Concordia’s Bailey Morris averaged 19.3 points per game this season while leading the Bulldogs to the NAIA D-II tournament.

**BASKETBALL**

**Morris answers call; Reed could do it all**

*By Marjie Ducey / World-Herald Staff Writer*

On what Concordia coach Drew Olson called a

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great basketball team, none had to ride to the rescue like Bailey Morris. 

Morris, a junior guard from Clay Center, Neb., took over the role as team leader when All-American Kristen Conahan was injured in January. Morris then carried the Bulldogs to the NAIA Division II tournament. 

“She went from we need you to play 25 to we need you to play 40, take over ball-handling responsibility and score even more,” Olson said. “I think she was scoring 15 or 16 at the time. She probably averaged 24 or 25 when Connie was out.” 

NAIA coaches across the state voted for Morris as the honorary captain of The World-Herald’s All-NAIA basketball team. Doane College’s Nick Reed leads the men’s team. 

The women’s first team has a lineup like no other. It has three first-team All-Americans in Deaundra Young of the College of St. Mary, Jamie Van Kirk of Hastings and Morris. Her teammate, Tracy Peitz, was a third-team All-American and Jamilah Johnson of Midland was honorable mention, as was second teamer Cami Bruckman of Hastings. 

Olson said Young, the player of the year in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference, could have just as easily been voted captain. 

“I thought she was the best post player in the state,” he said. 

Olson feared his season was over when Conahan, last year’s captain, and Morris were both injured in a Jan. 8 game at Midland. Conahan had a torn ACL and missed 12 games, but Morris was able to come back. 

Conahan provided enough votes to make the second team despite her injury. 

Morris provided stability for a young team, and by keeping Concordia in games, gave the whole squad confidence. Great Plains Athletic Conference coaches acknowledged her contributions, naming her the player of the year. She finished by averaging 19.3 points, 4.2 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.4 steals. She ranks 11th in school history with 1,389 points. She broke the school record for points in a game when she scored 45 in an 89-78 home win over then-No. 3 Northwestern on Feb. 15. Concordia finished the season 25-8, and earned part of the GPAC regular-season championship. The Bulldogs lost in the first round at nationals when Morris got into foul trouble. 

Reed, a senior from Syracuse, Neb., didn’t lead the Tigers to the national tournament. In fact, Doane finished 13-16. 

Still, he was the coaches’ pick for captain. 

“He could play every position,” Doane coach Jim Weeks said. “He’s one of those guys who posted up, drove it, scored it and brought it down the floor sometimes. He’s just a great player. He’s been a great player for four years.” 

He’s joined on the first team by Trevor Johnson of Nebraska Wesleyan, Brady Lollman of Hastings, Ben Imig of Midland and Lee Ames of Bellevue. 

Reed helped Doane tie the school record with 21 wins last year, but this season he didn’t have the same supporting cast. He was double-teamed every time he touched the ball.

He still managed to score 22.3 points a game and averaged 7.3 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.4 steals. His 2,034 points are fifth most at Doane. 

After being named the GPAC freshman of the year, he earned all-conference honors the rest of his career. He was chosen as a second-team NAIA All-American this season and
was on the academic All-America first team.

Last year, he was awarded the NAIA's Emil S. Liston Award, which is given to a junior basketball player who has shown high athletic and scholastic achievement.

Weeks said he was a gifted athlete, with great balance and hands, and so versatile he was hard to guard.

"When you go out and recruit, you are looking for a Nick Reed," he said. "He's a coach's dream player."

NAIA women
First Team
G Bailey Morris, Concordia, 19.3
G Jamie Van Kirk, Hastings, 18.2
C Deaundra Young, CSM, 18.1
F Tracy Peitz, Concordia, 13.8
G Jamilah Johnson, Midland, 15.0

Second Team
F Hannah Dostal, Doane, 14.5
G Cami Bruckman, Hastings, 15.9
G Akia Davis, CSM, 14.2
G Kristen Conahan, Concordia, 13.4
G Shelbie Hess, Peru State, 15.6

Honorary captain: Morris
Honorable mention: Tiffani Lewis, Jamee Miner, Amanda Woodring, College of St. Mary; Becky Mueller, Concordia; Shelbi Bittinger, Heather Broman, Doane; Jenna Henderson, Grace; Laurel Zwiener, Hastings; Sammi Licari, Midland; Bridget Bucher, Courtney Cook, Felicia TeKolste, Nebraska Wesleyan; Brittany Peterson, Karlee Stuart, Peru State; Cory Minjarez, York College.

NAIA Men
First Team
G Nick Reed, Doane, 22.3
F Trevor Johnson, Neb. Wesleyan, 17.5
G Brady Lollman, Hastings, 20.1
G Ben Imig, Midland, 18.0
G Lee Ames, Bellevue, 14.1

Second Team
G Galen Gullie, Midland, 12.2
G Given Kalipinde, Bellevue, 11.9
G Adam Vogt, Concordia, 14.5
G Dylan Brewer, York, 18.2
C Alex Starkel, Midland, 12.1

Honorary captain: Reed
Honorable mention: Thomas Hammock, Taylor Young, Bellevue; Chandler Folkerts, Robby Thomas, Concordia; Domonique Smith, Doane; Lance Evans, Spencer Plank, Grace; Brett Wells, Jake Hamburger, Hastings; Trey Bardsley, Eric Jackson, Tim Schweitzer, Nebraska Wesleyan; Nate Bohy, Taylor Christensen, Kody Kirkpatrick, Peru State; Heyvis Jackson, Remi Mignott, Andre Vaughn, York College.

Contact the writer: Marjie Ducey
marjie.ducey@owh.com  |  402-444-1034

Marjie Ducey covers state colleges, women's sports, high schools, select sports, outdoors, holes in one, soccer, running and any other type of interesting story. She also puts out the metro edition and does some updating on Omaha.com.