LCMS Foundation Calls Ries as President

by Jonika L. Stowe

Following extensive involvement in the Concordia University system, Reverend Tom Ries is leaving the university after accepting the position of President at the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation. Ries is sad about leaving Concordia but very excited about his new position with the church.

After receiving a degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1980, Ries served as assistant pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Francis, MN. After a year there, Ries came to Concordia University and served as the assistant to the president from 1983-1985. Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN called him in 1986, and he served as pastor there until 1994, according to a press release from The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He returned to CSP in 1999.

Among the accomplishments which mean the most to Ries personally during his time at Concordia, was the organization of the BEAR Center. "Working on the BEAR Center concept brought me into contact with a wide range of offices which work on student services. These offices included Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, Student Accounts, and Advising. The main concept that we have developed to help students with their Business, Enrollment, Advising, and Registration needs has been effective and is much envied by many of our sister colleges and universities," Ries said.

Ries placed a high emphasis on teamwork in each of his accomplishments, various other objectives, which he included "operating the University with a balanced budget, successfully launching the BEAR Center, making a number of very important capital improvements to the campus, constructing the Library Technology Center, acquiring the Water Utilities property, and refinancing the university's long-term debt with very low interest rates." "I have enjoyed working with the entire faculty, staff, especially the Directors of the campus, and the positive environment of the campus," he added.

"I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to serve as Concordia's Vice President for Finance and Operations, and equally pleased to leave the job in very capable hands." The Concordia campus was notified of Ries's leaving on February 25. On April 1, former Controller Mike L'Engle will be returning to Concordia to assume the position of Chief Financial Officer. Ries's final words were, "I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to serve as Concordia's President and Vice President for Finance and Operations, and equally pleased to leave the job in very capable hands."
"The presentation built up to the ending of Henry Adams’ education, which was his discovery of the universe and the spiritual forces behind the universe," Heginbotham said.

Heginbotham quoted a famous line of his that some educators found important: "A teacher affects eternity. Furthermore, a strong tenet of Adams’ education was to keep everything you do, from here, from our whole education," Heginbotham said.

Heginbotham’s presentation made it clear that her faith is important in her life. “She has a real active sense of Christian faith and how that permeates everything she does,” Stohlman said.

Throughout the lecture, elements in Adams’ education were highlighted, from his discovery of color to his questioning of mortality to the theme of this and i)6itt6or and i)6itt6or.

The early years of Heginbotham’s eventful life were in La Jolla, CA where she first heard the Word in a Presbyterian church, then her family moved to Washington, D.C., where her father was a minister and Chaplain to the U.S. Senate. After serving in the Army during WWII. After graduating in Ohio, she married a Foreign Service Officer and travel and teaching experiences included Liberia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and a return to Washington, D.C. She earned her M.A. in 1971 and Doctorate in 1992 from the University of Maryland, then came to Minnesota in 1994 “not knowing a soul.”

“I got the chance to study in spite of being an older candidate, not Luther, a woman, and not Minnesota. I feel so blessed to be in an environment with loving, funny, supportive, and smart colleagues, and nice students,” Heginbotham said.

“As I looked through a selection from her area of expertise: the work of Emily Dickinson, she first heard the Word in a Presbyterian church. It was his discovery of the universe and the spiritual forces behind the universe,” Heginbotham said.

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Metro Bus Strike Strands Students and Staff

Metro Transit Local 1005 and the Metro Council that brought about the strike have had a major impact on Twin Cities residents who have come to rely on mass transit. A March 2 press release on the Metro Transit website described the main issue behind the strike as "the continuing pricing for health benefits. Metro Transit's health care costs increased 19 percent this year and will rise another 24 percent next year. No revenue source from taxpayers or customers can possibly grow at that rate."

The strike has left approximately 75,000 regular bus riders without transportation, according to a March 23 "Star Tribune" article. Reid Pasternack, library administrative assistant. At first, when it was a matter of survival, I was frustrated with drivers because that's an issue across the country," Foster said. "Then it turned into something more than health benefits and I find I'm supporting them."

For Foster, who chooses not to own a car because she dislikes driving, getting from her home in Minneapolis to work in St. Paul took some planning. "I don't think people understand how important mass transit is, make the governor ride the bus for a week, then he would understand," Foster said.

Politicians Hit Minnesota; Vie for State’s Votes

Minnesota is a crucial state in the primary race. Some politicians have a better chance of winning in Minnesota than in other states. Among the candidates, Minnesota is one of the last to hold its primary, and the state's early results could shape the race for the White House.

Senators John Kerry and Senator Edwards, but in the end Kerry won, sealing his ultimately unrivalled candidate for the nomination. In a March 20 "Star Tribune" article, Union President Ron Lloyd said "I would like to go there and settle it and put the buses back on the street as quick as possible." He added, "my people are doing great. We are out here on the picket lines as long as it takes."

Such stalls mean former passengers like Deborah Norsworthy, a 54-year-old history professor, cannot get back into the routine of riding the bus to work and leisure activities. Norsworthy and her husband are Upton residents who own one car, so she did have the option of getting a ride from her husband once the strike began. She said the change is impacting her business partner and her lifestyle in general.

"It just means I'm being driven around a lot," Norsworthy said. "I'm offering minimal things now."

Norsworthy commented on the diversity in Metro Transit passengers, and the difficulties in transportation in which many now find themselves. "There were many different ethnic groups represented, there were senior citizens, and disabled passengers, sometimes in electric wheelchairs. They can't do much, but they can get on the bus," Norsworthy said.

Students in the Twin Cities are being impacted greatly by the strike. The University of Minnesota's website assured its 14,000 U-Pass holders that their accounts would be credited for funds lost, urged them to carpool, and emphasized that campus connector buses were running. Norsworthy pointed out that there are some who really do not have any other options these days, and that certain groups are being disdained in the lack of effort to resolve the issue. "A civilized city has to recognize multiple means of transportation," Norsworthy said. "I feel there is an element of racism involved and people don't see themselves as responsible to serve those populations."

Despite the strike, which lasted for only 21 days in 1995, the end of this dispute may not be coming soon. A Feb. 29 issue of the "Star Tribune" said that before the strike began, Governor Tim Pawlenty had no plans to get involved in bus negotiations, "believing that would be inappropriate and that the Met Council will get no more money from the state." Since that time, he has become involved, offering $100,000 in grants to reimburse social service agencies that help stranded bus riders, as well as redirecting the approximately $200,000 a day the transit is saving each weekday the buses aren't running to expand dial-a-ride services. The Met Council Mobility that provide rides for the elderly and disabled, the "Star Tribune" reported on March 18. Such efforts have not been well received by all.

"I don't think people understand how important mass transit is," Foster said. "Make the governor ride the bus for a week, then he would understand."

Frustration stems from larger issues surrounding mass transportation and the diversity it entails. "A lot of times people insulate themselves with people who are like them," Foster said. "I think people are sometimes afraid of the diversity. As diverse as the Twin Cities populations, is people live in a very insular way and some don't even know how interesting and human people are."

Foster was able to find some good in the situation, which has led her to walk to her job at Borders in downtown Minneapolis. However, she is not willing to make major changes in her life because of this inconvenience.

"I'm trying to be in shape," Foster said. "I will not buy a car; I can do this; I just don't want one. There are better things to spend money on, more important things. I'm buying a bike."

Other results of the strike are decreased traffic and delayed opening of the first phase of the $1.5 billion Hiawatha light rail line, which was scheduled for April 3. Until an agreement is reached between the Union and Met Council, car owners are enjoying smoother commutes on bus-less roads, while students are frustrated with a lack of options.

"It's not helping anyone. It affects hundreds of people every day. I just want it over," Foster said.

Relay for Life: A Night to Remember

by Justin Kortuem

Many Concordia University students and faculty have been touched recently by cancer. So, with the help of many people the Relay for Life was organized in the Gangelhoff Center March 20-21. The Relay for Life is much more than just an overnight fundraiser, it's a cancer awareness party. It is a celebration for those who have had cancer and hope for a cure.

The Relay was started in 1985 when Dr. Gersly Kiltz walked and ran around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. His vision was to correlate the struggles of an overnight event with the struggles of a cancer patient. The sunset to sunrise event represents the life of a cancer patient from diagnosis to that wonderful day when the doctor says the tumors are shrinking and the patient is in remission.

Last year alone the Relay for Life was accountable for bringing in $300 million fromwalks held across the United States. The money raised goes to cancer research, education, and advocacy. With continuing research efforts, cancer patients' lives and odds have been getting better and better.

The participants formed relay teams starting about a month prior to the event. Teams had at least one person walking throughout the night. "At first, when it was a matter of survival, I was frustrated with drivers because that's an issue across the country," Foster said. "Then it turned into something more than health benefits and I find I'm supporting them."

The first Relay on campus was a huge success with promise for the future. Before the event started, participants had already raised more than $5000. Even more money was brought in that night from participants and spectators attending the event.

The SWORD — 3
**Passion of the Christ** Promotes Debate, Conversation

**by President Bob Hoist**

“The Passion of Christ,” produced by Mel Gibson, vividly presents the suffering of Jesus in the context of the brutality of human beings. Many lessons can be learned from this film. First, on the political level, the reality of the brutal ancient Roman system of fear and torture must horrify rational viewers. Yet, can we be less horrified at our contemporary world where a billion people live in fear and torture of starvation or near-starvation? Around our world today, evil people and wicked governments murder or cause millions to become helpless refugees. Must we not feel anger at the greatest sin of them all, our own nation where thousands of innocent children suffer and die hungry and ruthless? We cannot afford to ignore the ancient Roman system of fear and torture. The movie portrays incredible divine love and calls us to think of the life and death of Jesus. The movie asks the question of every viewer, “What do you think about Jesus?”

**by Thomas Sewing**

I was wary of watching “The Passion of the Christ” because of the hype surrounding it. People in favor of the movie believed that it would be the best outreach tool of all time. Those opposed thought the film would bring anti-Semitic feelings. Despite all this, I decided to see the movie for my own benefit.

When I saw “The Passion of the Christ,” it was everything I had expected and more. Even though I am not a biblical scholar, I saw nothing wrong with the portrayal of Jesus in the film. For those who have not seen it, the movie depicts, in detail, the last 12 hours of the life of Christ and a 12 second resurrection. The viewing experience was much better than I had expected. The movie did not end with the last scene. Gibson’s goal was to portray the agony of divine love. God is willing to suffer for rather than simply to annihilate ugly, evil people. Gibson’s goal was to motivate us to the “enlightened creation.”

**Photo courtesy of Icon Productions**

**www.thepassionofthechrist.com**

Mel Gibson’s "The Passion of the Christ" is in theaters now.

**Strike: Bummer for Riders, Drivers**

**by Pearlie Phillips**

Day in, day out, week in, week out, month after month, and year after year, buses are running and then suddenly, there are no buses. The streets are now quiet; the traffic moves more freely and there are fewer people around. The radio announcer reports there is a bus strike. The Twin Cities area is caught off-guard. The people who depend on the buses ask, What now? The bus system has always been relatively good and the drivers seemed to be competent. Sometimes the drivers would even stop to pick up latecomers. The question now, how has the bus strike affected different classes of people?

First, there are the elderly who need to visit doctors, or pick up things such as medication. Second, the everyday people who are unemployed and the homeless need to get around for basic needs. And then there are the working class people who have chosen to ride the bus instead of using their own vehicle. Fourth, the university students who need people and people who need help.

**by Steven McDonald**

I hope the movie proves a catalyst for renewed faith. I add, “After seeing the movie, read the New Testament to see who God means to a saint named Paul.” I see the movie as a catalyst for renewed faith. Gibson’s goal was to elicit coping? Let’s face it, buses don’t run when there is no strike. What help do we give now? Who needs my love today?

Second, on the theological level, the movie vividly portrays the agony of divine love. God is willing to suffer for rather than simply to annihilate ugly, evil people. Gibson’s goal is to portray the incredible divine love and to call us to trust God’s love in our lives. The movie asks the question of every viewer, “What do you think about Jesus?”

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First, there are the elderly who need to visit doctors, or pick up things such as medication. Second, the everyday people who are unemployed and the homeless need to get around for basic needs. And then there are the working class people who have chosen to ride the bus instead of using their own vehicle. Fourth, the university students who need people and people who need help.

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SPRITUAL

CMS Trip to Louisiana Yields Lessons and Laughter


by Stacy Leseman & Nicole Dinberg

The Concordia Mission Society (CMS) certainly lived up to its name this past semester as a group of students from Concordia University traveled 20 hours in a 15-passenger van to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to serve the Lord. This group consisted of Nicole Dinberg, Stacy Lessman, Abby Dawkins, Stephanie Malzahn, Heidi Durband, Luke Johnson, Luke Schroeder, Aaron Bell and Melanie Vasterling. They were hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church and Baton Rouge Lutheran School. The first thing that the group noticed when they arrived in Baton Rouge was the splendid hospitality of the CSP Alumni: Christiane Zoch, Jeff Clooten, and Brett and Carrie Hartwig. Through the alumni, the Concordia University students were provided with many opportunities to reach out and serve the community of Baton Rouge.

The group led many activities with the church and school. One morning, they helped lead a worship service at a local nursing home. They wrote and conducted a survey of the surrounding area to find out the needs of the community and how the church could be of service to them. Another morning, they visited the classrooms of the junior high students and answered questions concerning college choices. The group thoroughly enjoyed the time serving the church and school.

Throughout the week in Baton Rouge, the group did many service projects in the community. Each day, several of the group members worked in food banks or served meals at local soup kitchens. They also helped sort food and other goods at two local warehouses. During the time in the group, the group members had memorable moments including watching the boys in the group devour three pounds of fried chicken, bucking up for safety and listening to their favorite musical group, ALL4Hymn. During the week, CMS served many projects to many kind people that have touched their hearts and have enjoyed many moments that they will never forget.

The trip was a fun and exciting way to share the gospel with people in another part of the country. It opened the group's eyes to see that spreading the gospel needs to be done in the United States as well as overseas. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19.)

Christ's 'Passion' Put in Lenten Context

by Shironi Straight

A young boy sits in a tree staring at the sky. He looks at each cloud with wonder, noticing each shape and color. He looks for about an hour. Concentrating, he is waiting for something. He shifts position with anticipation. His mother begins to worry why her son is not playing and running around like the rest of the children. She walks outside to the tree and looks up at her young son and says, "My child what is wrong? A child your age should not look so serious.

The boy replied, "Mother, I am waiting." The mother asked, "Waiting for what?"

He answered, "Jesus said he shall come back through the clouds." "Those who have received such faith brought to them by the Holy Spirit as a gift from God look not to themselves, but to Christ, for faith clings to Christ's suffering, death, and rising from the grave." - Shironi Straight

The young boy sits in a tree waiting for his Savior to return for him. Christians today live lives that confess faith in Jesus Christ the Savior of all. As we carry on in the season of Lent, we are waiting for Easter Sunday. The day Christ redeemed us from sin and pronounced us a new creation, in him we are sons and daughters of a living God of grace.

In baptism, we were dead to sin in Christ and arose to life in Christ. We are in Christ and clothed in his righteousness. Sin no longer has reign over the world. For Christ has authority over all things here, below, and above. Those who have received such faith brought to them by the Holy Spirit as a gift from God look not to themselves, but to Christ, for faith clings to Christ's suffering, death, and rising from the grave. Easter Sunday is a day of rejoicing; we have been redeemed in and through Christ. We are new creatures in Christ living each day as way of confessing Jesus the Victor over sin and the giver of life. Amen.

Campus Ministry Advisory Council
Reaches out to Concordia Community

by Ashley Hyatt, Hannah Gunderson, Rebecca Rush, Jessica Brinkley, and Kathryn Schaefer

"Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, responded, "Here am I. Send me!"

And who will go for us?" Isaiah responded, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) Jesus says in John 4:35, "I tell you the truth, anyone who listens to my word and believes in the one who sent me will have eternal life, and shall come to me."

What is happening to proclaim the good news of Christ on the campus of Concordia? One way has been to form a Campus Ministry Advisory Council, in which representatives from several groups on campus meet together. Currently, they are discussing methods of reaching out with the Word of God to the people of Concordia. The groups from campus that are involved in the Advisory Council are: AEX, Concordia Mission Society, Prerta, SEASA, UMOJA, FISH, and a number of other groups. All campus groups are invited and encouraged to be represented in the Advisory Council.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Advisory Council will boldly hold the creeds of the Church in the palm of their hands as they share the Gospel of Christ on the campus of Concordia, proclaiming Christ crucified and calling those of faith to witness to those who do not know Christ as Lord and Savior (1 Corinthians 1:23). Like the theme of The Lutheran Hour, "Bringing Christ to the Nation and the Nation to the Church," the Advisory Council is able to bring Christ to Concordia. While Concordia itself is a Lutheran Christian institution, there are wonderful opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ on this campus. The Council is searching for these opportunities to share Christ.

One opportunity still in progress is small group Bible studies. One goal is to train people to lead Bible studies and to help those leaders remain faithful to the Word of God and not just to "leading." Small group Bible studies will be open to all people interested in starting or joining a small group, continuing one, for those curious about the Bible, or for someone who just wants to老实 leave the quietness to get away from the mountain of homework on their desk. The main goal of the Council is to bring all believers in Christ more opportunity on campus, reaching out to every student.

Questions? Contact Brian Doyle at doyleb@csp.edu

SENIOR VIDEO

Be Remembered for Life!

Drop pictures or video clips of you, friends, activities, laughable moments, blackmail...

Drop pictures and/or video clips in the drop boxes located at any of the following locations:
- the Helpdesk, Campus Ministry Center, Gangelhoff Center,
- Student Union, or at Switchboard

Pictures and video clips will be shown at the Senior Dinner, so be sure to drop yours today!

Questions? Contact Brian Doyle at doyleb@csp.edu
The SWORD

Charley's Aunt: "From Brazil, Where the Nuts Come From!"

Schuler Recruiting New Tomb Raiders

by Bryan Hatch

"Indiana Jones." One bulldozer, one pick-axe, one hoe, one garden trowel, and one paintbrush. Con-

were privileged to dig into history week expedition was truly amaz-

ing. Accompanied by Concordia students Eric Ceremony, Michael Marvosh, Danielle Heffern, and I

dig to history and into the Christian faith through actual

Sure, you've read the stories of old. Moses, Peter, Paul, this Jesus character. How real is it? Far more

real than I knew. We discovered not one, but two human tombs — the remains of two 1500+ year-old Christians. Both bodies were bur-

tied inside an ancient church, called the Northeast Church, on a hill called Hippos in Israel. These tombs were extremely rare finds that only professional archae-

ologists ever get to experience. There we were, some rebellious, rock-n-rollers, American kids, come across the Atlantic to dig for 4 weeks, and we find one of the simplest-most significant finds in early Christian history. There were other burials within other early Christian churches, but never like

we had found. As the Christian church resembles the Old Testament temple, so does the altar area of a Christian church signify the Most Holy Place. All tombs in a Christian church history are in what today would be the altar behind the altar- signify extreme importance and re-

gard for these tombs. Tombs of extreme im-

portance? What could this mean? We are not too sure.

The second tomb has not even been excavated yet. That excavation will occur this fall in the 2004 digging season. Here’s a twist— the first tomb has been identified as a woman. There lies a great opportunity for anyone interested in going to dig in Israel this fall with Concordia University. Swim in the Sea of Galilee ev-

every day. See Jesus’ home town, where Jesus fed the 5,000, and much more. It is all there— all historical. A true privilege. Israel

- Fall 2004.

Contact Dr. Schuler (schuler@csp.edu).

Plunging into Purgatory; Piercings, Tattoos

by Lindsay Hartleben

It was a sunny March afternoon when my roommate and I ventured to Uptown on a mission. After hearing of numerous high school classmates who had good experi-

ence at an unsuspecting tattoo and piercing parlor on Hennepin Avenue South, we needed to check it out for ourselves.

The first step was being brave enough to enter a place with "pur-

gatory" in the title. However, once we ascended the steep stairs past the giant mural of a dragon, we were greeted by a friendly reception-

ist at St. Sabrina’s Parlor in Purgatory, we were at ease. Plush-

ant, heavily pierced employees were happy to guide us through our visit.

Providing identification, filling out forms, and deciding which piercings to receive were next on our agenda. From the waiting area, with its red floor, black couch, painting of a co-

naroial on one purple wall and an extensive service menu, we were led to a room filled with jewelry of all shapes, sizes and functions. Another employee an-

swered all our questions, helped us select jewelry and, after we ad-

mired the pop art pictures in the center aisle of the Northeast Church.

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Hidalgo” Review: Hey, It’s Beats Studying

by Morgan McLaughlin

"Hidalgo" is an epic adventure story about one man’s journey to find himself through the use of a 3,000 mile horse race across the desert.

The lead role in "Hidalgo" is played masterfully by Viggo Mortensen. Although the writers of this film took certain liberties with the story, it is primarily based on the real life and times of Frank T. Hopkins, a famous endurance rider of the Old West.

So what about the horse race? This movie has been marketed as a great horse race movie, but does it live up to the hype? "Hidalgo" is a movie that is centered around an amazing horse pic that almost warrants any of its participate death. But the movie seems to lose track of this focus and ends in a rush off this story fre-

quently, all after the 45 minutes or so it takes for the movie to get to that point.

But even those negatives about "Hidalgo" it does have some amazing locations, a fairly solid cast, an initial trailer that gives the movie a human touch and personality, and some tight scenes that are definitely atmos-

pheric-genres. Overall, with a rating system of up to five stars, this movie gets three and a half.

Hidalgo 3.5 stars; First Dates 3.5 stars; Miracle 3.5 stars; Re-

turn of the King 4.5 stars

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by Adrian Perrymann

Season of Success Brought to Winning Close

Mark Mauer joins Concordia University as head football coach.

The SWORD is the work of the students and faculty at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. We welcome and encourage the feedback from all readers both inside and outside the Concordia community.

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Photography by:
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Published by:
Lille Suburban Newspapers, Inc.
2515 E. 7th Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109
Phone: (651) 641-8771
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Mark Mauer joins Concordia University as head football coach.

by Sean Turay

Concordia University has announced its choice for the new head football coach. Mark Mauer, who Mauer joins the Concordia football family as the ninth head coach in school history, will begin his coaching duties on March 19.

Mauer, who has spent the past three seasons coaching at New Mexico State University, will finish up his obligation of coaching spring ball before taking over at Concordia. While in New Mexico he served as the wide-receivers coach, where the Lobos, a member of the Western Athletic Conference, went 16-18 during his tenure.

Mauer will be returning to his native St. Paul after a seven year absence. Many current players seem anxious to see what he has to bring to the table. Freshman linebacker Ryan Johnson is excited about this change. "I think it's going to be a good thing for the program. For us younger players, it's going to give us a new outlook on what's going on to be like for the next four or five years," Expectations of Coach Mauer are high for Johnson. "I expect him to come in and get this program heading in the right direction," says Johnson. He, along with others, is eager to get this program restarted.

Freshman tight-end Jimmy Kies and sophomore linebacker Allen Turay cannot wait for the opportunity to play under highly-respectable Mauer. "I'm excited to get going. It's been two months of a lot of uncertainty, and I'm looking forward to having this program heading into some kind of direction," says Kies.

Prior to his New Mexico appointment, Mauer served as the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at North Dakota State University from 1996-99, the wide receivers coach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1997-99, the quarterbacks and wide receivers coach at Ball State University from 1994-1995, and began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1982-1983, where he also played college football.

Life for CSP football players has been quite difficult since the departure of Coach Shannon Carrier. Despite all of the uncertainties and confusion, Turay is working on putting all of this behind him. "I'm eager to start focusing once again. I'm eager to see what Coach Mauer has to offer to the program. From what I've heard, he seems like a great coach, as well as a great person," says Turay.

by Adrian Perrymann

Seeded #1 in the region, Concordia hosted the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball North Central Regional Championship Tournament. In the first round of the tournament, held at the Gangelhoff Center, Concordia were able to knock off conference rivals U of M-Duluth who defeated them in the Championship game of the NSIC Tournament. After defeating the Bulldogs 73-54, the Golden Bears faced the very tough South Dakota State Jackrabbits. The defending National Champions, whom Concordia had defeated earlier in the season, ended Concordia's season in a near-close game in the second round of the tournament. The Jackrabbits got off to an early lead and never looked back with a final score of 74-39.

Giving it Another Shot

by Sean Turay

Two years ago, sophomore Kyle Verley of Bloomington Prairie, MN was finishing his last track season at Bloomington Prairie High. Almost a year and a half later, he has decided to lace up his track spikes and give it another shot.

Despite his decision to run track again, Verley has been a part of Concordia football ever since he has been here. He believes that running track will eventually, in some ways, benefit him in football. "I can't really tell if it's helping yet, but I have a feeling that my speed and endurance will be better, I don't think my agility will improve through, since it's more straight-ahead running." One way or the other, Verley is confident that running track will benefit him in football.

Verley decided to run track again because of how much he enjoyed it in high school, but more importantly, he is hoping to get a little extra money out of it. "I liked it in high school, but I'm hoping to get some scholarship money to help pay for college," Verley said.

The decision to run track while already playing football and being full-time student is no easy task, according to Verley. "It's tough running against the morning for football and then going to track practice from 8 to 10 a.m.

Softball Steals 3rd Place

by Adrian Perrymann

Concordia's softball team ended last year's season in third place in the NSIC, and has been picked to finish in third place for two years," Verley said.

So far, the decision to run track again has been a worthwhile experience for Verley. "Whether or not he will continue after this season is up in the air, but all he can say that he gave it one more shot.

Concordia Women's Basketball finished off their regular season as NSIC Champions for the first time in CSP history. They ended the regular season with a record of 25-2 overall and a conference record of 15-1.

The Golden Bears' all-star roster achieved many honors during the season. This season, junior Jennifer Pizzani was named NSIC Player of the week three times, and NSIC Defensive Player of the Week, to the all-NSIC First Team, and to the Dakotan Inc. All-North Central Region Women's Basketball First Team and reached 1000 career points. Junior Kayla Christensen was named the NSIC Player of the Year, and also achieved 1000 career points this season. Christensen was also named to the all-NSIC First Team while Junior Desi Jones was named to the All-Conference Mention Team.

Concordia was also the host for the NSIC Tournament. The Golden Bears' team advanced to the championship game after defeating Minnesota State University Moorhead and Southwest Minnesota State University. The Golden Bears lost a close championship game by one point to U of M-Duluth after a three point shot in the last 18 seconds of the game.

After spring break the Golden Bears made their way to Orlando, Florida. They played ten games against teams from across the country, achieving a record of 8-2. They defeated one team on the trip. They split two matches against Lake Superior State and defeated teams from Missouri, Ohio and New York.

Their home opener is March 30 vs UW-Parkside and begin their conference season April 2, versus Wayne State at Wayne.

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