecraft, Banjo Kazooie from Hero, and Richer from Castlevania. With a total of 74 characters there are an insane amount of possible characters a member of this team might go up against. Smash Ultimate is traditionally played as a free-for-all fight. Tournaments are traditionally played as one-on-one matches with three lives to each player, but there are some tag-team tournaments where two people team up against another group of two.

Joseph Gonzalez, one of the members of the team, said, "The team is great, it is competitive, and I'm very open to learning more. As a team, we've come together well despite it being our first season, and we are preparing to bring the best we possibly can this next spring season. And one last thing, we're gonna bring it." Gonzalez was also a temporary member of the Overwatch team who started in a couple games in the season. Sadly, due to schedule insanity, he moved away from Overwatch, but that does not suppress his impressiveness in either game.

League of Legends is one of the most famous games in the Esports world. Riot, the game developer, has made multiple games that push esports further and further into the mainstream. It started with League of Legends, and now it is on to the hit first person team shooter, Valorant. At Concordia University, Saint Paul, we have Dominic Cummings, BIG Golden God, Anthony Middleton, BestDangChicken, Jonah Peterson, Hanoj, Josiah Skorseth, PapaPlank, and Andrew Stroming, drewand371, all on the team. Currently the team is working together to tighten up their teamwork while preparing for the next season to come up.

## Tennessee Titans Fined \$350,000

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

**B**ETWEEN THE DATES OF SEPTEMBER 24TH and October 11th, 24 members of the Tennessee Titans NFL team tested positive for the coronavirus. The surge of infections forced the game between themselves and the Pittsburgh Steelers to be delayed until October 25th and prompted an inspection of facilities and practices. While the facilities themselves met the NFL's coronavirus standards, it was found that players were not always wearing masks. Inspections discovered this was due to a lack of understanding that masks should be worn at practice sessions outside the facilities, as players would meet up amongst themselves without regard for precautions. They were not told they could not meet up outside practices until they were notified by their coach in early October. None of the individual players will be charged or fined, but the team has been hit with a meaty fine of \$350,000.

The team fully complied in the investigation, including offering documents and media to assist the league in figuring out where the team went wrong. In addition, they will not lose out on playing games or draft picks. The NFL, in total, has experienced 60 coronavirus cases in that same time period. According to the league, the Texas Raiders may be up next to receive a fine for failure to consistently meet protocol standards. They too have found that several of their players are testing positive for the virus. Their punishment may be more severe, as the team and its management has faced fines for not meeting protocol in the past. Hefty fines were put in place after it was found their head coach, who was not wearing a mask at games, had unauthorized personnel in locker rooms which could potentially introduce the virus into a controlled environment. Many players have also been fined individually for behavior regarding coronavirus safety outside of games.

With more and more infection cases popping up throughout the NFL, the league may have to begin investigations into whether these incidents are on the hands of coaches and managers or if they are ultimately clear from allowing these cases to occur. With infection rates increasing, it's hard to tell whether teams will end up having to forfeit games or not, and whether or not it is due to sheer loss of healthy players or penalty by the league. But, hopefully there will be enough backup players for teams to be able to continue playing as long as teams follow safety guidelines. Finally, it is the ultimate goal for teams to stay smart and healthy so the need for backup players arises as sparsely as possible.

## Vikings Update

BY ANNA FRITZE

**T**HE 2020-21 VIKINGS SEASON has been a roller coaster of emotion for any devout Vikings fan. The Vikings had a pretty rough start with three losses in a row, a win for their fourth game against the Texans, and then a two-game losing streak. However, things have started to look up for the team. Their seventh game of the season brought a very unexpected win against the Packers, who were 5-1 at the time. Their most recent game against the Lions also scored them a win with a final score of 34-20, giving the Vikings a 3-5 record. Not only did the Vikings win against the Lions, they never fell behind once.

They started the game out strong with a five-yard run touchdown by running back Dalvin Cook less than five minutes into the game. After making the extra point, the Vikings were up 7-0. After the Lions struggled to get across the field, the ball went back to the Vikings. Tight end Irv Smith caught a nine-yard pass for a touchdown and a lead of 13-0. The second quarter brought a slight stop for the Lions, as they started out with a three-point field goal by kicker Matt Prater, which kept the Vikings from scoring on their first run. Then, they were able to increase their points with a 15-yard touchdown by Marvin Jones, bringing the score to 13-10. The Vikings were able to respond, however, with a 22-yard catch that increased the Vikings score to 20.

The third quarter followed suit of the first for the Lions as they were not able to score. A one-yard pass to Smith earned him and the Vikings another touchdown and brought the score to 27-10. Adding salt to the wound, Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford threw two interceptions in a row. The Vikings were not able to score on these interceptions, but it kept the Lions from scoring. Toward the beginning of the fourth quarter, Prater made a 45-yard field goal that decreased the Vikings lead to a score of 27-13. However, Cook soon after earned the Vikings another touchdown with an impressive 70-yard run to the end zone that increased their lead to 34-13. The Lions threw another interception with just over ten minutes left in the fourth quarter, but the Vikings were unable to score.

With seven minutes left in the game, the Lions made the final score with a two-yard touchdown by T.J. Hockenson, ending the game with its final score of 34-20. This added win gives Vikings fans hope that there is still a chance that they can make it to the playoffs and potentially advance to the Superbowl LV.