

## Esports Wrap Up

BY RICHARD MAHLE

**A**S THE SEMESTER BEGINS to come to end, the eSports team is wrapping up the season as well. The eSports program has been putting on events with other sports programs, and the hope is to continue that collaboration throughout the years.

The Overwatch team is wrapping up this semester by setting up skirmishes with other teams from many different schools. On top of that, they are also watching the games they have played to identify what to work on for this off-season. The team is also working less on their mechanical skills and more on their teamwork.

The Super Smash Brothers Ultimate team is working vigorously on their mechanical skills to become well-oiled fighting machines. One event they participated in was a head-to-head tournament with the Concordia University Saint Paul baseball team. It was all in good fun, which is wonderful because of how tight Concordia students are with each other.

The League of Legends team has been working hard all year so far, so hearing that they are pushing themselves to the limit even in the off-season is not surprising. The potential is growing for this team, and they will be interesting to watch in the upcoming season.

The Hearthstone team has killed it this semester so far with their fantastic achievements in their competition, so nobody should be surprised to hear that they are taking their time studying the current meta for the game. While nobody is certain if it will be the same meta next semester, what we can count on is, in the words of Coach Hermes, "your Golden Bears will do fantastic."

Finally, the rocket league team is enjoying their off season by focusing on working together on the "field," to tighten up their teamwork. They have shown themselves to be strong players before, so there is a lot of promise in the next semester.

One thing to note about all the teams is that they are all focusing on ranking up and proving that they are capable players in their respective games. They are also all trying to have events with other sports programs at Concordia. There is a lot of hope for this program next semester, and while they have shown a lot of promise this semester, it is the hope to have wins across the board in each team next semester. The teams stream each game on Twitch.tv/cspbears, so be sure to stay up to date and follow the Bears when they start their seasons back up.

## How 'Bout Them Cowboys!?

BY RENE ELIAS

**O**N NOVEMBER 22ND, the Minnesota Vikings played the Dallas Cowboys. The game was highlighted as "Americans game of the week," and had an unusual start time at 3:20 PM. The game started with Dallas scoring. Vikings fans felt a gut punch after this, but there was a silver lining in this play. The Cowboys missed the field goal. After this game, Dalvin Cook totaled enough yards to rush for 1,000 yards this season so far. His stat line showed Cook rushing for 103 yards and scoring 1 touchdown in this game. A wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys, Ceedee Lamb, had an amazing touchdown catch. By half-time, the score was 16-7 with the Cowboys leading over the Vikings. With the Vikings being on a three-game winning streak going into this game, quarterback, Kirk Cousins, looked more comfortable than other weeks. Cousins threw for a fabulous 314 yards and had 3 touchdown passes. The Minnesota Vikings defense played average against the Cowboys.

In the 4th quarter, the Vikings defense allowed running back, Tony Pollard, to explode from the backfield to get a 42-yard touchdown run, which in turn let Dallas have their lead back with a score of 23-21. Since that game, the Cowboys lost on Thanksgiving Day to the Washington football team, and the Vikings conquered the Panthers. According to NFL on Fox, due to a low winning division, "The Cowboys still have a chance to make it to the Super Bowl."

The Cowboys have won the Superbowl five times more than the Vikings, and although Aaron Rodgers and Russell Wilson are having MVP caliber seasons, there is not much more time left in the tank for either team. Meanwhile, the Cowboys have a lot of talent with upside potential. This win against the Minnesota Vikings just goes to prove once again how good the Cowboys can be at full strength. As long as they can make it to the playoffs, anything is possible. A record doesn't matter when each game counts. There is no series, and as long as the Cowboys win the NFC East, which is still very likely, they will host a playoff game with a home field advantage, which plays a big part in the outcome of a game. The potential is there, but only time will tell what is in store for the Dallas Cowboys.

## NBA Season Starts Back up Late December with Changes

BY HARRY LIEN

**T**HE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA) is set to start its 75th regular season on Tuesday, December 22. The regular season will consist of a 72-game schedule, which is a change from the traditional 82-games. Additionally, a new postseason format in the form of a Play-In Tournament will determine what teams will fill the bottom seventh and eighth playoff seeds in each conference.

The 2020-21 regular season schedule will be segmented into two parts. That said, the first half of the season will be released around the start of training camp, which should approach in the coming weeks as preseason play begins December 11. The second half of the season will be released during the "latter part of the first half portion of the schedule," according to the NBA's official website. Any games that are potentially postponed during the first half are expected to be added to the second half schedule.

Like typical regular seasons, the All-Star break will be the divide between the first half and the second half of the regular season. However, due to the late start this year, the All-Star break is pushed back a few weeks and is scheduled to take place March 5th through the 10th.

Back on November 17, the NBA Board of Governors unanimously approved to implement a postseason Play-In Tournament for the upcoming 2020-21 season. The proposal is on a one-time basis for this season. The tournament will take place May 18 through the 21, shortly after the regular season and before the first round of the playoffs start. Teams with the seventh-highest through the tenth-highest winning percentage in each conference will be included in the new format. Teams that are the seventh-highest and eighth-highest in winning percentage will have two chances to win one game, earning them a playoff spot, while the ninth-highest and tenth-highest in winning percentages will have to win two consecutive games to earn a spot in the playoffs.

Following the Play-In Tournament, the NBA Playoffs will start up May 22 and extend all the way into July 22.



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