

INSIDE THE HUDDLE

WITH COACH CURRIER



The Golden Bears evened the record to 4-4 this past weekend with a win over The University of Minnesota, Crookston. We have doubled the win total from the previous two years, which is a step forward.

Our defense has soared to be one of the top 5 defenses in the NSIC. We can attribute this to overall improved performance from a year ago. Offensively, the run game has been potent. However, we must reduce turnovers and revive our passing game. However, we have a lot of work in front of us in order to put the best possible product on the field for the remainder of the year.

This Saturday as we wrap up our home schedule for the season versus Augustana, we are celebrating Senior Day at Seafoam Stadium. Parents, siblings, and supporters who will be introduced with your senior Golden Bear should report to the locker room side of the field 15 minutes before kickoff.

This week's focus is on faith development. Christian faith is an integral part of who we are, but our campus welcomes students of all backgrounds. Exploring your faith is a part of the curriculum at Concordia as students are required to take two religion courses in their undergraduate program. These courses help students explore their beliefs, guide students to become a servant-leader, and encourage involvement beyond the walls of church.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6)

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

I am convinced that it was a kairos moment that brought me back to coaching football at Concordia University. As I navigate through various changes in my life, I lean heavily upon my relationship with Christ to work through the challenges presented to me. I left the coaching profession for 6 years. During this time, I made a commitment to develop my faith through bible study, prayer and worship music. Towards the end of my time away from football, I started praying for direction in my life. I was not fulfilled at that time and I knew that I had so much more to give and wanted to make a difference in this world. While at a church service in Burnsville, MN, I was part of an altar call. Interestingly enough, the pastor stopped before me and said something great was about to happen in my life. As you can imagine, I was intrigued and excited about what might be coming. Shortly thereafter, I received a call from CSP, asking if I had interest in coming back to lead the football program.



I was conflicted as it was going to be a tremendous challenge to take over a 1-10 program that had fallen to the bottom of the NSIC. But, the void in my life nagged at my inner being. I began praying for clarity and direction as I was prepared to go wherever God wanted me to. My path became clear and with God's direction, I was confident that my calling was to lead the football program at CSP once again. I believed that I could make a difference and knew the values I needed to instill in the program. Even though football is the platform, I have learned that my main calling is leadership and my purpose is to prepare young men for life after football.

Faith brings answers to prayer. "And whatever things you ask in prayer, really believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22)

Early in my return to coaching, I started noticing a young man in attendance at some of our practices. After the spring game, he, David Melms, a Collegiate Director at FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), approached me and introduced himself. We agreed to meet to discuss a course of action that would assist our young men in growing in their faith and come to accept Jesus Christ as their lord and savior.

Our initial meeting led to many outstanding people entering our program: Ron Backes, who leads our 3D Coaching Bible Study (described in an earlier edition), Jole Miller (FCA Collegiate Rep), and Tom Lamphere (MN Vikings Team Champlain). I believe God brought these individuals to CSP to help me, our players, and our coaching staff grow in our faith.

David Melms and I meet weekly to focus on my faith development. Currently, we are studying the book of Galatians, which helps us know what we believe and why we believe it. I am being prepared to lead our staff in a Bible study moving into the spring semester. Additionally, David Melms and Jole Miller identified and invited five players to participate in a Disciple Group (Caleb Sheets, Chris Garrett, Matthew Montgomery, Abe Schwartz, and Jake Rajala). The students selected were all willing to actively grow in their faith. This group of individuals will receive training to become spiritual leaders who will facilitate Bible studies with other students in the future. We hope the group will allow each person to grow closer to one another as brothers in Christ and encourage each other to take whatever step God is calling them to. I look forward to the day when the five guys in the group are equipped and empowered to lead their own groups.

During a recent discussion, Jole Miller stated "I have been involved with the CSP football program for one year, yet in that time I have been so encouraged by the heart beat of the Golden Bears. With both players and coaches I have seen a team that is eager to learn, wanting to grow, and desires to have an impact that goes beyond success on the field.

An important lesson that we can reiterate to our student-athletes is that when we put faith in God and allow Him to direct our lives, our paths become clear. Coaches and leaders set the example for the student-athletes, and we need to walk the talk. There is no doubt that God provides when we choose to live our lives in accordance with His word, His will and His way.

I am excited about the spiritual seed that has been planted, and eager to see the growth that takes place.

Coach C



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

SAMUEL KESSLER



Samuel Kessler is studying K-12 Physical Education and Health. His goal is to teach high school physical education and coach football. Samuel is from Lansing, Illinois where he is the middle child of five siblings. Growing up, Kessler's childhood memories and values have been shaped by his father who influenced him throughout his childhood into the person he is today.

In addition, Samuel has two favorite football memories. One of them was during his senior year in high school where he was part of a winning team that competed against the second best team in the state of Illinois. The second memory was homecoming at Lemont High School. Here, Samuel had the wonderful opportunity to play in the homecoming game with his brother, Adam.

Today, Samuel loves being with his football teammates. Everyday he makes an intentional point to be present for them. Everyday, he believes, is about making great memories for himself and others. Samuel's favorite quote is "Wherever you are at, be all there." His advice to his younger self states, "You'll never regret a decision you make as long as God is included in it." In four years Samuel hopes to see this program compete for a conference championship.

Fun Fact about Sam: Kessler's favorite musician is Merle Haggard and his favorite movie is Rudy.

WHERE IS HE NOW?

JON AVERY



Former Comet and Golden Bear Jon Avery played for CSP from 1993-1997. On the gridiron Avery was a 2 year UMAC All Conference performer at Defensive Back. His best CSP memory was making the game saving interception against Northwestern in the Metrodome during his final game as a Comet.

While playing at CSP Avery learned many great qualities as a player. The most important to him were understanding the importance of a team and being a great teammate. That hard work is the most essential part of being a successful person and to always use the talents that God gave us to the best of our ability.

Jon currently is the Vice President of sales and compliance for Frontline Asset Strategies in Roseville, MN. Jon is married to Kathy (1997 CSP Graduate) and has 4 children, Clara (16), Ella (14) Colin (10) and Will (5).



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK - CSP VS. UMC (CROOKSTON)

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE GAME

The entire OL contributed to the offense rushing for 283 yards and helped our offense rank 5th in the league in rushing offense.



**CRIS
WASYLCIW-JR.
OLM #78**



**TERRELL
TAYLOR -SR.
OLM #56**



**TYSON
KAUFFMAN-
R-FR.
OLM #55**



**TANNER
HAECHTEN-
SO.
OLM#66**



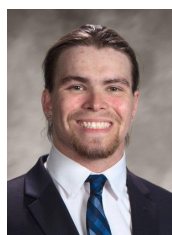
**RICH KELLY
JR.
OLM#70**



**ETHAN AUNE
JR.
OLM #72**



**SAMUEL
KESSLER
SR.
OLM #65**



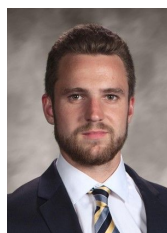
**DEFENSIVE LINE PLAYER OF
THE GAME
KELLY PIERCE -JR.
DLM #53**



**DEFENSIVE LINE PLAYER OF
THE GAME
JACKSON DOBBS-JR.
DE #53**



**HOG OF THE GAME
TERRELL TAYLOR – SR.
OLM #56**



**SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF
THE GAME
JONAS SCHENDERLEIN -SR.
K #8**



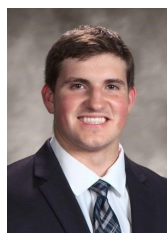
**DEFENSIVE SCOUT PLAYER
OF THE WEEK
BRYAN JENKINS- FR.
DLM #93**



**OFFENSIVE SCOUT PLAYER
OF THE WEEK
ADAM COOK – FR.
OLM #71**

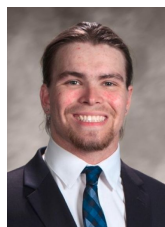


**SPECIAL TEAMS SCOUT
PLAYER OF THE WEEK
JAKE RAJALA-FR. LB
CB #54**



**LIFTER OF THE WEEK
ANDREW EGNARSKI- FR.
LB #50**

GAME CAPTAINS - CSP VS. AUGUSTANA



KELLY PIERCE - JR.
DLM # 53



RICH KELLY - JR.
OLM #70



DYLAN WOOD- JR.
DLM #91



DOM MCKINZY- SR.
QB #4

EXTRA POINTS

SENIOR DAY

The Golden Bears will be honoring an 11 member senior class on Saturday: Dom McKinzy, Emanuel Jones, Isaiah Walker, Samuel Kessler, Davarus Clark, Cleandre Robinson, Jonas Schenderlein, Terrell Taylor, Brandon Russell, Adam Miller, and Brian Szutkowski. The seniors will be honored on the field as part of the pregame introductions approximately 10 minutes prior to the noon kickoff.

Due to the twists and turns of football eligibility, three of the program's listed seniors on the 2018 roster, John Damrow, Andre Eubanks and Jake Tanner will return for one more season with the club.

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	W (21-13)
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	WEEK 8- 3 TD'S	

