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After a Drive for Five: What's Next?

Lady Bears Volleyball Lives up to High Expectations

By Elliot Powell

After five Division II national volleyball championships in a row, what could possibly be next? What more is there to prove? Six in a row is the ultimate goal, but is anything less than a national championship a disappointment? Unfortunately, many would probably say it would be a disappointment. While there is full confidence in the ability of this team to win a sixth national championship, it should not be considered a failure were it not to happen. The expectations this team faces tend to be overwhelming at times. No other team has a bigger target on their back at the Division II level. These girls are known nationally and will always get their opponents' best effort because of the name on the front of their uniform.

Five national championships at any level of any sport puts a team in a class of their own. The fact the Concordia volleyball team was able to win those five championships consecutively is pretty much unthinkable. It will most

likely never happen again in our lifetime. As usual, the expectations of the 2012-13 season are extremely high. But the loss of some key players from last year means there are some important holes to be filled. With that being said, it leaves some question as to whether they can make it to that coveted 6th straight national championship.

Senior volleyball player, Michelle Graham, is upfront when discussing the upcoming season and answering some of those questions of uncertainty. "Last year, we had two of the best serve receivers and one of the best outside hitters of all time at Concordia," Graham explained. "Both of them had a great leadership quality that is tough to fill. Their relaxed attitude on the court is something that excelled our team to greatness." Graham agreed there are some big shoes to fill but many of the girls have been stepping up and taking the challenge in stride.

Losing is not the norm for Concordia's volleyball program, so an early season loss in Denver hit them hard. "The loss in Colorado was a big wake up call for ...

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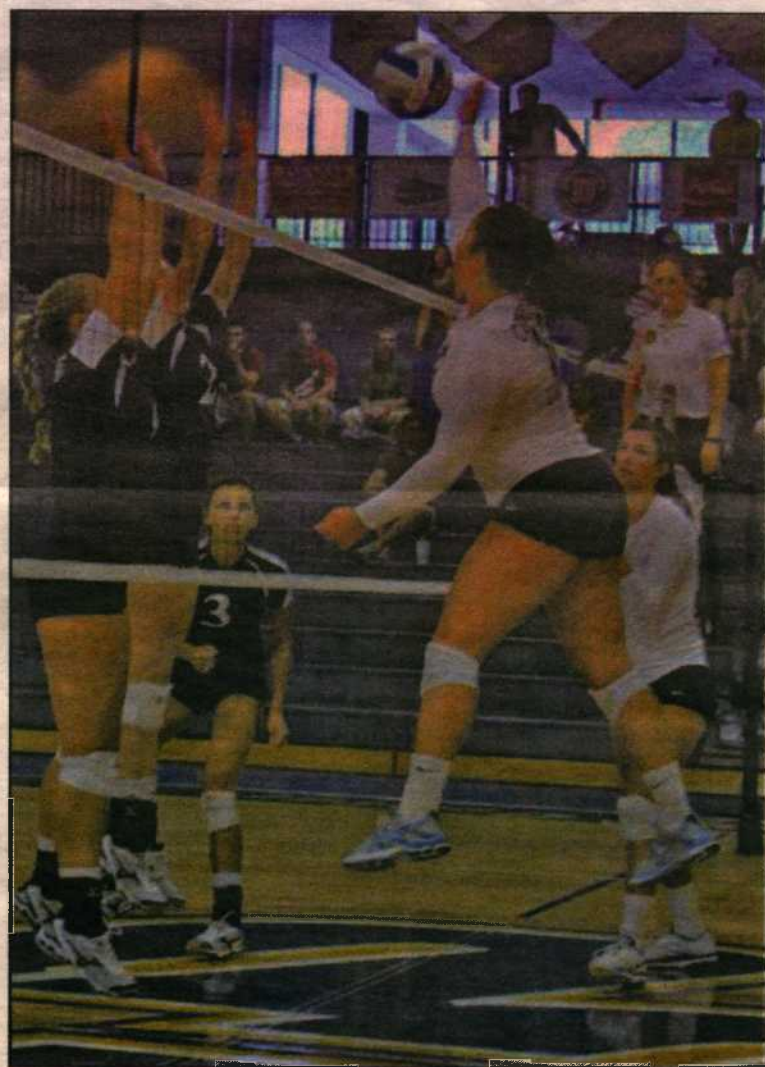


Photo by Concordia University

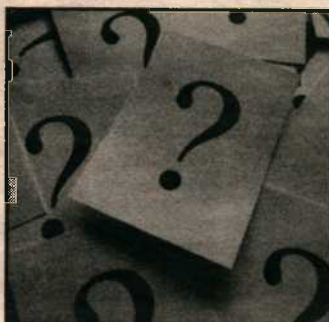
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