

## eSports: Hearthstone

BY RICHARD T MAHLE

**C**ONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SAINT PAUL has one of the strongest Hearthstone teams in the area. The members of the team include Quan Le, notasmurf, Lily Hanson, Tigerlily36, and Kylee Sigstad, CowsRule. Quan Le's highest rank during the competitive season was legend 12 in North America meaning that he was almost top 10. Lily Hanson was ranked highest at Diamond five while Kylee Sigstad was ranked Gold three. This means that all three of the Hearthstone players are strong on their own as well as a force to be reckoned with together.

ranks starting from ten and going down to one. Legend is the only exception in which it counts an individual's personal ranking.

Currently, the Hearthstone Bears are in the off-season and awaiting a new expansion to their game. With a new expansion comes a whole new game for Hearthstone. The expansion Madness at the Darkmoon Faire brings back some old characters from World of Warcraft past and redesigns them. The Old Gods are coming back, and one introduces a whole new mechanic to the game. This is what makes esports so different



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This was the case due to them ending in eighth in the Tespa Tournament making them one of the most successful runs in CSP esports history. While it might not be a long history, it is still extremely impressive for the program. The spell slinging card players may be small in numbers, but they are strong in ability. Hearthstone is played by two people creating decks and going head-to-head to see who can defeat the other. Deck restrictions are 40 cards with a maximum of two of the same card, and a class is picked which has specific cards and abilities. In the normal ranked format there are six tiers; Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, and Legend. The first five of these tiers have

from any other program. Our players are required to almost relearn the game they play when big expansions hit, and their previous strategies are rendered either useless or simply not playable in the current climate of the game. This expansion will certainly be a treat for players looking to abuse the new corrupt mechanic that simply states this, "Upgrade in-hand when you play higher cost cards." This means that the base cards become more powerful if you succeed in using the Corrupt Ability. The CSP Hearthstone team is excited to keep moving forward and try to take home first in the next tournament, so watch them on Twitch.tv/CSPBears.

## The CSP Dome

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

**T**HE CSP DOME HAS BEEN a useful tool for student-athletes for the last ten winters since it has been. The dome was first introduced in 2000 during the Division 2 Program in the Gangelhoff Center. Back in those first years, there used to be two courts in the GC that sports teams had to split time for, which had negative setbacks on many teams, such as the baseball, softball, track & field, and basketball teams. The dome creates a place that teams can practice, perform their sport, and perfect their skills. It is big enough to be able to do full drills for many of the teams that utilize this facility on campus.

Set-up for the dome was done in the first week of November with the help of coaches, sports staff, athletes, and the maintenance staff. The dome itself is about 120 yards long and 60 to 70 yards wide, which provides a lot of space for these athletes. It covers the entirety of the turf football field.

Neil Lerner said, "It will take about a full day to have it fully set-up. It involves actual large dome pieces, rolled out, screwed and bolt together and eventually inflated." While the process takes a long time, it has become a great way for the athletes to have a space where they can really focus on their sports.



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The dome is also a positive influence on incoming and recruiting sports teams because they get to see the process on how the dome is set up, and they will learn how useful it is to all athletes who typically play outside sports. It is recommended that players come dressed in layers when they enter the dome, because although it is warmer inside the dome than outside, it is still chilly inside the dome.

With COVID-19, everyone has to wear their masks inside and outside of the dome when they are not practicing, and for some sports, masks are even required during practices. When practices are in session, some sports are allowed to remove their face masks when it is their turn to contribute to a drill. The dome is especially useful for the lacrosse and softball teams because they have had a fall season, and the winter is their time to get prepared for their spring seasons. They will also be screened for a fever and COVID-19 symptoms. If a team member is ill, the team cannot practice, and everyone is quarantined.

Winter is coming, and with the dome all set up for the student athletes, it will provide the opportunity of practicing fully underneath a sturdy dome.