

SPORTS

CSP Men's and Women's Basketball Season Preview

BY RORY RUOTSINOJA

THE GOLDEN BEAR Men's basketball team poses a plethora of great opportunities this season, and have already shown glimpses of how good they can be in their season opener against South Dakota State University, an NCAA Division I team that made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament in 2021. Interviewee James Jacobs (A freshman guard) feels that although the game didn't go their way, the Golden Bears have a lot of potential this season. Jacobs is thrilled for the season— he can't wait to travel and play with the team and to grow as a basketball player. Jacobs also commented on some goals and expectations that the Men's basketball team has for the season. The team hopes to open the season with two wins, and beyond that, they are looking to have a winning season. Jacobs believes that they will be capable of this through utilizing their strengths this season. He states that they "move the ball well, play well in transition, and have a lot of shooters." With these threats, Jacobs expects for all of the conference games to be close. Jacobs is most excited to play against Northern Michigan University and the University of Minnesota-Duluth, for he has past teammates that play on those teams. Mens basketball is on the road, traveling down to the University of Tulsa, for their second match-up on November 11th. They're hoping to bounce back after a loss against South Dakota State University. When asked about the game against Tulsa, Jacobs said, "I think we match up well, and we're confident that we can come out with a win."

In 2021, the Golden Bears men's basketball team finished 3-25 overall, and 2-19 in the conference. They hope to build on that this upcoming season, and plan to be more effective as a team. Players Antwan

Kimmons and Marcus Skeet are key players for the Golden Bears, and are two players to keep an eye out for this season. Antwan Kimmons is new to the roster; he is a Division I transfer from the University of Northern Iowa. He is a 6'0 senior guard, and can be a driving force in the Golden Bears success this year.

The women's basketball team only hopes to build on their success from the 2021-2022 season. In 2021, the Golden Bears finished 19-8 overall, and 14-7 in the conference, which put them at a second place overall finish in the NSIC. They have played two exhibition games thus far, and both have been exceptional performances from the Golden Bears. The Golden Bears beat St. Kate's, an NCAA Division III team, 78-51. The Bears also took on the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire, another NCAA Division III program. The Bears lost 70-72 on a buzzer beater, but had a strong performance nonetheless

Interviewees Lauren Wilson, a freshman forward, and Ella Campbell, a freshman guard, both exhibited great excitement for the season. Individually, they are eager to play and travel with the team, as well as grow as players. "This season, I really hope to get stronger at boxing out," states Campbell. Wilson said the team has great depth this year, and is full of dangerous shooters. Because of this, Wilson

believes that the team can produce a top 4 finish in the conference, as well as make it to both the NSIC tournament and the NCAA tournament. Both Campbell and Wilson are excited to play the University of

Minnesota-Duluth and Minnesota State University, Mankato. Mankato is a long standing rival for the Golden Bears, and is expected to be a well-played game. The University of Minnesota-Duluth features the NSIC North Division Preseason Player of the Year, Brooke Olsen. Because of this, the match-up between the Bulldogs and the Bears is highly anticipated, in which it is guaranteed to be a great game of basketball.

After the second exhibition game of the year, the Golden Bears currently stand in the top four of the South Division of the NSIC. The team this year features only 8 returning players; the incoming freshman class is six deep, and there were three transfers. Ally Gietzel, a 6'0 junior guard, and Lindsey Becher, a 6'1 sophomore

center, are two players to watch this season. Gietzel is a transfer from the University of Illinois-Springfield, and before that, she played at Illinois State University.



Photo Credit: Megan Connelly

CSP Women's Soccer 2022 Season Comes to an End

BY CAROLINE LAUIGER

THE FALL 2022 season for Concordia St. Paul's soccer team had their ups and downs throughout the three-month long period of competition. They ended with a record of 7-7-5 (7-4-4 NSIC). The team played three non-conference games, playing Rockhurst University, Mckendree University, and University of Wisconsin-Parkside. The Golden Bears

0-2-1 after non conference games, were hopeful of a good season ahead. During the regular season, the team traveled far. Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Crookston, Minnesota; and Fayette, Iowa were some of the destinations where the Bears had to test their ability to compete away from home. As the Golden Bears worked their way through the season, the team rallied up 25 goals, and 4 shutouts. Senior Katie Anderson had the most goals on the team with 7, and senior Nikki Anderson followed with 6. Senior Ashlyn Waldon picked up 52 saves on the season.

Their season came to an end on Halloween this year, falling to the #1 NSIC and #13 nationally ranked Minnesota State Mankato Mavericks 4-1 in the quarterfinal match of the NSIC tournament. After being down 4-0, Senior Jessica Timpane put the Golden Bears on the board in the 88th minute, off of an assist from freshman Nicole Moore. The Golden Bears played the Mavericks just 4 days previous to wrap up regular season play, but ended up falling to the Mavericks 1-0

during that match. The team ranged from 2nd to 9th in the NSIC conference rankings, but ended up finishing 8th in the conference by the end of the season.

The team is graduating 7 seniors this year- Harper Smoot, Ashlyn Waldon, Jessica Timpane, Nikki Anderson, Libby Morrice-Bartlette, Mackenzie Leibiger, and Tori Miller. After talking to senior Harper Smoot about the season, she stated that "the best part of the season was beating Bemidji and getting the pig. The excitement on the bus ride home was awesome and something I will never forget." When the Golden Bears and the Bemidji State Beavers play each other every year, they battle for "Priam the Pig," which is a small statue resembling the rivalry between the two teams. CSP won the game 1-0, with a late goal by Katie Anderson.

The CSP Soccer team is looking forward to their spring offseason, and the upcoming 2023 fall season, where they will work towards playing in the NSIC conference championship as they did in 2019.



Photo Credit: Brandon Dugan