

“One Heart”



Women's Basketball Media Guide 2020/21



Concordia Athletic Communications

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2020-21 Schedule/Results
20-8 Overall, 17-5 GPAC (2nd)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, H/A, Score, W/L. Lists 32 games from 11/5/2020 to 3/2/2021.

*Conference game
#GPAC Tournament game

Coaching Staff



Head Coach
Drew Olson



Assistant Coach
Tae'lor Purdy-Korell



Grad Asst. Coach
Kaitlyn Hodgins

Concordia Starting Lineup



G • 2 • Bailey Conrad
5-6 • Fr. • Tea, S.D.

Table with columns: PTS, AST, FG%, FT%. Values: 4.5, 2.6, 31.3, 87.5

- Started 15 of 28 games as a freshman.
Tallied a career high 15 points in the win over Mount Marty on 12/30/20.
Produced career highs of nine rebounds and five steals vs. Dakota State on 11/5/20.



G • 4 • Taysha Rushton
5-4 • Fr. • Lubbock, Texas

Table with columns: PTS, APG, 3PT%, 3-PT%. Values: 14.3, 2.6, 35.3, 33.0

- 2021 First Team All-GPAC.
Led all GPAC freshman in scoring average, 3-point field goals, assists and free throw percentage.
Has scored 20+ points seven times with a high of 28 vs. Northwestern on 1/2/21.



G • 5 • Taylor Cockerill
5-9 • Jr. • Waverly, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, FG%, 3PT%. Values: 14.5, 6.2, 41.6, 38.0

- 2x First Team All-GPAC (2019/2021)
Ranks 15th in program history with 1,324 career points; has also tallied 471 rebounds, 244 assists, 164 steals and 148 3-pt FGs.
Second highest single-game point total in school history: 40 on 10/26/18.



F • 21 • Mackenzie Koepke
6-1 • Jr. • Lincoln, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, STL, FG%. Values: 7.3, 5.6, 1.8, 33.3

- 3x All-GPAC (second team in 2020).
Leads team in steals (1.82) and blocks (1.04) per game.
Ranks sixth in program history for career 3-point field goals (176).
40 career national tournament points.



F • 25 • Rylee Pauli
5-10 • Jr. • Omaha, Neb.

Table with columns: PTS, REB, STL, FG%. Values: 6.9, 5.0, 1.5, 52.9

- 2021 Honorable Mention All-GPAC.
Averaging career highs in scoring (6.9), rebounds (5.0) and steals (1.5) per game in first season as a starter.
Scored a career high 20 points in win at Doane on 11/18/20.

Quick Facts

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

2020-21 Overall Record.....20-8
2020-21 GPAC Record.....17-5 (2nd)
NAIA Tournament Appearances.....20
NAIA Tournament Record.....35-17
NAIA Fab Fours.....7
2020-21 Statistical Leaders
Points.....Taylor Cockerill (14.5)
Rebounds.....Taylor Cockerill (6.2)
Assists.....Taylor Cockerill (3.04)
Steals.....Mackenzie Koepke (1.82)
Blocks.....Mackenzie Koepke (1.04)



Pronunciation Guide

- #5 Taylor Cockerill – cock-er-uhl
- #11 Kayla Luebbe – LEW-bee
- #14 Chloe Schumacher – shoe-mock-er
- #15 Taylor Farrell – fair-uhl
- #21 Mackenzie Koepke – kepp-key
- #25 Rylee Pauli – paul-ee
- #34 Faith Troshynski – truh-shin-ski
- #55 Abby Aplaca – uh-plock-uh

Concordia WBB NAIA All-Americans

- 2020: Grace Barry
Philly Lammers
- 2019: Philly Lammers
- 2018: Philly Lammers
Quinn Wragge
- 2017: Philly Lammers
- 2015: Bailey Morris (Player of the Year)
Tracy Peitz
- 2014: Bailey Morris
Tracy Peitz
- 2013: Kristen Conahan
- 2012: Amber Kistler
Kristen Conahan
- 2009: Whitney Stichka
- 2008: Whitney Stichka
- 2005: Kari Saving
- 2003: Elizabeth Rhoden
Sarah Harrison
- 1998: Stephanie Schilke
- 1997: Rachel Witzel
- 1994: Tricia Kindle Pinneo
- 1993: Trish Kindle
- 1992: Lynda Beck
- 1987: Shelly Poppe

*Does not include honorable mentions

Olson Coaching Record

*Reached NAIA Tournament

2006-07	19-13, 10-8 GPAC
2007-08	*26-7, 13-6 GPAC
2008-09	*26-9, 14-4 GPAC
2009-10	*21-11, 11-7 GPAC
2010-11	15-17, 6-12 GPAC
2011-12	*34-3, 18-2 GPAC
2012-13	*25-6, 16-4 GPAC
2013-14	*25-7, 16-4 GPAC
2014-15	*35-3, 18-2 GPAC
2015-16	*22-9, 14-8 GPAC
2016-17	*34-3, 19-1 GPAC
2017-18	*36-2, 19-1 GPAC
2018-19	*30-3, 19-3 GPAC
2019-20	*32-2, 21-1 GPAC
2020-21	*20-8, 17-5 GPAC

TOTAL: 405-106 overall; 231-68 GPAC

- 2018-19 NAIA National Coach of the Year
- 2017-18 WBCA NAIA National Coach of the Year
- 2014-15 Coach of the Year (Omaha World-Herald / Lincoln Journal Star)
- Three-time GPAC Coach of the Year
- Three-time WBCA Region II Coach of the Year

2020-21 Concordia Women's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
2	Bailey Conrad	G	5-6	Fr.	Tea, S.D./Tea Area HS
3	Averie Lambrecht	G	5-8	So.	Eagle, Neb./Waverly HS.
4	Taysha Rushton	G	5-4	Fr.	Lubbock, Texas/Monterey HS
5	Taylor Cockerill	G	5-9	Jr.	Waverly, Neb./Waverly HS
11	Kayla Luebbe	F	6-1	So.	Bee, Neb./Seward HS
12	Mackenzie Toomey	G	5-8	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb./Lincoln Southeast HS
13	Rebecca Higgins	F	5-10	Jr.	Thedford, Neb./Thedford HS
14	Chloe Schumacher	F	6-2	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb./Malcolm HS
15	Taylor Farrell	G	5-7	So.	Omaha, Neb./Millard West HS
21	Mackenzie Koepke	G	6-1	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb./Lincoln Lutheran HS
25	Rylee Pauli	F	5-10	Jr.	Omaha, Neb./Millard South HS
32	Kendal Brigham	G	5-4	Fr.	Wahoo, Neb./Wahoo HS
34	Faith Troshynski	F	5-10	Sr.	Manson, Iowa/Briar Cliff
35	Sadie Powell	F	6-0	Fr.	Cedar Rapids, Iowa/John F. Kennedy HS
55	Abby Aplaca	G	5-8	Sr.	Waipahu, Hawaii/Concordia-Portland

HEAD COACH DREW OLSON



Coach Olson leads by example and instills in his players to keep one's priorities straight: God, Family, School, Basketball and then everything else.

Grace Barry, 2019 National Tournament MVP

When being recruited to play basketball at Concordia, Coach Olson's understanding and passion for the game was apparent. He has always been easy to talk with and he truly cares about each of his players. Not only is he an amazing coach, but he is an even better person off the floor.

Taylor Cockerill, Junior Guard

Coach also always saw his players as people to get to know. He understood that we were all different, had different abilities and roles that we could fill. I think the fact that he cares about his team like a family lets him connect and understand his players.

Philly Lammers, four-time All-American

I took a number of lessons from Olson during my time at Concordia, but here are some that still ring true in my life today! God, Family, School, Basketball. I still try to live my life according to these priorities! Olson was a coach who was constantly trying to improve and better himself.

Quinn Wragge, Three-time first team All-GPAC



2020-21 SEASON STATISTICS

CONCORDIA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	20-8	11-4	9-4	0-0
CONFERENCE	17-5	9-2	8-3	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	3-3	2-2	1-1	0-0

#	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	Conrad, Bailey	28-15	426	15.2	40-128	.313	19-64	.297	28-32	.875	30	43	73	2.6	35	0	74	43	6	26	127	4.5
03	Lambrecht, Averie	24-10	272	11.3	18-51	.353	2-15	.133	10-21	.476	17	20	37	1.5	34	0	22	22	1	21	48	2.0
04	Rushton, Taysha	28-28	771	27.5	124-339	.366	66-187	.353	86-105	.819	29	40	69	2.5	52	1	74	56	0	42	400	14.3
05	Cockerill, Taylor	28-28	775	27.7	129-309	.417	41-108	.380	107-136	.787	41	133	174	6.2	35	0	85	57	1	41	406	14.5
10	Pfanstiel, Chaise	8-0	59	7.4	9-23	.391	6-14	.429	1-2	.500	1	2	3	0.4	4	0	5	8	0	3	25	3.1
11	Luebbe, Kayla	21-0	177	8.4	47-74	.635	0-0	.000	20-32	.625	22	28	50	2.4	17	0	0	12	6	8	114	5.4
12	Toomey, Mackenzie	22-0	282	12.8	30-71	.423	13-30	.433	8-9	.889	22	29	51	2.3	48	1	18	25	2	28	81	3.7
13	Higgins, Rebecca	26-2	267	10.3	40-110	.364	21-71	.296	11-13	.846	11	42	53	2.0	49	1	16	26	2	14	112	4.3
14	Schumacher, Chloe	21-0	213	10.1	25-55	.455	1-11	.091	26-36	.722	17	42	59	2.8	37	1	12	31	9	4	77	3.7
15	Farrell, Taylor	28-0	452	16.1	77-191	.403	42-115	.365	10-13	.769	14	41	55	2.0	19	0	37	24	2	26	206	7.4
21	Koepke, Mackenzie	27-19	587	21.7	69-207	.333	46-154	.299	13-24	.542	25	127	152	5.6	63	2	32	36	28	49	197	7.3
25	Pauli, Rylee	28-26	630	22.5	83-157	.529	0-1	.000	26-43	.605	60	79	139	5.0	76	5	25	33	11	42	192	6.9
32	Brigham, Kendal	14-3	159	11.4	21-67	.313	12-41	.293	1-3	.333	7	16	23	1.6	11	0	13	3	0	8	55	3.9
34	Troshynski, Faith	21-9	223	10.6	19-51	.373	14-40	.350	4-6	.667	5	20	25	1.2	15	1	10	7	0	7	56	2.7
35	Powell, Sadie	22-0	208	9.5	36-72	.500	4-15	.267	5-11	.455	17	26	43	2.0	24	1	7	11	1	13	81	3.7
55	Aplaca, Abby	5-0	55	11.0	6-23	.261	1-9	.111	0-1	.000	2	4	6	1.2	8	0	5	6	0	3	13	2.6
98	Tracy, Taryn	2-0	20	10.0	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	1-2	.500	1	1	2	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	3	7	3.5
99	Spearman, Hanna	2-0	24	12.0	2-7	.286	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	1	2	3	1.5	0	0	1	3	0	1	5	2.5
Total.....		28	5600		777-1939	.401	291-880	.331	357-489	.730	371	763	1134	40.5	527	13	436	413	69	347	2202	78.6
Opponents.....		28	5594		631-1661	.380	207-695	.298	380-548	.693	325	819	1144	40.9	489	-	366	590	65	205	1849	66.0





COMING BACK FROM THE SHUTDOWN



“The summer was tough not being able to be around each other. You just miss them. I love watching them play and being around them. Now that we’re in school and we get to practice, one of our phrases is – entitled to nothing and grateful for everything. We’re really grateful to be able to play and be around each other every day, even if it is with masks and it’s a little bit different. It brings us together and it’s still basketball.”

--Drew Olson (Oct. 15, 2020)

The lost tournament

The Concordia Women’s Basketball program returned to practice during the fall semester after having lost out on a chance to repeat as NAIA Division II national champions when the 2020 tournament was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Six seniors from the 2019-20 team were robbed of the opportunity to create more lasting memories in March. The text on the right was sent out in a tweet by All-American point guard Grace Barry on March 12, 2020, the day everything came to a halt. In a heart-breaking moment, Barry showed care and concern for the safety of others.

A year later, the 2020-21 squad won’t take for granted the opportunity to compete at the national tournament, even if everything looks a bit different. At times this season, family members of players were not even allowed to attend Concordia road games. However, these circumstances sure beat the alternative. With adherence to protocols, the Bulldogs played all 25 scheduled regular season games and then made a run to the GPAC tournament championship game. After a tough start to the season that dropped Concordia from the rankings, Head Coach Drew Olson got his squad back on track and back into the national tournament.

Said Mackenzie Koepke of last year’s senior class, prior to the season, “We miss them and they were a huge part of this program. What they accomplished in their four years was incredible. Even though they’re gone, there’s that standard. We have the phrase, ‘tradition never graduates,’ and we talk about that. The legacy they left isn’t gone. The expectation of being as excellent as they are is still there.” Now the goal is to get back to Sioux City, Iowa, where Concordia had hoped to remain longer last March.

March 12, 2020 at 2:42 PM

As a senior playing in the NAIA national tournament, I am heartbroken I will never play another collegiate basketball game due to the hysteria of the coronavirus. I would do anything to finish out the national tournament and play just one more game with my teammates, my family. I am not an expert on the coronavirus nor would I claim to be and I do not promote the decision made by the NAIA. However, if we prevent just 1 person from dying, if by cancelling the women’s basketball national tournament we prevent one person from losing their sister, daughter, mother, father or son that is a success in itself. So congratulations to all 32 teams at the national tournament, not only do you all collectively share the 2020 NAIA national title, but you won something even greater, you sacrificed for the greater good of all people.



Appearances: 20 | Record: 35-17 | Fab Fours: 7
1992, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010,
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020



2020
1ST RD: W, 75-57 vs. Wilberforce (Ohio) *Remainder of tournament canceled

2019
1ST RD: W, 100-62 vs. Wilberforce (Ohio)
2ND RD: W, 82-71 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 73-53 vs. Indiana Tech
SEMIFINALS: W, 82-79 vs. Northwestern
CHAMPIONSHIP: W, 67-59 vs. Southeastern (Fla.)

2018
1ST RD: W, 75-52 vs. Stillman (Ala.)
2ND RD: W, 71-50 vs. Taylor (Ind.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 79-61 vs. Jamestown (N.D.)
SEMIFINALS: W, 84-77 vs. Northwestern (Iowa)
CHAMPIONSHIP: L, 59-82 vs. Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)

2017
1ST RD: W, 101-66 vs. Bryan (Tenn.)
2ND RD: W, 75-56 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 74-59 vs. Jamestown (N.D.)
SEMIFINALS: L, 83-91 vs. Saint Xavier (Ill.)

2016
1ST RD: L, 82-85 vs. Goshen (Ind.)

2015
1ST RD: W, 76-35 vs. Bryan (Tenn.)
2ND RD: W, 92-82 vs. College of Saint Mary (Neb.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 76-59 vs. Jamestown (N.D.)
SEMIFINALS: W, 72-62 vs. Briar Cliff (Iowa)
CHAMPIONSHIP: L, 57-59 vs. Morningside (Iowa)

2014
1ST RD: L, 86-91 vs. Olivet Nazarene (Ill.)

2013
1ST RD: L, 60-66 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)

2012
1ST RD: W, 78-54 vs. Sterling (Kan.)
2ND RD: W, 69-48 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 80-68 vs. Grand View (Iowa)
SEMIFINALS: L, 70-74 vs. College of the Ozarks (Mo.)

2010
1ST RD: L, 42-57 vs. Indiana Wesleyan

2009
1ST RD: W, 72-53 vs. Taylor (Ind.)
2ND RD: W, 74-73 vs. Cornerstone (Mich.)
QUARTERFINALS: L, 65-69 vs. Hastings (Neb.)

2008
1ST RD: W, 84-64 vs. Union (Ky.)
2ND RD: W, 82-72 vs. Davenport (Mich.)
QUARTERFINALS: L, 53-78 vs. College of the Ozarks (Mo.)

2005
1ST RD: W, 70-28 vs. Western Baptist (Ore.)
2ND RD: W, 65-51 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 66-42 vs. Sterling (Kan.)
SEMIFINALS: L, 73-86 vs. Cedarville (Ohio)

2004
1ST RD: W, 70-57 vs. MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.)
2ND RD: W, 63-53 vs. Tennessee Wesleyan
QUARTERFINALS: L, 69-77 Cedarville (Ohio)

2003
1ST RD: W, 62-59 vs. Madonna (Mich.)
2ND RD: W, 88-44 vs. William Jewell (Mo.)
QUARTERFINALS: W, 57-55 vs. Mary (N.D.)
SEMIFINALS: L, 60-66 vs. Hastings (Neb.)

2002
1ST RD: W, 71-55 vs. Southern Oregon
2ND RD: L, 65-67 vs. Briar Cliff (Iowa)

1998
1ST RD: L, 85-92 vs. Spring Arbor (Mich.)

1997
1ST RD: W, 83-78 vs. Taylor (Ind.)
2ND RD: W, 82-71 vs. Shawnee State (Ohio)
QUARTERFINALS: L, 71-76 vs. Black Hills State (S.D.)

1992
1ST RD: L, 78-94 vs. St. Joseph's (Maine)



SCORING (1,000-point scorers)

1. Bailey Morris (2011-15)	2,054
2. Philly Lammers (2016-20)	2,033
3. Sarah Harrison (2001-05)	1,800
4. Quinn Wragge (2015-19)	1,776
5. Kari Saving (2001-05)	1,773
6. Whitney Stichka (2004-09)	1,765
7. Stephanie Schilke (1994-98)	1,736
8. Lynda Beck (1988-92)	1,720
9. Kristen Conahan (2010-14)	1,656
10. Shelly Poppe (1986-90)	1,630
11. Andrea Janssen (1986-90)	1,559
12. Melissa Tinkham (2005-09)	1,452
13. Trish Kindle (1990-94)	1,426
14. Elizabeth Rhoden (2000-04)	1,337
15. Taylor Cockerill (2017-present)	1,324
16. Allison Nyland (1993-97)	1,323
17. Hayle Kobza (1997-01)	1,302
18. Katie Rich (2009-13)	1,293
19. Tracy Peitz (2011-15)	1,277
20. Amy Scheil (1985-89)	1,244
21. Teresa Noffke (1985-89)	1,207
22. Mary Janovich (2014-18)	1,159
23. Keyna Kobza (2001-05)	1,110
24. Jane Dartman (1983-87)	1,061
25. Rachel Witzel (1993-97)	1,050
26. Becky Mueller (2013-16)	1,048
27. Tammy Blome (1991-94)	1,032
28. Brenleigh Daum (2014-18)	1,014
29. Amy Streuter (1999-03)	1,013

*Dani Hoppes: 1,107 career points with Concordia/Midland

*Grace Barry: 1,081 career points with Concordia/UNK

Points, Single Game

1. Bailey Morris (2/15/2014)	45
2. Taylor Cockerill (10/26/2018)	40
3. Amber Kistler (2/8/2012)	37
4. Joe Bartels/Morris/Whitney Stichka	35

REBOUNDS

1. Lynda Beck (1988-92)	1,250
2. Stephanie Schilke (1994-98)	1,204
3. Philly Lammers (2016-20)	1,026
4. Marsha Nelson (1982-86)	956
5. Sarah Harrison (2001-05)	945
6. Teresa Noffke (1985-89)	912
7. Shelly Poppe (1985-88)	911
8. Quinn Wragge (2015-19)	833
9. Beth Lorentzen (1983-87)	694
10. Kristin Miller (2007-11)	684
11. Kayla Luehmann (2001-05)	662
12. Katie Rich (2009-13)	653
13. Jenni Lovegrove (2004-08)	649
14. Hayle Kobza (1997-01)	645
15. Tammy Blome (1991-94)	640
16. Colby Duvel (2016-20)	634
16. Michelle Metzger (1988-92)	634
18. Kari Saving (2001-05)	629
19. Tracy Peitz (2011-15)	594
20. Dena Poppe (1992-96)	592

ASSISTS

1. Andrea Janssen (1986-90)	672
2. Trish Kindle (1990-94)	577
3. Amy Weisbrook (1995-99)	511
4. Bailey Morris (2011-15)	502
5. Elizabeth Rhoden (2000-04)	492
6. Penny Jacobsen (1982-86)	426
7. Grace Barry (2018-20)	414
8. Kari Saving (2001-05)	391
9. Allison Nyland (1993-97)	365
10. Amy Scheil (1985-89)	344
11. Shelby Quinn (2013-17)	338
12. Amy Streuter (1999-03)	337
13. Dani Adams (1999-03)	331
14. Whitney Stichka (2004-09)	323
15. MacKenzie Helman (2016-20)	311
16. Carmen Weiser (1987-91)	311
17. Becky Mooney (1998-03)	289
18. Kristen Conahan (2010-14)	285
19. Mary Janovich (2014-18)	281
19. Tracy Peitz (2011-15)	281

STEALS

1. Penny Jacobsen (1982-86)	409
2. Bailey Morris (2011-15)	394
3. Andrea Janssen (1986-90)	378
4. Philly Lammers (2016-20)	357
5. Amy Scheil (1985-89)	350
6. Tracy Peitz (2011-15)	306
7. Kristen Conahan (2010-14)	291
8. Katie Rich (2009-13)	265
9. Quinn Wragge (2015-19)	251
10. Kari Saving (2001-05)	250
11. Grace Barry (2018-20)	248
12. Mary Janovich (2014-18)	244
12. Teresa Noffke (1985-89)	244
14. Allison Nyland (1993-97)	231
15. Melissa Tinkham (2005-09)	230
15. Elizabeth Rhoden (2000-04)	230
17. Trish Kindle (1990-94)	214
18. Amy Weisbrook (1995-99)	211
19. Lynda Beck (1988-92)	209
20. Riley Sibbel (2016-20)	192





National Tournament Facts

- In its first 19 appearances at the national championships, Concordia has posted a record of 35-17 with seven journeys to at least the national semifinals (three national championship game appearances). The Bulldogs are 13-6 in first-round games. All of the program's national tournament berths have come since 1992 – the same year the NAIA split into two divisions for basketball. The 2019-20 season marked the final one featuring two divisions. The 2019-20 squad had garnered the No. 1 overall seed in a tournament that was shut down in the middle of the first round.

- Seven of the 15 players on Concordia's national tournament roster have prior national tournament experience. That list includes Taylor Cockerill, Taylor Farrell, Rebecca Higgins, Mackenzie Koepke, Averie Lambrecht, Rylee Pauli and Chloe Schumacher. Cockerill has the most national tournament game experience having been part of runs to the national championship game in both 2018 and 2019. In 10 career national tournament games, Cockerill has totaled 90 points with a single game high of 26 in the second round of the 2019 tournament versus Cardinal Stritch. In the next round (quarterfinals) in 2019, Koepke poured in 15 points in a victory over Indiana Tech. Koepke has 40 career points at the national tournament to her credit.

- Head Coach Drew Olson has been at the controls for each of Concordia's past 13 national tournament appearances (including 2021). His record at the national tournament now stands at 24-10 with five trips to the final four, including three national championship game appearances (2015, 2018, 2019). The program raised its first-ever national championship banner in March 2019. Olson has won more national tournament games than any coach in school history (men's or women's programs).

- During the 2020-21 regular season, the Bulldogs went up against four fellow national tournament qualifiers: Carroll College (Mont.), Dakota State University (S.D.), Morningside and Northwestern (total of eight games versus national qualifiers). Concordia defeated Northwestern three times while falling short against the other three opponents. However, it lost twice by two points to Morningside. Carroll and Dakota State both took part in the Cattle Classic (Nov. 5-7) at the beginning of the season.

- Olson became the program's fifth coach to lead Concordia to the national tournament when he made his first appearance in 2008. Past coaches to take the Bulldogs to nationals were Todd Voss (three), Mark Lemke (two), Micah Parker (one) and Carl Everts (one). Voss guided two squads that reached the national semifinals.

GPAC Standings

School	GPAC	%	Overall	%
Morningside	21-1	.955	26-2	.929
Concordia	17-5	.773	20-8	.714
Northwestern	16-6	.727	17-10	.630
Briar Cliff	14-8	.636	17-10	.630
Dordt	14-8	.636	15-11	.577
Jamestown	12-10	.545	15-11	.577
Midland	12-10	.545	15-11	.577
Dakota Wesleyan	12-10	.545	14-11	.560
Hastings	7-15	.318	8-16	.333
Doane	3-19	.136	5-20	.200
Mount Marty	2-20	.091	4-21	.160
Coll. of Saint Mary	2-20	.091	3-22	.120

GPAC All-Conference

FIRST TEAM

G - Sammy Blum, Sr.	Northwestern
G - Taylor Cockerill, Jr.	Concordia
F - Hannah DeMars, So.	Jamestown
G - Sierra Mitchell, Sr.	Morningside
F - Sophia Peppers, Jr.	Morningside
G - Haidyn Pitsch, Fr.	Dakota Wesleyan
G - Taysha Rushton, Fr.	Concordia
C - Molly Schany, Fr.	Northwestern
G - Konnor Sudmann, So.	Briar Cliff
F - Ashtyn Verbeek, Jr.	Dordt

SECOND TEAM

C - Madelyn Deitchler, Jr.	Briar Cliff
F - Erika Feenstra, Sr.	Dordt
C - Karly Gustafson, So.	Dordt
F - Haylee Heits, Sr.	Doane
F - Matti Reiner, So.	Dakota Wesleyan
G - Taylor Rodenburgh, Jr.	Morningside
G - Kaitlyn Schmit, Sr.	Hastings
G - Payton Slaughter, So.	Briar Cliff
F - Makenna Sullivan, Sr.	Midland
G - Kia Tower, So.	Jamestown

Player of the Year: Sierra Mitchell, Morningside

Defensive Player of the Year: Josephson (UJ) / Benne (BCU) / F. Meyer (MC)

Freshman of the Year: Haidyn Pitsch, DWU

Coach of the Year: Jamie Sale, Morningside

GPAC Tournament Results

Quarterfinals - Feb. 24

- (1) Morningside def. (8) Jamestown, 84-75
- (4) Briar Cliff def. (5) Dordt, 67-54
- (3) Northwestern def. (6) Midland, 79-54
- (2) Concordia def. (7) Dakota Wesleyan, 70-58

Semifinals - Feb. 27

- (1) Morningside def. (4) Briar Cliff, 72-59
- (2) Concordia def. (3) Northwestern, 83-70

Championship - March 2

- (1) Morningside def. (2) Concordia, 67-65

Coach Olson Accomplishments

- 2019 NAIA Division II National Champions
- 12 GPAC Championships (six regular season; six postseason)
- 12 national tournament appearances (24 national tournament wins)
- Five national semifinal appearances (two national runner-up claims)
- Has coached players to 16 All-America awards and one National Player of the Year honor
- 2019 NAIA Phyllis Holmes National Coach of the Year
- 2018 United States Marine Corps/WBCA NAIA National Coach of the Year
- Three-time GPAC Coach of the Year; four-time WBCA regional Coach of the Year





TRADITION STILL HAS NOT GRADUATED



By Jake Knabel, Director of Athletic Communications

As Head Coach Drew Olson likes to say, “tradition never graduates” and “never underestimate the heart of a champion.” Those were monikers to keep in mind heading into the 2020-21 preseason as the Concordia University Women’s Basketball program just so happened to graduate an impressive senior class that greatly enhanced the richness of its tradition. At one point this season, the Bulldogs stood at 6-5 overall and did not receive a single vote in the national poll.

That’s not to say this is some sort of underdog story. Concordia has been too good under Olson to think of the program in those terms. However, the Bulldogs were going to have to kick it into gear if they were to extend their streak of national tournament appearances.

Even in defeat in the GPAC tournament title game, Concordia seemed to grow its confidence. This clearly isn’t the same team it was back in November and December. Said Olson, “We showed a ton of fight. This team has really grown. We’ve developed that toughness and togetherness. That was awesome to see.”

Olson would likely argue that this team never lost that heart of a champion mentality. That trait was most certainly on display in the conference championship game when the Bulldogs rallied from a 36-15 first half deficit to take the lead in the fourth quarter. Since Jan. 6, Concordia has lost only two games – and both of those were two-point defeats to GPAC champion Morningside.

Following the latest close call, Olson reinforced the idea within the locker room that this is a team that can do damage at the national tournament. With a backcourt led by first team All-GPAC stars Taylor Cockerill and Taysha Rushton, the Bulldogs have reason to

believe. Stated Olson after the GPAC title game, “We feel really good. We’re confident and we know we can play with anybody. We’re excited that we’re still playing. We’re ready to play another team right now.”

This is only the start for Rushton, a Lubbock, Texas, native who has put together one of the finest freshmen seasons in school history. She rose to another level during a GPAC tournament run that saw her post a combined 64 points while going 12-for-24 from 3-point range. Cockerill took over at Morningside with a 19-point second half.

The way this team wins is a little bit different than the way the past two Concordia teams dominated. Two seasons in a row (2018-19 and 2019-20), the Bulldogs had the services of one of the nation’s best passing point guards in Grace Barry and the top post player in Philly Lammers (more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds for her career). The game planning was simplified by the presence of a wealth of veteran talent.

2020-21 NAIA Poll Rankings

- Oct. 14 - 11th
- Dec. 16 - NR
- Jan. 13 - RV
- Jan. 27 - 25th
- Feb. 10 - 22nd
- Feb. 24 - 17th
- March 4 - 16th (rated by selection committee)





A leader based on her on-court play and veteran leadership, Cockerill's influence has played a vital role in this team's success. There is no more respected leader within the locker room than Cockerill, who has played in two national championship games and three GPAC title games. When the situation calls for it, the Waverly High School product can put a team on her back.

"This team is extremely special," Cockerill said. "We are truly like one big family. Everyone has bought into our program and puts the team first. I think the growth of this team from the beginning of the season to now is evident in many different aspects. Our young team has grown so much not only on the court but also in our friendships off the court. I truly am so grateful to be part of this family and can't wait to continue our journey."

Mackenzie Koepke is the lone returning starter from last season. She's been joined in the starting five by Cockerill, Rushton, junior Rylee Pauli and another freshman in Bailey Conrad. Naturally, it took some time for things to come together. Conrad's development has been immense as part of a backcourt that takes care of the ball, makes perimeter shots and can lockdown on the other end. Off the bench, the likes of Taylor Farrell, Rebecca Higgins, Averie Lambrecht, Kayla Luebbe, Sadie Powell, Mackenzie Toomey and others have each made an impact.

There's just something about Concordia Women's Basketball – and something about Olson's ability to inspire a team to reach its full potential. At one time unranked and slipping off the national radar, Concordia has reminded everyone that this is still Concordia. A lot of firepower may have graduated in 2020, but tradition never did.

"I think this team is special and unique because we had to grow and fight together," Rushton said. "We started our season off 0-3. We could've easily given up on each other, but instead we continued to work hard every day and continued to believe in each other and Coach Olson."

With a new-look team in 2020-21, the game plan has sometimes fluctuated drastically from one outing to the next. Olson has never been afraid to tinker with defensive alignments in order to maximize his team's ability to match up with a worthy adversary. Toughness and togetherness have been part of the formula for an impressive close to the regular season. At 0-3 with three home defeats to open this season, there could have been some doubts about where this season was headed.

Said Rushton, "I think the area that we have grown the most throughout this season is our communication on defense. We sometimes have a different defensive game plan when we play an opponent, but we find ways to adjust to be able to get stops in whatever defense we're in because of our communication on the court."





