

In his position, Cardona has hired people like Way and Smith among many other duties. When asked about his experience at Concordia, Cardona had high praise for the professors he had over the years, especially Dr. Lana Huberty, saying, "She has always given me great feedback and wisdom." Cardona's biggest piece of advice for current Concordia students, especially those in the sports management program, was to be open and willing to do almost anything and to always be prepared. He said, "You just have to always be ready because if you're not, someone else will be." Cardona also spoke on the importance of asking questions as he noted, "You should ask questions and take advice when it is being offered. The world is too dangerous and too scary to think that you'll be able to do everything on your own."

The hard work and dedication of these three Concordia graduates and many others at the local organizing committee will all come to fruition over the coming weeks and months as the Final Four inches closer. †

Women's Basketball Takes Aim at a Postseason Run

BY BEN DIERS

AS THE 2018-19 REGULAR SEASON nears its end, the Golden Bear women's basketball team is looking to make a run into the NSIC Tournament. So far this season, the Golden Bears have posted an impressive 17-6 record that currently has them sitting in first place in the NSIC South.

The Golden Bears' record is especially impressive when you consider the 13-18 record the team posted last season. The Golden Bears have improved their play in many areas of the game this season, but their performances at home have been nothing short of dominant, posting a home record of 11-1 thus far. Their lone home loss came in overtime against Minnesota State Moorhead on February 2nd.

The Golden Bears' stellar record this season comes mostly as a result of their dominance at home, as the team has posted a more modest record of 5-4 on the road. With two home games and two road games left on the schedule, the team has a shot to end the regular season on a solid winning streak and head into the NSIC Tournament on a high note.

Another strength of the Golden Bears this season has been their resilience after a loss. The team has only lost back to back games once this season, with the losses coming on the road against Minnesota State Mankato and Sioux Falls in early December. Other than that, the Golden Bears' season has consisted of solid winning streaks with only a few losses sprinkled in. The team's longest winning streak of the season is six games, a streak that spanned mostly in the month of January.

There have been many standout performers for the Golden Bears this season, but seniors Lindsay Dorr and Anna Schmitt have been especially impressive, consistently leading the team in points. At the time of this writing, Dorr leads the team in points with 386 on a .508 field goal percentage while Schmitt is close behind with 356 points on a .418 field goal percentage.

As the regular season winds down and the NSIC Tournament draws nearer, the Golden Bears will be looking to string together some wins and make some noise in the postseason. Last season, despite having a somewhat disappointing record, the team was able to make a run all the way to the semifinals of the tournament. This year, the team will no doubt be trying to replicate the tournament success they found last year as they attempt to take it one game further and take home the championship. The Bears have proven themselves to be among conferences elite teams, so be sure to watch out as they try to defend their elite status and make a run in the postseason. †



Minnesota Wild Season Update

BY ZACK MOELLER

THE MINNESOTA Wild are just past their All-Star break, meaning they have about one-third of their regular season left to go. The team has been stingy all season long with many of their games being decided by one or two goals. While the team doesn't come close to leading the NHL in any statistical categories, they have played consistently in all areas and have used grit to pick up points in close situations. Just out of the break, the Wild find themselves in the middle of playoff contention. The team is currently fourth in the Central Division of the Western Conference, good enough for the first wild card spot in a tightly packed middle of the Western Conference.

The offensive attack is being led by Zach Parise so far this season as he leads the team with 21 goals and 46 overall points. Mikael Granlund has also been an anchor for the offense adding 44 points of his own with 32 of those coming by way of assist.

The defense this season has been led by the duo of Ryan Suter and Jared Spurgeon who have had to pick up their play as Matt Dumba, another main defensive player for the team, has been nursing an injury over the last month. Devan Dubnyk has once again been the best performing goalie for the team starting 42 games thus far and posting a 20-17-4 record with a 0.913 save percentage. The team's backup goalie Alex Stalock has seen double digit starts this season as well, posting a 6-5-1 record with a 0.892 save percentage.

Unfortunately, the team will be without veteran captain Mikko Koivu for the rest of the season after the center suffered a season ending knee injury just a few games after the All-Star break. Koivu had led the team in faceoff wins and added 29 points to the team's cause before suffering the injury. Koivu's veteran leadership on the ice would have been extremely helpful as the team looks to finish the season with a playoff push. "I'm feeling more for Mikko," said head coach Bruce Boudreau. "I know this is upsetting to him, but I also know that he's such a competitor and he will come back, and he will be ready for next year. Somebody's going to have to step up and say, 'ok, I'm the faceoff guy now here, and I'm going to be that guy. You're going to see the character of your team and your group, in how they adjust to this.'" It's going to take an increased effort from everybody to hold the playoff position the team is in now. Hard work and consistent play could even see them getting one of the top three spots in the division. The team's regular season ends on the 6th of April against the Dallas Stars, whom the Wild are only currently three points behind for the third division playoff spot. †



Photography provided by The Minnesota Wild
Members of the Minnesota Wild celebrate after a goal at Xcel Energy Center