

INSIDE THE HUDDLE

WITH COACH CURRIER



Last Saturday, we solidified our third win of the year and broke a 13-game losing streak on the road. I am proud that the team overcame many obstacles such as a long trip to Bismarck, ND, U-Mary's homecoming, and the opponents Hall of Fame celebration.

The defense's practice production led to their best performance yet. Despite external forces, our defense dominated and held the Marauders to 150 yards, and our offense controlled the clock 38:18 to 21:42 for a total of 200-plus yards on the ground. We still have work to do to lessen turnovers and cross that goal line more frequently! Our units did a great job of supporting one another to secure the victory.

Contemplating the results from last week, I realized how each game takes on its own personality. The momentum and energy is different every time we step onto the field. Therefore, in the NSIC, you will see upsets and unexplainable margins along the way. This is a sport that requires discipline and focus in order to maintain composure and momentum throughout the game. I believe we are clearly defining the path necessary to fulfill our vision which is to create a positive, winning culture.

This week is Faculty & Staff Appreciation, where each player on the team personally invites one Concordia staff or faculty member to the game to highlight their importance to the student-athlete's overall experience on campus. Each faculty/staff member will be recognized with a certificate and gift at halftime.

DIVERSITY

Having diversity within our classrooms and in our football program makes Concordia University a special place in higher education. We have outstanding leadership at Concordia University, and our Dean of Diversity, Dr. Cheryl Chatman, is one of the best. She is instrumental in offering support to our student-athletes and the student body of Concordia University. She is a tremendous resource for me as she has offered insightful wisdom, partnered with me for the betterment of our students, and helped me navigate through various situations.

Most recently, Dr. Chapman commented that: "As Concordia celebrates its 125th anniversary as an institution of learning, part of its history to be acknowledged is the diverse population it has served since its inception. Beginning as a school that prepared males for ministry, then transitioning to a coed institution, Concordia has now become a leading university that provides

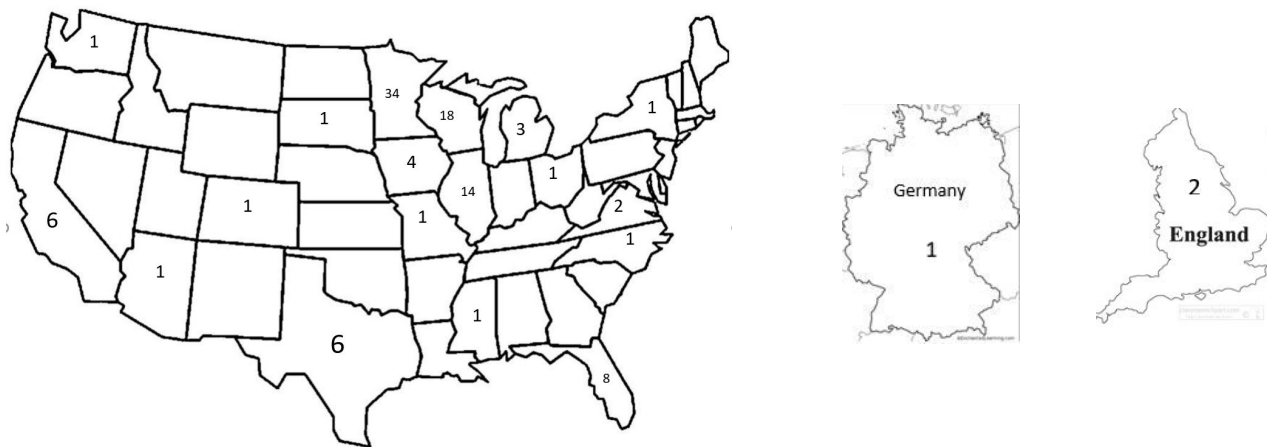


exceptional opportunities for students from all backgrounds, cultures and experiences. In many cases, the increase in the ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities and nationalization of students has more than doubled or tripled over the past few decades. We are enriched by the vast diversity we have among our students who are able to share their perspectives on life in the classroom, on the football field, in the dining hall, and in all of the places they interact within and outside of our campus”.

“Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among his people?”
- Desmond Tutu

CSP FOOTBALL - A PROGRAM THAT EMBRACES DIVERSITY

Diversity is defined as the inclusion of individuals representing more than one national origin, color, religion, socioeconomic stratum, ethnic background and geographical location. The Golden Bear football team is one of the most diverse college football programs in NCAA DII. We have a group of young men from various walks of life. Geographically, we have men that span across the United States and reach as far as England and Germany. *See the geographical representation of the CSP Roster below.*



James McNeer III, CSP & NSIC Hall of Fame quarterback, stated that “The sport that America adores has become the ultimate melting pot in our country, and the game would not be the same without it’s diversity. Being a part of this (Concordia-St Paul) football program has helped me appreciate my parent’s instructions to accept people from all walks of life.”

The football team welcomes everyone and embraces the diversity that it brings to the program. We have young men that have never met their father, were raised solely by their grandparents or mother and those who were fortunate to have both parents throughout their entire life. Additionally, the economic status of their upbringing varies significantly. The life experiences of our student-athletes bring diverse interactions, as they encounter various perspectives and opinions from their teammates, classmates, coaches and faculty. With each interaction, their circle of influence is expanded and enriched. Engaging with a diverse group of individuals sharpens skills, expands knowledge, and deepens conversations.

This will help them navigate many types of relationships long after college football. For a great number of our players, college is the first taste of freedom and an unfiltered view of the world. This perspective only strengthens their innate creativity and builds a foundation for global engagement.

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, & celebrate those differences."
Audre Lorde

PLAYERS SPEAK ABOUT DIVERSITY AT CSP

A few of our student-athletes comment on how they made the transition from their upbringing to a college football team comprised of a tremendous amount of differences.



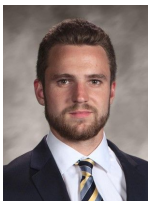
Cris Wasylciw, JR. OLM #78 (Winchester, England and transfer from Trinity Valley CC, TX)

"It's not always easy transferring to a new school, but when I moved to CSP, I felt welcomed right away and felt like I belonged immediately. My teammates don't care where you came from or how you were brought up. We all want the same goal, which is success. Winning is always a goal but growing closer with your brothers no matter their race, religion or sexuality is what it's really about."



Darnell Rolle, JR. RB #28 (Miami, Florida)

"Coming from Miami to Concordia-St. Paul was a huge environmental change for me, being uncomfortable about my surroundings and not knowing a single soul up here. However, my teammates and people I met here welcomed me to Minnesota. No matter where you came from or how you were raised, we all have one thing in common, and that's the love and passion for football! It's a binding force that can be used in a positive way."



Jonas Schenderlein, SR. K #8 (Jena, Germany)

"Coming from Germany to the US was crazy at first, as being so far away from home was hard for me. Through this program, I met people from all across America who are going to be my brothers for life. Football has been the common thread that has brought all together. Because of the common bond, everyone is accepted regardless of where they are from or what race they are. I have learned from our diverse culture that everybody has been raised differently and been through various challenges."



Cole Marmor, JR. DE #95 (Tucson, AZ and transfer from Long Beach City College, CA)

"Many of our players possess their own unique perspective and personality, which is rooted in their upbringing. By learning to empathize with one another, we can broaden our own views. College football has brought me friends not only from different regions of the country, but even the world. Being on a team was originally the only common ground we shared. As our relationships developed, I soon learned that we shared similar interests and outlooks. That is the beauty of team diversity. You can grow up in a completely distinct setting from someone, but still develop the same mindset."



TJ Diallo, JR. DT #7 (Greensboro, NC and transfer from East Los Angeles College, CA)

"Our team comes from small towns in Minnesota to the big cities of California. There are players who have had to struggle to make it to college compared to people who are fortunate to have a stable upbringing. Everyone has a different background and story, but there is no social gap in our locker room. Our brotherhood has gained strength because of the connection we have and the support we give each other. The lack of support one of us may have, can be given by someone on the team to fill that gap. We should all work together to support one another."

I am fortunate to be leading a collegiate football program at one of the most diverse universities in the midwest. I enjoy working with players that have interesting backgrounds, challenges and stories. Seeing our student-athletes form everlasting relationships with one another, regardless of their differences, is a special outcome of the great game we play.

Coach C



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ISAIAH WALKER



Isaiah is working towards his degree in Criminal Justice. He plans to become a police officer and believes this career will allow him to make a difference in the community.

Isaiah is supported by his mother, two brothers and two sisters. His mother Reesa and older brother Alonzo have been influential throughout his life, ultimately contributing to the young man he has become today. He states, “their strength and perseverance through their own battles have inspired me.”

Isaiah has a beautiful girl named Ellie, age 3. Balancing life as a father and the demands of a student athlete has been a struggle at times. However, he wouldn't have it any other way. Isaiah stated that “this is the new norm for my life. It is a part of who I am.”

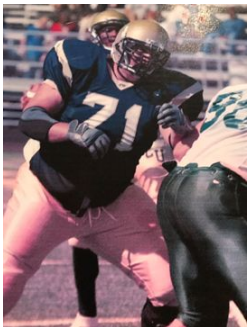
When Isaiah is not playing football he is relaxing, playing video games, or just being present for his family.

Fun Fact about Isaiah: His favorite quote: *“All for one and one for all my brother and my friend what fun we have- the time we share- brothers til’ the end.”*



WHERE IS HE NOW?

NICK SUNDSMO



Former Golden Bear Nick Sundsmo played for CSP from 2001-2003. On the gridiron, Sundsmo was a three year starter and a two time NSIC All-Conference player at offensive guard and was part of one of the best runs of any team in Golden Bear history. Nick’s favorite moment while playing at CSP was winning the NSIC Conference Championship in 2003.

Nick’s time at CSP taught him dedication, teamwork, leadership and time management. These attributes have stuck with him well after his time playing for CSP.

Today, he finds himself teaching these exact same qualities to his sons.

Nick currently works at Lloyds Automotive in St. Paul. Nick has been married to his wife Randi since 2005 and has 2 sons Eli (9) and Aiden (4) who have the exact same love of athletics as their father.



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK – CSP VS. UNIV. OF MARY



OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME
MARCUS GUSTAVESON-JR.
WR #10



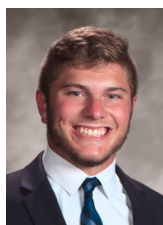
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME
DEZ BASSET -R-FR.
DB #23



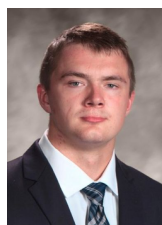
HOG OF THE GAME
RICK KELLY – JR.
OL #70



DEFENSIVE LINE PLAYER OF THE GAME
CHRIS GARRETT-JR.
DLM #52



SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE GAME
DALTON SMERCHEK -SO.
LB #32



DEFENSIVE SCOUT PLAYER OF THE WEEK
JAKE RAJALA- FR.
LB #54



OFFENSIVE SCOUT PLAYER OF THE WEEK
JORDAN BROWN – FR.
WR #34



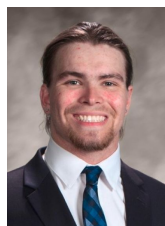
SPECIAL TEAMS SCOUT PLAYER OF THE WEEK
HUNTER THOMPSON– R-FR.
CB #8



LIFTER OF THE WEEK
DAKOTA BIEFIELD- FR.
LB #59

Each week the CSP coaching staff selects Players of the Week. The Players of the Week are selected based on film review, demonstrated excellence in play, their game performance evaluation, and their impact on that particular game. Just as important are the Scout Players of the Week. These young men prepare our game day performers for the upcoming opponent, which is paramount to our team's success. The Hog of the Week and D-Line player of the week are highlighted because of their position's importance to winning football games. The Lifter of the Week is a young man that demonstrates his understanding of the importance of the off-field work necessary for one to be at their very best.

GAME CAPTAINS - CSP VS. U OF M- CROOKSTON



KELLY PIERCE - JR.
DLM # 53



CHRIS GARRETT - SO.
DE #52



RICK KELLY- JR.
OLM #70



MARCUS GUSTAVESON- JR.
WR #10

EXTRA POINTS

RAFFLE TICKET FUNDRAISER

The golden ticket football raffle will run now through November 26th. Each player is being asked to sell 20 tickets. Each ticket is \$10.00 OR 3 for \$25.00 Proceeds from the fundraiser goes towards the costs for the year-end banquet, recognition awards and senior gifts.

2018 GAME SCHEDULE

8-30	7 pm	at	Sioux Falls	L (27-24)	10-13	2 pm	at	U-Mary	W (17-7)
9-8	12pm	vs	Upper Iowa	W (34-7)	10-20	12pm	vs	MN Crookston	
9-15	1pm	at	Minnesota State	L (46-7)	10-27	12pm	vs	Augustana	
9-20	6pm	vs	Wayne State	W (29-7)	11-3	1pm	at	SMSU	
9-29	1pm	at	MN Duluth	L (32-3)	11-10	1pm	at	Winona	
10-6	12pm	vs	Northern State	L (35-28)					

TOUCHDOWN CLUB UPDATE

WEEK 1- 3 TD'S	WEEK 2- 4 TD'S	WEEK 3- 2 TD'S
WEEK 4- 3 TD'S	WEEK 5- 0 TD'S	WEEK 6- 4 TD'S
WEEK 7- 2 TD'S		

