

# 2024-25 Concordia Bulldogs Men's Basketball





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2024-25 Schedule/Results
25-5 Overall, 16-4 GPAC (T-2nd)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, H/A, Score. Lists game results from Nov 1 to Feb 22.

GPAC Tournament

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, H/A, Score. Lists GPAC tournament games.

\*Conference game

Coaching Staff



Head Coach Ben Limback



Assistant Coach Ryan Tegtmeier



Grad Asst. Coach Joel Baker

Concordia Starting Lineup



F • 12 • Noah Schutte
6-4 • Grad • Laurel, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, FG%, 3-PT%. Values: 16.0, 6.9, 57.7, 38.1

- 3x First Team All-GPAC.
• 2x NAIA All-American (3rd Tm / HM); selected to 2022 NAIA National All-Tournament Team.
• Holds program all-time records for points scored (2,291) and rebounds (928).



G • 14 • Jaxon Stueve
6-4 • So. • Papillion, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, FG%, 3-PT%. Values: 8.0, 2.6, 47.5, 41.9

- 2024-25 Honorable Mention All-GPAC.
• Twice named GPAC DPOW in 2024-25.
• Career-high 23 points came in win at Dakota Wesleyan on 1/2/25.
• Has started all 31 games.



F • 22 • Tristan Smith
6-5 • Sr. • Elizabeth, Colo.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, AST, FG%. Values: 20.7, 8.5, 4.2, 70.1

- 2024-25 GPAC Player of the Year and GPAC Defensive Player of the Year.
• 3x All-GPAC (2x 1st Team).
• Broke program single-game record with 48 points vs. Midland on 2/26/25.
• Career: 1,542 points and 735 rebounds.



G • 24 • Hayden Frank
6-2 • So. • Malcolm, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, FG%, 3-PT%. Values: 7.3, 2.3, 39.2, 34.8

- 58 games played (20 starts) over two seasons.
• Scored 17 points in GPAC semifinal win over No. 13 Northwestern.
• Chosen by the Lincoln Journal Star as the 2023 area Prep Athlete of the Year.



G • 33 • Brad Bennett
6-1 • Sr. • Elkhorn, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, FG%, 3-PT%. Values: 9.7, 2.3, 44.9, 39.3

- 2x Second Team All-GPAC honoree.
• Has totaled 969 points, 254 rebounds, 149 assists and 74 steals in 97 career games.
• Equaled career-high with 26 points in 99-72 win over Dordt on 1/4/25.
• Made 8 3-pt FGs in a game twice.

Student Managers: Malachi Limback and MJ Coffey

Quick Facts

Concordia University, Nebraska
Location.....Seward
Enrollment.....2,300
Nickname.....Bulldogs
School Colors.....Navy and White
Home Arena.....Friedrich Arena
Capacity.....2,000
President.....Bernard Bull
Director of Athletics.....Devin Smith
Athletic Trainer.....Randy Baack
Conference.....Great Plains Athletic Conf.
Radio.....104.9 Max Country (KTMX-FM)

2024-25 Overall Record.....25-6
2024-25 GPAC Record.....16-4 (T-2nd)
NAIA Tournament Appearances.....14
NAIA Tournament Record.....15-13
NAIA Fab Fours.....2
2024-25 Statistical Leaders
Points.....Tristan Smith (20.7)
Rebounds.....Tristan Smith (8.5)
Assists.....Tristan Smith (4.2)
Steals.....Tristan Smith (1.5)
Blocks.....Tristan Smith (1.6)



### Pronunciation Guide

- 4 - Koo-liss
- 5 - GATH
- 10 - KISS-en-JER
- 11 - MULL-er
- 12 - SHUT
- 14 - Stoo-vee
- 34 - harr-EE
- 50 - TWO-brick

### Concordia MBB NAIA All-Americans

- 2024: Noah Schutte
  - 2022: Carter Kent
  - 2017: Chandler Folkerts
  - 2007: Jon Ziegler
  - 2005: Jason Jisa
  - 2004: Rick Dietze
  - 1996: Darin Englebart
  - 1995: Darin Englebart
- \*First, Second and Third Team Included



### Limback Coaching Record

Concordia University, Nebraska (11 years)	
2013-14	8-21, 3-17 GPAC
2014-15	16-15, 9-11 GPAC
2015-16	18-12, 10-10 GPAC
2016-17	21-10, 10-8 GPAC
2017-18	17-13, 8-10 GPAC
2018-19	15-16, 7-13 GPAC
2019-20	24-9, 12-8 GPAC
2020-21	17-9, 14-6 GPAC
2021-22	28-7, 15-5 GPAC
2022-23	18-13, 11-9 GPAC
2023-24	24-8, 15-5 GPAC
2024-25	25-6, 16-4 GPAC
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>229-140   130-106 GPAC</b>

- Also spent nine seasons as the head coach at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, where he won 115 games.
- Joined Grant Schmidt as the second head coach in program history to take the Bulldogs to the national tournament and lead them to a conference regular season title.
- Remains the program's all-time record holder for career steals with 229.

## 2024-25 Concordia Men's Basketball Nationals Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
3	Dane Jacobsen	G	6-3	Fr.	Ashland, Neb./Ashland-Greenwood HS
4	Zac Kulus	G	6-0	Jr.	Bennington, Neb./Concordia Omaha HS
5	Elijah Gaeth	G	6-4	Fr.	Omaha, Neb./Millard North HS
10	Brooks Kissinger	G	6-3	So.	Ashland, Neb./Ashland-Greenwood HS
11	Brayson Mueller	F	6-5	Sr.	Roca, Neb./Norris HS
12	Noah Schutte	F	6-4	Sr.	Laurel, Neb./Laurel-Concord-Coleridge HS
14	Jaxon Stueve	G/F	6-4	So.	Papillion, Neb./Bellevue West HS
20	Matthew Weismann	G	5-11	Sr.	Gibbon, Neb./Gibbon HS
22	Tristan Smith	F	6-5	Sr.	Elizabeth, Colo./Elizabeth HS
24	Hayden Frank	G	6-2	So.	Malcolm, Neb./Malcolm HS
30	Logan Wilson	F	6-7	Jr.	Omaha, Neb./Westside HS
33	Bradley Bennett	G	6-1	Sr.	Elkhorn, Neb./Mount Michael Benedictine HS
34	Tyler Harre	G/F	6-5	So.	Scottsbluff, Neb./Scottsbluff HS / UNK
44	Jake Hilkemann	F	6-5	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb./Lincoln Southeast HS
50	Tony Tubrick V	F	6-9	Sr.	Omaha, Neb./Creighton Prep HS

## HEAD COACH BEN LIMBACK



### Coaching Career

**Concordia University, Nebraska | Head Coach**  
2013 - present

**Concordia University, Ann Arbor | Head Coach**  
2003 - 2012

**Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville | Assistant Coach**  
2000 - 2003

**Concordia University, Nebraska | Assistant Coach**  
1999 - 2000

### Playing Career

Played at Concordia University, Nebraska from 1995-99. As a senior during the 1998-99 season, he earned Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference Player of the Year honors and was named the Nebraska State College Player of the Year by the Omaha World-Herald. In addition, he twice received both NAIA honorable mention All-America (1998 and 1999) and NAIA Academic All-America (1998 and 1999) accolades. He was a member of Bulldog teams that advanced to the national tournament on three separate occasions.



# 2024-25 SEASON STATISTICS

## CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	25-6	15-2	9-4	1-0
CONFERENCE	16-4	9-1	7-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	9-2	6-1	2-1	1-0

#	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
					fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fa	pct	off	def	tot	avg								
02	Lukas Helms	17-5	261	15.4	39-71	.549	7-20	.350	17-23	.739	9	28	37	2.2	40	2	24	28	6	12	102	6.0
03	Dane Jacobsen	28-0	272	9.7	18-33	.545	2-9	.222	9-11	.818	11	23	34	1.2	20	0	23	14	1	7	47	1.7
04	Zac Kulus	30-0	448	14.9	64-132	.485	43-100	.430	10-12	.833	14	36	50	1.7	23	0	35	22	5	23	181	6.0
05	Elijah Gaeth	28-7	422	15.1	56-129	.434	16-52	.308	17-23	.739	17	56	73	2.6	14	0	75	40	2	24	145	5.2
10	Brooks Kissinger	31-2	455	14.7	72-129	.558	12-29	.414	46-70	.657	24	57	81	2.6	46	0	29	27	5	13	202	6.5
11	Brayson Mueller	20-0	94	4.7	11-27	.407	3-8	.375	3-10	.300	6	19	25	1.3	10	0	10	6	0	2	28	1.4
12	Noah Schutte	29-29	811	28.0	172-298	.577	24-63	.381	96-134	.716	49	152	201	6.9	36	0	71	61	3	18	464	16.0
14	Jaxon Stueve	31-31	698	22.5	86-181	.475	49-117	.419	28-32	.875	16	65	81	2.6	51	0	46	21	9	25	249	8.0
20	Matthew Weismann	8-0	24	3.0	2-7	.286	1-6	.167	1-2	.500	0	4	4	0.5	2	0	3	2	0	2	6	0.8
22	Tristan Smith	31-31	930	30.0	251-358	.701	9-21	.429	131-193	.679	65	198	263	8.5	81	1	130	65	50	47	642	20.7
24	Hayden Frank	26-19	618	23.8	67-171	.392	39-112	.348	18-29	.621	16	45	61	2.3	59	1	51	49	4	30	191	7.3
30	Logan Wilson	20-0	84	4.2	9-18	.500	7-15	.467	4-9	.444	3	22	25	1.3	8	0	4	5	3	4	29	1.5
33	Bradley Bennett	31-31	747	24.1	102-227	.449	70-178	.393	26-31	.839	19	52	71	2.3	47	0	45	25	1	27	300	9.7
34	Tyler Harre	20-0	88	4.4	7-23	.304	3-13	.231	2-2	1.000	4	5	9	0.5	6	0	5	4	0	1	19	1.0
44	Jake Hilkemann	29-0	206	7.1	25-53	.472	5-12	.417	13-18	.722	12	20	32	1.1	26	0	17	13	2	4	68	2.3
50	Tony Tubrick	17-0	56	3.3	10-15	.667	1-2	.500	7-8	.875	6	5	11	0.6	5	0	2	3	2	3	28	1.6
96	Payson Gillespie	6-0	11	1.8	1-3	.333	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.2	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0.5
Total.....		31	6225		992-1875	.529	292-760	.384	428-607	.705	307	827	1134	36.6	476	4	570	391	93	243	2704	87.2
Opponents.....		31	6225		842-1877	.449	258-754	.342	331-465	.712	264	667	931	30.0	514	-	423	419	75	249	2273	73.3



# SCHUTTE SCORES 31, BULLDOGS REACH RD OF 32



Clutch plays in the final couple of minutes allowed the fourth-seeded Concordia University, Nebraska Men's Basketball team to pull out a hair-raising contest in the first round of the 2024 NAIA Basketball National Championship tournament. The 15th all-time national tournament win for the Bulldogs came down to the final possession. After Noah Schutte went 1-for-2 at the foul line, the Red Hawks had the length of the floor to go while down two with 8.1 seconds on the clock. After IU Northwest crossed the timeline, a fumbled pass wound up in the hands of Schutte, who hurled the ball into the frontcourt to drain the remaining few seconds. Concordia put itself in position to enjoy a lead down the stretch thanks to two key baskets in particular – a driving layup by Schutte with 2:28 left and then a trey by Lukas Helms at the 1:48 mark.

Said Head Coach Ben Limback afterwards, "We had a great first half and did a lot of the things we wanted to do," Limback said. "We had good rhythm and it felt like we had good balance. Second half, we got on our heels. We had some defensive lapses and didn't finish plays. They're really, really good at getting to the basket, and that gave us problems. Down the stretch, we knew how to handle it because we've been there all season. Now's the time to make the plays. We weren't pretty down the stretch, but we found a way."

Schutte's 31 points in the win were the most ever by a Bulldog in a national tournament game. In the round of 32, Concordia ran into a buzzsaw as it was routed by 12th-seeded Louisiana State University-Shreveport, 91-67. In his final game as a Bulldog, Joel Baker notched a career-high 16 points while making 4-of-7 shots from 3-point range. Other double figure scorers were Brad Bennett (13), Schutte (13) and Tristan Smith (11).





**Appearances: 14 | Record: 15-13 | Fab Fours: 2**

1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



### 2024

1ST RD: W, 83-81 vs. Indiana Northwest  
2ND RD: L, 91-67 vs. LSU Shreveport

### 2023

1ST RD: L, 72-70 vs. Oklahoma Wesleyan

### 2022

1ST RD: W, 96-78 vs. Indiana Northwest  
2ND RD: W, 90-67 vs. Marian (Ind.)  
RD of 16: W, 75-65 vs. Indiana Kokomo  
QUARTERFINALS: L, 77-69 vs. Talladega (Ala.)

### 2020

1ST RD: L, 87-84 vs. Ottawa (Kan.)

### 2005

1ST RD: W, 74-69 vs. Trinity Christian (Ill.)  
2ND RD: W, 70-63 vs. Flagler (Fla.)  
QUARTERFINALS: W, 71-68 vs. Cornerstone (Mich.)  
SEMIFINALS: W, 62-56 vs. Cedarville (Ohio)  
CHAMPIONSHIP: L, 81-70 vs. Walsh (Ohio)

### 2003

1ST RD: W, 73-62 vs. Dominican (Calif.)  
2ND RD: W, 68-54 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)  
QUARTERFINALS: L, 77-72 (OT) vs. Bethany (Kan.)

### 2001

1ST RD: W, 88-70 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)  
2ND RD: L, 85-77 vs. Cornerstone (Mich.)

### 1998

1ST RD: L, 65-54 vs. Holy Names (Calif.)

### 1997

1ST RD: L, 79-66 vs. Urbana (Ohio)

### 1996

1ST RD: L, 74-66 vs. Northwest Nazarene (Idaho)

### 1995

1ST RD: W, 90-69 vs. Loyala (La.)  
2ND RD: W, 100-84 vs. St. Ambrose (Iowa)  
QUARTERFINALS: L, 91-68 vs. William Jewell (Mo.)

### 1992

1ST RD: W, 75-63 vs. Northwest Nazarene (Idaho)  
QUARTERFINALS: W, 102-90 vs. MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.)  
SEMIFINALS: L, 95-89 vs. Grace (Ind.)

### 1991

1ST RD: L, 80-77 vs. Oklahoma City





## SCORING (1,000-point scorers)

1. Noah Schutte (2020-25)	2,291
2. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	2,099
3. Tom Raabe (1967-71)	2,016
4. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	1,963
5. John Puelz (1989-92)	1,955
6. Carter Kent (2018-22)	1,699
7. Devin Smith (1989-92)	1,659
8. Rick Dietze (2001-04)	1,625
9. Matt List (1988-91)	1,608
10. Tanner Shuck (2016-20)	1,579
11. Tristan Smith (2021-25)	1,542
12. Ben Buhr (2005-08)	1,479
13. Scott Ernstmeyer (1993-96)	1,417
14. Scott Beck (2003-06)	1,406
15. Porter Birtell (2009-13)	1,390
16. Gage Smith (2018-23)	1,355
17. Ryan Kness (1993-95)	1,354
18. Tim Schroeder (1997-01)	1,346
19. Darin Engelbart (1992-96)	1,335
19. Travis Wischmeier (1999-2002)	1,335
21. Justin Wiersema (2018-22)	1,276
22. Bret Walter (1993-96)	1,248
23. Brevin Sloup (2016-20)	1,246
24. Josh Dahlke (1995-99)	1,221
25. Brent Cumber (1986-89)	1,210
26. Eli Ziegler (2013-17)	1,194
27. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	1,170
28. Ben Limback (1995-99)	1,158
29. Scott Hannon (2005-08)	1,149
30. Mark Cutler (1980-84)	1,126
31. Drew Olson (2000-03)	1,123
32. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	1,117
33. Tyler Byrd (2008-12)	1,113
34. Derek Engelbart (1998-2001)	1,105
35. Joel Haywood (2011-15)	1,091
36. Mike Works (1990-92)	1,039

### Points, Single Game

1. Tristan Smith (2/26/25)	48
2. Jon Ziegler (2/17/07)	47
3. Robert Buchholz Jr. (1928-29 season)	45
4. Tom Raabe (1968-69 season)	43
5. Al Buuck (1962-63 season)	41

## REBOUNDS

1. Noah Schutte (2020-25)	928
1. Matt List (1988-91)	928
3. Gage Smith (2018-23)	899
4. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	868
5. Scott Beck (2003-06)	781
6. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	762
7. Tristan Smith (2021-25)	735
8. Scott Ernstmeyer (1993-96)	730
9. Devin Smith (1989-92)	729
10. Porter Birtell (2009-13)	712
11. Sam Huebner (2008-11)	684
12. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	645
13. Glen Snodgrass (1995-98)	607
14. Ryan Kness (1993-95)	599
15. Elliot Rea (1994-97)	584

## ASSISTS

1. Darin Engelbart (1992-96)	657
2. Mike Works (1990-92)	496
3. Scott Beck (2003-06)	446
4. Ben Limback (1996-99)	388
5. Travis Wischmeier (1999-02)	340
6. Joel Haywood (2011-15)	334
7. Carter Kent (2018-22)	324
8. Tyler Byrd (2008-12)	320
9. Justin Wiersema (2018-22)	300
10. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	287
11. Jason Boyd (1996-98)	278
12. Gage Smith (2018-23)	276
13. Eli Ziegler (2013-17)	273
14. Matt List (1988-91)	272
15. Noah Schutte (2020-25)	266

## STEALS

1. Ben Limback (1996-99)	229
2. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	223
3. Scott Ernstmeyer (1993-96)	213
4. Scott Beck (2003-06)	207
5. Mike Works (1990-92)	194
6. Matt List (1990-92)	193
6. Joel Wallschlaeger (1991-94)	193
8. Darin Engelbart (1992-96)	192
9. Devin Smith (1989-92)	164
10. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	159

## BLOCKS

1. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	204
2. Glen Snodgrass (1995-98)	188
3. Scott Ernstmeyer (1993-96)	173
4. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	142
5. Tristan Smith (2021-25)	130
6. Marcus Wernke (2003-05)	109
7. Matt Hoffart (1991-94)	106
7. Sam Huebner (2008-11)	106
9. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	96
10. Chuol Biel (2018-20)	91





### National Tournament Facts

- The 2025 trip to nationals will mark the 14th all-time appearance on the national stage for the program. Head Coach Ben Limback has now led the Bulldogs to five national tournament appearances, including the national tourney trips in 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024. In the first nine appearances, all presided over by former head coach Grant Schmidt, the Bulldogs went a combined 11-9. Limback played for the national qualifying teams of 1996, 1997 and 1998.
- Concordia has won its first-round game at the national tournament seven times. Two teams in program history have reached at least the semifinals: the 1991-92 squad and the 2004-05 team (national runner up). The 1994-95, 2002-03 and 2021-22 squads advanced to the national quarterfinals. The 2021-22 team enjoyed a dream season while led by NAIA Second Team All-American Carter Kent. The Bulldogs dominated in the first two rounds held in Omaha, where they won by scores of 96-78 over Indiana University Northwest and 90-67 over Marian University (Ind.). Concordia then advanced to the round of 16 in Kansas City, Mo., where it knocked off Indiana University Kokomo, 75-65, before being eliminated in the quarterfinals by Talladega College (Ala.), 77-69.
- During the '22 run at the national tournament, Noah Schutte burst onto the scene and was named to the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship All-Tournament Team. Over the four games, Schutte averaged 20.0 points and 9.8 rebounds while shooting 63.4 percent from the field. Of the 15 players on the postseason roster, 11 have appeared in at least one national tournament game: Schutte, Brad Bennett, Hayden Frank, Tyler Harre, Brooks Kissinger, Zac Kulus, Brayson Mueller, Tristan Smith, Jaxon Stueve, Tony Tubrick and Logan Wilson. The 2023-24 team reached the second round of nationals while playing in Salina, Kan. The 31 points scored by Schutte in the 83-81 first round win over Indiana University Northwest represented a program record for a national tournament game. In seven career national tournament games, Schutte has averaged 21.0 points and 8.1 rebounds.
- The 2004-05 team set a still-intact school record with 32 wins that season. On the way to reaching the national title game, the '04-5 group defeated Trinity Christian (Ill.), Flagler (Fla.), Cornerstone (Mich.) and Cedarville (Ohio) in Point Lookout, Mo. The Bulldogs then fell at the hands of Walsh (Ohio) in the program's lone national title game appearance. Concordia's Marcus Wernke was the NAIA Division II national tournament record holder for most blocked shots in a game (nine) and most blocked shots in a single tournament (23). Both of those feats were accomplished in 2005. Jason Jisa was also honored with the Hustle Award at the '05 tourney. NAIA Division II came to an end with a fusion of the two divisions following the 2019-20 season.
- Schmidt led the Bulldogs to their first-ever national tournament appearance in 1991. At that time, the NAIA was still just one division for basketball (there were two divisions during the 1991-92 through 2019-20 seasons). Four members of the 1990-91 squad have been inducted into the Concordia Athletics Hall of Fame: Matt List, John Puelz, Devin Smith and Mike Works. The latter three were also members of the 1991-92 squad that broke through with the program's first-ever national tournament win.
- On March 12, 2020, the Bulldogs played in the final NAIA Division II men's basketball game ever. The remainder of the tournament following Concordia's 87-84 loss to Ottawa (Kan.) was shut down due to COVID-19. The contest took place at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D. No current Bulldogs were part of that 2019-20 squad, which was welcomed back to Friedrich Arena this season for a fifth anniversary recognition.

### GPAC Standings

School	GPAC	%	Overall	%
Dordt	18-2	.900	27-3	.900
Concordia	16-4	.800	25-5	.833
Northwestern	16-4	.800	25-5	.833
Morningside	14-6	.700	23-7	.767
Dakota Wesleyan	13-7	.650	20-9	.690
Briar Cliff	9-11	.450	14-15	.483
Midland	7-13	.350	12-17	.414
Mount Marty	7-13	.350	10-17	.370
Doane	4-16	.200	9-19	.321
Hastings	4-16	.200	5-22	.185
Waldorf	2-18	.100	3-24	.111

### GPAC All-Conference

#### FIRST TEAM

G - Jalen Langsey, Fr.	Northwestern
G - Lucas Lorenzen, Jr.	Dordt
G - Luke Rankin, Sr.	Dordt
F - Noah Schutte, Grad	Concordia
G - Tampa Scott IV, Sr.	Dakota Wesleyan
G - Joey Skoff, Sr.	Morningside
F - Tristan Smith, Sr.	Concordia
G - Matthew Stilwill, Grad	Briar Cliff
F - Alex Van Kalsbeek, Jr.	Northwestern
F - Jesse Van Kalsbeek, Fr.	Northwestern

#### SECOND TEAM

F - Samuel Aslesen, Sr.	Dakota Wesleyan
G - Brad Bennett, Sr.	Concordia
F - Brendan Buckley, Sr.	Morningside
G - Bryce Coppock, Sr.	Dordt
F - Ben Fairclough, Sr.	Dordt
F - Zach LaFave, Sr.	Northwestern
G/F - Tash Lunday, Jr.	Mount Marty
G - Jake Orr, Jr.	Midland
G - Blake Sindelar, Jr.	Briar Cliff
G - Brady Timm, Sr.	Doane
G - Aidan Vanderloo, Sr.	Morningside

**Player of the Year:** Tristan Smith, Concordia  
**Defensive Player of the Year:** Smith, Concordia  
**Freshman of the Year:** Jesse Van Kalsbeek, NWC  
**Coach of the Year:** Brian Van Haaften, Dordt

### GPAC Tournament Results

#### Quarterfinals - Wednesday, Feb. 26

- (1) Dordt def. (8) Mount Marty, 76-59
- (4) Morningside def. (5) Dakota Wesleyan, 91-74
- (3) Northwestern def. (6) Briar Cliff, 83-65
- (2) Concordia def. (7) Midland, 101-81

#### Semifinals - Saturday, March 1

- (4) Morningside def. (1) Dordt, 109-106 (OT)
- (2) Concordia def. (3) Northwestern, 67-61

#### Championship - Tuesday, March 4

- (4) Morningside def. (2) Concordia, 87-77







## #3 | DANE JACOBSEN



6-3 • Freshman • Guard  
Ashland, Neb.  
Ashland-Greenwood HS

## #4 | ZAC KULUS



6-0 • Junior • Guard  
Bennington, Neb.  
Concordia Omaha HS



## #5 | ELIJAH GAETH



6-4 • Freshman • Guard  
Omaha, Neb.  
Millard North HS

## #10 | BROOKS KISSINGER



6-3 • Sophomore • Guard  
Ashland, Neb.  
Ashland-Greenwood HS





# PLAYER PROFILES

## CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

### #11 | BRAYSON MUELLER



6-5 • Senior • Forward  
Firth, Neb.  
Norris HS

### #12 | NOAH SCHUTTE



6-4 • Grad Student • Forward  
Laurel, Neb.  
Laurel-Concord-Coleridge HS



### #14 | JAXON STUEVE



6-4 • Sophomore • Guard/Fwd  
Papillion, Neb.  
Bellevue West HS

### #20 | MATTHEW WEISMANN



5-11 • Senior • Guard  
Gibbon, Neb.  
Gibbon HS





## #22 | TRISTAN SMITH



6-5 • Senior • Forward  
Elizabeth, Colo.  
Elizabeth HS

## #24 | HAYDEN FRANK



6-2 • Sophomore • Guard  
Malcolm, Neb.  
Malcolm HS



## #30 | LOGAN WILSON



6-7 • Junior • Forward  
Omaha, Neb.  
Westside HS

## #33 | BRADLEY BENNETT



6-1 • Senior • Guard  
Elkhorn, Neb.  
Mt. Michael Benedictine HS





# PLAYER PROFILES

### #34 | TYLER HARRE



6-5 • Sophomore • G/F  
Scottsbluff, Neb.  
Scottsbluff HS / UNK

### #44 | JAKE HILKEMANN



6-5 • Freshman • F  
Lincoln, Neb.  
Lincoln Southeast HS



### #50 | TONY TUBRICK V



6-9 • Senior • Forward  
Omaha, Neb.  
Creighton Prep





## T.E.A.M. -- the journey of the 2024-25 Bulldogs



Expectations were exceedingly high in the preseason for a squad that returned all five starters and each of its top nine scorers from the 2023-24 team that shared the GPAC regular season title. As a result, the Bulldogs were pegged No. 1 in the GPAC preseason coaches' poll. That meant everything should be easy, right? Not exactly. This 2024-25 edition still had to redefine who it was even while led by established stars in Noah Schutte and Tristan Smith.

Just before Christmas, Head Coach Ben Limback's crew sat at 7-4 overall. Concordia had fallen out of the NAIA coaches' poll after rising to No. 9 very early in the campaign. Defensively, the Bulldogs knew they had to be better.

Explained junior Zac Kulus in the middle of January, "Looking back, I would say our defense has changed tremendously. At first, we didn't know our exact rotations. We struggled to rotate to the hot man. Coach really put emphasis on shell in practice. We've really started to defend a lot better."

Weeks later, as Concordia advanced to the GPAC tournament title game, Limback could point to rebounding and defense as a major factor for why his side shot back up the national rankings and positioned itself as a No. 6 seed in the national tournament. At 25-6 overall, the 2024-25 team is one of seven in the program's history to hit the 25-win mark. To do so has taken more than just the super-human Smith and the incredibly consistent production of Schutte. It's taken a commitment to defense, which sets up the Bulldogs' lethal transition game.

Over the season's first 11 games, Concordia allowed its opponents to average 79.1 points and shoot 48.7 percent from the field and 36.4 percent from 3-point range. The Bulldogs then won 18 of their next 20 outings while opponents slumped to a scoring average of

70.2 and to shooting percentages of 42.8 from the field and 33.1 from beyond the arc.

There was no better example of what this Concordia team is capable of than the Jan. 4 home meeting with Dordt, the eventual GPAC regular season champion. The Bulldogs ran the Defenders out of the gym, 99-72, and the game really wasn't 'that' close. Concordia led by 35 in the middle of the second half while spurred by eight 3-point field goals from the sniper Brad Bennett. As Limback said afterwards, "This stuff shouldn't surprise this team. There is a lot of greatness in them."

Even without knowing what the national tournament has in store, the 2024-25 season will be remembered for its many thrilling moments and historical happenings. Shame on you if you haven't taken time to appreciate just how rare legends like Smith and Schutte – they don't come around often. There was also the perfect month of January, a championship at the Concordia Invitational Tournament and a passing of the torch when it comes to some of the most sacred program records on the books. The stories and the camaraderie that come with those moments will be recounted for many years to come.

Back on Jan. 8, Schutte became the program's all-time scoring king while taking that title from the legendary Jon Ziegler, who was in attendance that evening at Doane. Schutte went for 24 that night and enters the national tournament with 2,291 points (and 928 rebounds) on his career ledger. A 2,000-point, 1,000-rebound player at the high school level, Schutte will forever remember that night at Doane in the context of how it was celebrated with his teammates. The definition of mild mannered off the court, Schutte felt a special kind of emotion.



As Schutte remarked afterwards, "I was more focused on getting the win. Doane's a gritty team. There was a lot of game left when I reached that milestone. After the game, my teammates and coaches embraced me and congratulated me in the locker room. I got a little emotional celebrating with them."

It wouldn't be the only Ziegler record to fall this season. The fans who attended the GPAC quarterfinal matchup with Midland on Feb. 26 were treated to the awe-inspiring greatness of Smith. All he did that night was pour in a school record 48 points in one what will go down as perhaps the signature performance of his career. Incredibly, Smith has dunked and slashed his way to a field goal percentage north of 70 while putting on the greatest show anyone could find in the NAIA.

In the aftermath of the new standard that came on 19-for-26 shooting from the floor, Smith reveled in the joy that the achievement brought to his teammates – and family, of course. Said Smith, "My teammates are really unselfish guys. They knew I was getting close and knew I wanted it. They wanted it for me just as bad. They were finding me and letting me take some pretty bad shots. It shows the unselfishness of my teammates."

There was no better player in the GPAC in the regular season or postseason than Smith, who ranked in the top 10 of the conference in virtually every major statistical category. As Limback said, "He's incredible. He's been that way all year." Fittingly, Smith was named the GPAC Player of the Year and the GPAC Defensive Player of the Year in a rare sweep of the league's highest end-of-season awards. Meanwhile, Schutte picked up his third career First Team All-GPAC award.

Smith and Schutte have thrived as Bulldogs within the parameters of the team concept. Over the past four seasons, Concordia has won at least 24 games in three of them. For the '24-25 team, there is no shortage of talent and experience – but it has had to overcome a rash of injuries that have popped up here and there. Consider that the Bulldogs have been without Lukas Helms since mid-January and have persevered while others have missed multiple games, such as Schutte (two), Hayden Frank (five) and Elijah Gaeth (two). Eight different players have started a game this season.

One of several high-impact sophomores (joining the likes of Brooks Kissinger and Jaxon Stueve), Frank has come back strong from a knee injury. He scored 17 points in the GPAC semifinal win over No. 13 Northwestern. No excuses have been made. "I trusted the training staff and trusted all the coaches that I should be out on the floor," Frank said. "You have to go out there and play 100 percent. It doesn't matter if you're scoring 25 points or zero points, we preach defense. We go out there and bust our butts on defense. I work as hard as I can, and I know that the four other guys on the floor are going to do that as well."

A freshman with a bright future, Gaeth has started seven games. He is one of those new pieces that had to be assimilated into a veteran team. It was time to grow up quickly when the likes of Frank and Helms were sidelined. Said Gaeth, "We had some new guys – still trying to figure it out with rotations and stuff like that. We continued to work and put that effort in. It's been working out. We're all on the same page. I feel like we're going to keep this roll going."

About the only disappointment for Concordia since the calendar flipped to 2025 was the home loss suffered to thorn-in-the-side Morningside in the GPAC tournament title game. That sting will fade away as the Bulldogs begin national tournament preparation with the opportunity to play in Baldwin City, Kan.

The goal now is to advance to Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, where the final 16 teams left standing will gather.

"We're in the position we are this time of year because we've guarded a lot better over the course of these last few months," Limback said. "When you can hang your hat on defense and rebounding, that will carry you in every game. It doesn't matter if you're shooting that well or not shooting well."

"We saw some areas that we have to get better at. With Northwestern and Morningside, we had the luxury of playing two national tournament teams leading up to the national tournament. We lost this one (to Morningside). At least we get another shot. The message is – no more second chances. This is it. We're ready. I think this team has been looking forward to this run."





**NAISMITH QUADRANT**



**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**DUER QUADRANT**

**FIRST ROUND**

MAR 14

**SECOND ROUND**

MAR 15

**ROUND OF 16**

MAR 20-21

**QUARTERFINALS**

MAR 22

**SEMIFINALS**

MAR 24

**FINALS**

MAR 25

**SEMIFINALS**

MAR 24

**QUARTERFINALS**

MAR 22

**ROUND OF 16**

MAR 20-21

**SECOND ROUND**

MAR 15

**FIRST ROUND**

MAR 14



**CRAMER QUADRANT**

**LISTON QUADRANT**



★ **BATTLE FOR THE RED BANNER** ★