

SPORTS

Minnesota Wild Season Update

BY RORY RUOTSINOJA

THE MINNESOTA WILD have had a decent start to the season, but still have plenty of room for improvement. They currently sit with a record of 8-8-2, which places them at sixth in the NHL Central Division. In October, they had exciting victories over the Chicago Blackhawks, the Dallas Stars, and the St. Louis Blues. However, they fell short to the Boston Bruins, the Colorado Avalanche, and the Detroit Red Wings. The Wild had a week featuring two victories against the Montreal Canadiens (whom they played on November 1st) and the Seattle Kraken (whom they played on November 3rd). They walked away with a 4-1 win against the Canadiens and a 4-0 win against the Kraken. They failed to keep the momentum going in the following week, however. They fell short to Los Angeles on Monday, November 7th, losing 0-1 with a third period goal from the Kings. The Wild then played another contentious game just two days later, in which they faced the Anaheim Ducks. They defeated

the Ducks 4-1, despite the Ducks taking the early lead. The Wild retaliated in the second period with a goal from Kirill Kaprizov late in the second period. They then scored again early in the third period with a goal from Matt Dumba to put them ahead. They sealed the deal with a goal from Kirill Kaprizov, assisted by Zuccarello, just two minutes later, putting them at 3-1. Joseph Cramarossa (assisted by Tyson Jost) scored the final goal of the game, making the score 4-1.

Unsurprisingly, Kirill Kaprizov currently leads the Wild in goals, with 10 tallied for the season. He had 10 assists, as well, which puts him at 20 points. Kaprizov is coming off a huge season last year, in which he also led the team in goals and assists. He had 47 goals for the Wild and 61 assists, with a total of 108 points for the season. Behind Kaprizov in goals is Mats Zuccarello. He currently has 6 goals for the Wild and 11 assists, which puts him at 17 points. He seems to be filling the gap left by Kevin Fiala effectively. Fiala

was second in the points for the Wild last year with 33 goals and 52 assists (85 points in total). All in all, the Wild have the potential for a victorious season, with Kaprizov returning and Zuccarello filling Fiala's shoes.

The month of December will be an exhilarating one for Wild fans. There are a plethora of games/rematches that will pose great challenges and potential success for Minnesota. On December 2nd, the Wild play the Ducks once again; which was a well-contended game the first time around. They also face the Blackhawks at home. The Blackhawks are currently ranked fourth in the conference, despite falling to the Wild early on in the season. On the 14th, the Wild will play the Redwings at home. The Wild lost just 1-2 to the Redwings in October, and have potential to walk away with a victory in a rematch. On the 27th, the Wild play the Jets. The Jets currently stand first in the Central Division, but nonetheless, it will be an even game.



CSP Esports Update

BY RICHARD MAHLE

Photo Credit: Lola Lallas

CSP Esports is one of the most successful programs we have here at Concordia. Under the direction of Head Coach Tyler Pauly, the program has been growing continuously since he took over the program last year in 2021. The program has grown to over 40 people this year, which is the largest the program has been since it began in 2019.

This month's team spotlights are the Valorant Blue and Gold teams, Rocket League, and Super Smash Brothers.

It has been an impressive season for CSP's Blue and Gold Valorant teams. They competed in the NECC, National Esports Collegiate Conference. Valorant Blue ended their regular season with an 8-0 undefeated record, leading them to take the 1st place seed. Valorant Gold ended with a 7-1 record in a tie for 1st place. Their hard work and dedication to the game has allowed them to succeed. It is extremely impressive to see since the team only started last year when the game

launched. Playoffs for Valorant kick-off on November 14th against Bradley University for Valorant Gold and Valorant Blue plays the same day against Houston University.

CSP Rocket League is one of the original teams in the program from 2019. Nathan Julius is the captain for the team, and when asked about this current semester for the team, he responded, "This semester for Rocket League was us trying to figure out exactly what kind of play style and structure we want to have for next semester. It was our first semester with this roster, so the wins we have gotten are just a bonus for this season. We know that next semester we can compete on a national level with what we have learned from our games this season." This is a very strong mentality for the success of the team, and their coherence is getting stronger and stronger week by week.

The CSP Super Smash Brothers Ultimate team is run by co-captains Joseph Gonzalez and Pacey Hall. Gonzalez and Hall are an impressive duo for their team as they provide effective insight and instruction on their team. Hall is notorious for being considered the GOAT, and together they are amazing teachers of their respective game.

When asked about how he has felt as a captain of the team during this competition year and the growth of the program, Gonzalez stated, "I felt like the growth of team has been amazing from last year being five people to this year being eight is showing the growth in the Esports program here at CSP. We have had a lot more people to connect with and more potential as a team which I love. Being a captain shows how much love I have to be a leader and support others to do their best which makes me do my best when others around me are doing well inside and outside of the game."

Captain Hall exclaims something he wanted to highlight about the Super Smash team by stating "I think it's the growth. The growth is the biggest thing. We started last year with four players, while ending with six. This year we have eight players which allows for two teams, even though we lost two players from last year. That shows how much we grew. We started with five this year, then we had the other three join quickly after the Esports open arena event." Together these two pave the way for success for their team, and there are exciting things to expect from them in the future.

Check out [Twitch.tv/cspbears](https://www.twitch.tv/cspbears) to watch games as they happen live or rewatch older games that are archived. Go to the CSP Esports instagram to see updated scores to games for all the various teams in the program. Finally, if you are interested in joining the program please email Pauly@csp.edu for information about teams, the try out process, and more.