

SPORTS

A welcomed newcomer and recent transfer is sophomore Mason Fiddle, who competed in his first event as a Golden Bear. After his transfer from the University of Minnesota, his team debut was one to be noticed, as he posted a score of 77 (+5) where he placed fourth overall in the tournament. Fiddle was tied for the tournament lead in par-three scoring by shooting even on those holes while also being tied 2nd overall for birdies shot (3). Fiddle is a left handed golfer who is native of White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Gavin Jocelyn posted the next top score for the Golden bears. The junior shot a score of 81 (+9) to finish 10th. Freshman Nick Navarro was close behind with a score of 82 (+10) to tie for 11th while Thomas Huettl tied for 14th overall with a score of 83 (+12). Seniors Brian Peterson (85, +13) and Tyler Dunn (87, +15) rounded out CSP's golfers involved in the spring season opener. †



Golden Bear Lacrosse Begins Year Three

BY ZACK MOELLER

THE CONCORDIA-ST. PAUL WOMEN'S LACROSSE team begins their third season as part of the NCAA DII program as well as their second season as part of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference (GLC). The Golden Bears placed fourth out of nine in the GLIAC preseason coaches' poll. The team placed fifth in the conference last season and will look to better that position as the still new team is one more year experienced.

The team is led this season by first year head coach Heather Coppola who was the team's top assistant coach and offensive coordinator last season. The team also boasts ten players returning for their third year of play with the team. Good comradery on the team should prove beneficial as the team heads into GLIAC play in the later portion of the season. Concordia is led by its three returning All-GLIAC Second Team selections, juniors Katie Lottsfeldt in the goal, Maddie Hentges on attack, and Sara Stickler on defense.

The Golden Bears began their season with five non-conference games, including a tough matchup against the fourth ranked team in the nation, Lindenwood. The team went 3-2 in those games, including dropping a heartbreaker to CSU-Pueblo 10-11 in which the team almost came back from a 5-2 halftime deficit. The team has played two GLIAC games so far this season, splitting the two. This includes a hard fought 12-9 victory over Davenport, who Concordia will more than likely be jockeying for position with in the standings for the remainder of the season. Alina Boyce scored 6 goals for the Bears in that game tied for second most in program history for a single game.

The offensive attack so far this season has been led by the duo of Hentges and Boyce with 14 and 15 goals scored respectively. The two are also leading the team overall in points with Hentges at 20 and Boyce at 19. On the defensive side of things, it's really been a team effort with seven Golden Bears causing five or more forced turnovers. Lottsfeldt has been the team's number one goalie so far this season with 44 saves on the season so far and a .454 save percentage.

The team has nine more conference games this season, ending their



Photography provided by Mary-Clare Couillard

conference season with three huge games against twelfth ranked Indianapolis, twentieth ranked Grand Valley State, and a rematch with Davenport that could have a lot riding on it. The GLIAC season tournament is at the end of April into May followed by the NCAA Midwest tournament and National Tournament, should the team continue to win at the end of their season. †

Minnesota Wild Make Late Season Push Towards Playoffs

BY: ANDREW WYLIE

THE MINNESOTA WILD are at the tail end of their season and fighting for a spot in the Western Conference playoffs. In a year that has seen many ups and downs, the Wild are up against the Colorado Avalanche and the Phoenix Coyotes for the last wild card spot with nine games left to go. If the Wild succeed in making it to the playoffs, they will have earned it, as nearly all the remaining games on the schedule are against teams that are already qualified for the playoffs.

Earlier this season, the team suffered serious injuries to two of their core players, captain Mikko Koivu and star defenseman Matt Dumba. Koivu tore his ACL in February and is out for the season. Dumba was injured in January and may be able to come back at some point to aid the Wild if they can reach the playoffs.

The Wild were further disrupted last month by the departures of longtime players Mikael Granlund and Charlie Coyle, who were traded for Kevin Fiala and Ryan Donato respectively. These trades were perceived by some as General Manager Paul Fenton waiving the white flag after the Wild had lost eight out of nine games.

The Wild responded with an impressive five-game winning streak. Donato has shown himself to be a capable player alongside stars Zach Parise and Eric Staal, both of whom have played well. This has kept their playoff potential alive as the teams behind them in the standings have struggled. But, continuing the season's long trend of inconsistency, the Wild have since dropped five of their last seven contests.

If the Wild can make the playoffs, it will be interesting to see what they can do. If goaltender Devan Dubnyk can get hot and if his Wild teammates can play up to their potential, anything can happen.

The Wild have had impressive wins this year, such as when they dominated the league leading Tampa Bay Lightning with a 3-0 shutout. They have also been shut out twice by bottom dwellers Anaheim Ducks. They have shown that they can beat anyone when they play together, and they can lose to the worst teams in the league when they do not.

The Wild have made the playoffs every season since 2013. With all that they have been through this season, this would be a very impressive accomplishment if they can pull together and make it seven seasons in a row. †