



2022 CONCORDIA BULLDOGS



QUICK LOOK

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS



Concordia Athletic Communications

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2021-22 Schedule/Results 27-6 Overall, 15-5 GPAC (T-1st)

Date	Opponent	H/A	Score
Oct. 29	Friends (Kan.)	N	W, 87-57
Oct. 30	Presentation (S.D.)	N	W, 96-72
Nov. 5	Waldorf (Iowa)	H	W, 89-72
Nov. 6	18) Benedictine (Kan.)	H	W, 68-53
Nov. 9	Peru State	H	W, 91-90
Nov. 13	*Briar Cliff	A	L, 48-65
Nov. 17	*Midland	H	W, 80-63
Nov. 20	*Dordt	A	W, 84-82
Nov. 23	*(10) Jamestown	H	W, 92-76
Dec. 1	*(18) Morningside	A	L, 77-79
Dec. 4	*Northwestern	H	W, 95-78
Dec. 8	*Mount Marty	H	W, 87-72
Dec. 11	*Hastings	A	W, 81-66
Dec. 19	(8) William Jessup (Calif.)	N	L, 62-70
Dec. 21	Rochester (Mich.)	N	W, 71-64
Dec. 29	Ottawa (Kan.)	A	W, 91-82
Jan. 1	*Doane	H	W, 60-50
Jan. 5	*Mount Marty	A	L, 67-70 (OT)
Jan. 8	*Dakota Wesleyan	H	W, 88-71
Jan. 15	*(11) Jamestown	A	W, 82-79
Jan. 19	*Morningside	H	W, 83-68
Jan. 22	*Northwestern	A	L, 77-92
Jan. 26	*Hastings	H	W, 82-68
Feb. 2	*Midland	A	W, 92-87
Feb. 5	*Dordt	H	W, 92-62
Feb. 9	*Doane	A	L, 50-54
Feb. 16	*(22) Briar Cliff	H	W, 74-73
Feb. 19	*Dakota Wesleyan	A	W, 86-70
GPAC Tournament			
Feb. 23	Morningside	H	W, 83-70
Feb. 26	Doane	H	W, 67-65
March 1	Jamestown	H	W, 77-70

NAIA National Championship Tournament

March 11	IU Northwest (Ind.)	N	W, 96-78
March 12	Marian (Ind.)	N	W, 90-67

*Conference game

Coaching Staff



Head Coach
Ben Limback



Assistant Coach
Ryan Tegtmeier



Grad Asst. Coach
Brevin Sloup

Concordia Starting Lineup



G • 5 • Carter Kent
6-2 • Jr. • Crete, Neb.

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
15.9	3.4	44.4	36.3

- 4x GPAC All-Conference: 1st Team in 2021-22, 2nd Team in 2019-20/2020-21.
- Ranks fifth in program history with 1,671 career points; also has amassed 428 rebounds, 317 assists and 246 3-point FGs.
- CoSIDA Academic All-American.



G • 10 • Justin Wiersema
6-3 • Jr. • Loveland, Colo.

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
11.5	5.2	51.9	36.6

- 3x GPAC All-Conference; 2nd Team in 2021-22, 1st Team in 2020-21.
- Career totals of 1,265 points, 477 rebounds, 299 assists and 134 steals.
- Named Honorary Captain of 2020-21 Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska Team.



F • 11 • Gage Smith
6-6 • Jr. • Elizabeth, Colo.

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
13.9	8.0	55.0	33.8

- 2x GPAC All-Conference; 1st Team in 2021-22; 2nd Team in 2020-21.
- Career totals of 945 points, 619 rebounds, 150 assists and 86 steals.
- Scored career high 32 points in win over Dakota Wesleyan on 2/6/21.



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

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
13.5	5.8	55.8	42.9

- 2021-22 Honorable Mention All-GPAC.
- Notched career high 27 points in home win over Jamestown on 11/23/21.
- Career totals of 495 points and 217 rebounds through two collegiate seasons.
- More than 2,000 pts/1,000 rebs in HS.



G • 12 • AJ Watson
5-8 • So. • Kansas City, Kan.

PTS	REB	AST	FG%
9.9	2.9	2.6	40.2

- 2021-22 Honorable Mention All-GPAC.
- Recorded career high 17 points in win at Dakota Wesleyan on 2/19/22.
- Career totals of 548 points, 146 assists, 138 rebounds and 65 steals.
- Has started 31 games this season.

Student Managers: Carson Richters, Haden Richters & Braedon Thompson

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)

2021-22 Overall Record.....27-6
2021-22 GPAC Record.....15-5 (T-1st)
NAIA Tournament Appearances.....11
NAIA Tournament Record.....13-10
NAIA Fab Fours.....2
2021-22 Statistical Leaders
Points.....Carter Kent (15.9)
Rebounds.....Gage Smith (8.0)
Assists.....Carter Kent (3.21)
Steals.....Carter Kent (1.15)
Blocks.....Tristan Smith (0.68)



Pronunciation Guide

2 – scar-pell-ee
 4 – See-toe
 10 – weers-muh
 12 – shut
 20 – wubb-ulls
 21 – OOH-hair
 44 – woy-TUH
 55 – VUH-nahl-ICK

Concordia MBB NAIA All-Americans

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 (9 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 27-6, 15-5 GPAC

TOTAL: 163-112 | 88-88 GPAC

- 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.
- Has led teams to five combined Concordia Invitational Tournament titles, including two at CU-Ann Arbor.
- Remains the program's all-time record holder for career steals with 229.

2021-22 Concordia Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
2	Sam Scarpelli	G	5-9	Sr.	Portland, Ore./Reynolds HS/Clark College
3	Joel Baker	G	6-0	Fr.	Alliance, Neb./Alliance HS
4	Nick Cito	G	5-10	Jr.	Arvada, Colo./Mullen HS
5	Carter Kent	G	6-2	Jr.	Crete, Neb./Crete HS
10	Justin Wiersema	G	6-3	Jr.	Loveland, Colo./Thompson Valley HS
11	Gage Smith	F	6-6	Jr.	Elizabeth, Colo./Elizabeth HS
12	Noah Schutte	F	6-4	Fr.	Laurel, Neb./Laurel-Conrad-Coleridge HS
14	AJ Watson	G	5-8	So.	Kansas City, Kan./Bonner Springs HS
20	Tanner Wubbels	F	6-7	Jr.	Waverly, Neb./Waverly HS
21	Klay Uher	F	6-5	Jr.	Crete, Neb./Crete HS
30	Garrett Seagren	G	6-2	So.	Oakland, Neb./Oakland-Craig HS/Chaminade
32	Ryan Holt	F	6-5	Sr.	Highlands Ranch, Colo./ThunderRidge HS
41	Tristan Smith	F	6-5	Fr.	Elizabeth, Colo./Elizabeth HS
44	Skyler Woita	F	6-7	So.	Wahoo, Neb./Bishop Neumann HS/St. Gregory
50	Bradley Bennett	G	6-1	Fr.	Elkhorn, Neb./Mt. Michael Benedictine HS
55	Kelly Vyhnalek	F	6-7	So.	Seward, Neb. Seward 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.



2021-22 SEASON STATISTICS

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

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RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	27-6	16-0	6-5	5-1
CONFERENCE	15-5	10-0	5-5	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	12-1	6-0	1-0	5-1

#	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-fga	pct	off	def	tot	avg								
2	Scarpelli, Sam	33-2	457	13.8	48-117	.410	33-85	.388	5-8	.625	2	15	17	0.5	19	0	28	13	0	12	134	4.1
3	Baker, Joel	8-0	17	2.1	3-7	.429	1-5	.200	2-3	.667	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.1
4	Cito, Nick	11-0	28	2.5	1-7	.143	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.2	4	0	3	3	0	2	3	0.3
5	Kent, Carter	33-33	1140	34.5	180-405	.444	66-182	.363	100-121	.826	11	102	113	3.4	43	0	106	50	18	38	526	15.9
10	Wiersema, Justin	32-32	1037	32.4	136-262	.519	45-123	.366	52-67	.776	18	148	166	5.2	37	0	97	49	19	36	369	11.5
11	Smith, Gage	30-29	732	24.4	154-280	.550	25-74	.338	84-117	.718	64	175	239	8.0	88	4	64	52	17	33	417	13.9
12	Schutte, Noah	33-27	794	24.1	168-301	.558	27-63	.429	83-114	.728	47	146	193	5.8	52	0	30	38	7	24	446	13.5
14	Watson, AJ	32-31	857	26.8	106-264	.402	46-130	.354	58-69	.841	14	78	92	2.9	51	0	84	60	2	32	316	9.9
20	Wubbels, Tanner	13-0	28	2.2	0-4	.000	0-4	.000	3-4	.750	1	5	6	0.5	4	0	4	3	0	0	3	0.2
21	Uher, Klay	26-2	251	9.7	30-45	.667	0-1	.000	15-22	.682	15	23	38	1.5	39	0	11	11	7	2	75	2.9
30	Seagren, Garrett	31-0	391	12.6	30-61	.492	9-30	.300	9-12	.750	14	35	49	1.6	30	0	15	10	1	10	78	2.5
32	Holt, Ryan	31-9	535	17.3	53-126	.421	27-88	.307	5-11	.455	9	71	80	2.6	47	0	43	18	7	19	138	4.5
41	Smith, Tristan	31-0	315	10.2	52-79	.658	3-10	.300	20-37	.541	31	57	88	2.8	46	1	8	28	21	11	127	4.1
44	Woita, Skyler	10-0	23	2.3	1-5	.200	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	6	10	16	1.6	3	0	1	3	0	0	3	0.3
50	Bennett, Bradley	4-0	7	1.8	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
55	Vyhnaek, Kelly	7-0	12	1.7	0-5	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	4	5	0.7	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Total.....		33	6624		962-1969	.489	283-801	.353	438-589	.744	268	924	1192	36.1	466	5	494	346	99	220	2645	80.2
Opponents.....		33	6622		889-2030	.438	244-721	.338	313-440	.711	269	810	1079	32.7	538	-	402	359	93	186	2335	70.8





LAST TIME HERE ...



The last NAIA Division II basketball game ever played

3/12/2020 - An eerie emptiness has settled upon basketball arenas across the country. That same hollowness fell upon the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D., on Thursday (March 12). A limited number of fans were allowed into the venue as the Concordia University men's basketball team made its first national tournament appearance since 2005. The Bulldogs led nearly the entire game before falling in the first round, 87-84, while up against fifth-ranked Ottawa University (Kan.). Just after the game finished, the NAIA announced that the remainder of its winter national championships had been canceled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Win or lose, head coach Ben Limback's squad would have been heading home. Concordia (24-10) gave it everything it had in its final time out in 2019-20.

"You have to look at the big picture," Limback said. "Hopefully they really celebrate that. Today is tough because it's their last game. What those seniors have done from last year to this year is incredible. We had our chances today and battled against a good team. I'm proud of these guys. I hope they celebrate what a blessing this year has been."





NAIA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Appearances: 11 | Record: 11-10 | Fab Fours: 2

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



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. Loyola (La.)

2ND RD: W, 100-84 vs. St. Ambrose (Iowa)

QUARTERFINALS: L, 91-68 vs. William Jewell (Mo.)

1992

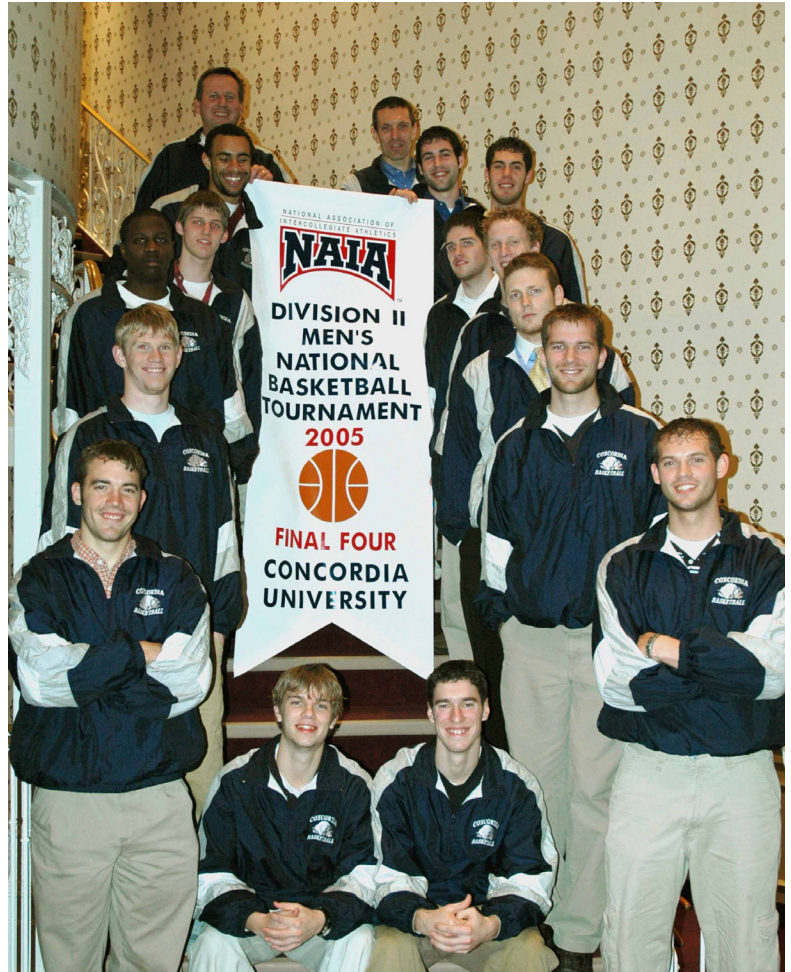
1ST RD: W, 75-63 vs. Northwest Nazarene (Idaho)

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. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	2,099
2. Tom Raabe (1967-71)	2,016
3. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	1,963
4. John Puelz (1989-92)	1,955
5. Carter Kent (2018--)	1,671
6. Devin Smith (1989-92)	1,659
7. Rick Dietze (2001-04)	1,625
8. Matt List (1988-91)	1,608
9. Tanner Shuck (2016-20)	1,579
10. Ben Buhr (2005-08)	1,479
11. Scott Enrstmeyer (1993-96)	1,417
12. Scott Beck (2003-06)	1,406
13. Porter Birtell (2009-13)	1,390
14. Ryan Kness (1993-95)	1,354
15. Tim Schroeder (1997, 99-01)	1,346
16. Darin Engelbart (1992-96)	1,335
16. Travis Wischmeier (1999-2002)	1,335
18. Justin Wiersema (2018--)	1,265
19. Bret Walter (1993-96)	1,248
20. Brevin Sloup (2016-20)	1,246
21. Josh Dahlke (1995-99)	1,221
22. Brent Cumber (1986-89)	1,210
23. Eli Ziegler (2013-17)	1,194
24. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	1,170
25. Ben Limback (1995-99)	1,158
26. Scott Hannon (2005-08)	1,149
27. Mark Cutler (1980-84)	1,126
28. Drew Olson (2000-03)	1,123
29. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	1,117
30. Tyler Byrd (2008-12)	1,113
31. Derek Engelbart (1998-2001)	1,105
32. Joel Haywood (2011-15)	1,091
33. Mike Works (1990-92)	1,039

Points, Single Game

1. Jon Ziegler (2/17/07)	47
2. Robert Buchholz Jr. (1928-29 season)	45
3. Tom Raabe (1968-69 season)	43
4. Al Buuck (1962-63 season)	41
5. Tom Raabe / Earl Westbrook	40

REBOUNDS

1. Matt List (1988-91)	928
2. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	868
3. Scott Beck (2003-06)	781
4. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	762
5. Scott Enrstmeyer (1993-96)	730
6. Devin Smith (1989-92)	729
7. Porter Birtell (2009-13)	712
8. Sam Huebner (2008-11)	684
9. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	645
10. Gage Smith (2018--)	619
11. Glen Snodgrass (1995-98)	607
12. Ryan Kness (1993-95)	599
13. Elliot Rea (1994-97)	584
14. Ben Limback (1996-99)	505
15. Rick Dietze (2001-04)	496
16. Jared Calver (2000-03)	477
17. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	477

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. Tyler Byrd (2008-12)	320
8. Carter Kent (2018--)	317
9. Justin Wiersema (2018--)	299
8. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	287
9. Jason Boyd (1996-98)	278
10. Eli Ziegler (2013-17)	273
11. Matt List (1988-91)	272
12. Tanner Shuck (2016-20)	262
13. Brevin Sloup (2016-20)	250

STEALS

1. Ben Limback (1996-99)	229
2. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	223
3. Scott Enrstmeyer (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 Enrstmeyer (1993-96)	173
4. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	142
5. Marcus Wernke (2003-05)	109
6. Matt Hoffart (1991-94)	106
6. Sam Huebner (2008-11)	106
8. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	96
9. Chuol Biel (2018-20)	91

The Engelbarts





GPAC Standings

School	GPAC	%	Overall	%
Concordia	15-5	.750	27-6	.818
Briar Cliff	15-5	.750	19-12	.613
Northwestern	13-7	.650	21-11	.656
Jamestown	12-8	.600	26-9	.743
Dordt	12-8	.600	20-11	.645
Doane	11-9	.550	19-13	.594
Morningside	11-9	.550	14-12	.538
Dakota Wesleyan	9-11	.450	13-16	.448
Midland	7-13	.350	16-14	.533
Mount Marty	3-17	.150	7-22	.241
Hastings	2-18	.100	7-23	.233

GPAC All-Conference

FIRST TEAM

G - Bryce Coppock, So.	Dordt
F - Josiah Gardiner, So.	Doane
G - Trent Hilbrands, Sr.	Northwestern
G - Zach Imig, Sr.	Morningside
G - Carter Kent, Jr.	Concordia
G - Jaden Kleinhesselink, Sr.	Briar Cliff
F - Koln Oppold, Sr.	Dakota Wesleyan
F - Gage Smith, Jr.	Concordia
F - Alex Van Kalsbeek, So.	Northwestern
F - Mason Walters, Jr.	Jamestown

SECOND TEAM

F - Cade Bleeker, Jr.	Dordt
F - Kyle Boerhave, Sr.	Briar Cliff
G - Will Cordes, So.	Jamestown
G - Karson Ganseboom, Jr.	Hastings
F - Tyrell Harper, Sr.	Mount Marty
G - Marc Kjos, Jr.	Jamestown
G - Lance Merritt, Sr.	Midland
F - Alec Oberhauser, Sr.	Doane
G - Bo Sandquist, Sr.	Midland
G - Aidan Vanderloo, So.	Morningside
G - Justin Wiersema, Jr.	Concordia
G - Quinn Vesey, Jr.	Briar Cliff

Player of the Year: Mason Walters, Jamestown
Defensive Player of the Year: Mason Larson, DWU
Freshman of the Year: Luke Rankin, Dordt
Coach of the Year: Mark Svagera, Briar Cliff

GPAC Tournament Results

Quarterfinals - Feb. 23

- (2) Concordia def. (7) Morningside, 83-70
- (8) Dakota Wesleyan def. (1) Briar Cliff, 85-77
- (6) Doane def. (3) Northwestern, 64-61
- (5) Jamestown def. (4) Dordt, 83-59

Semifinals - Feb. 26

- (2) Concordia def. (6) Doane, 67-65
- (5) Jamestown def. (8) Dakota Wesleyan, 81-56

Championship - March 1

- (2) Concordia def. (5) Jamestown, 77-70

National Tournament Facts

- The 2022 trip to nationals will mark the 11th all-time appearance on the national stage for the program. Head Coach Ben Limback has now led the Bulldogs to two national tournament appearances, including the national tourney trip in 2020. 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 five 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 and 2002-03 squads advanced to the national quarterfinals.
- 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. Four members of the 1990-91 squad have been inducted into the Concordia Athletic 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. Six Bulldogs on the current roster saw action in that national tournament game: Ryan Holt, Carter Kent, Sam Scarpelli, Gage Smith, AJ Watson and Justin Wiersema. The contest took place at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Senior Class of 2021-22 Accomplishments

- 2021-22 GPAC Regular Season Champions / 2022 GPAC Tournament Champions.
 - 2020 GPAC Tournament Champions.
 - Two-time national tournament qualifiers.
 - Combined four-year record of 83-41.
 - Two 1,000-point scorers: Carter Kent (1,671) and Justin Wiersema (1,265).
- Carter Kent: "I am most proud of this team because every guy in the room is a great person. They are great basketball players and very talented, but I am most proud of how we get along as a team and how we always enjoy being around each other. Anywhere that we are at is a great time just because the guys are so much fun to be around."





#2 SAM SCARPELLI



5-9 • Senior • Guard
Portland, Ore.
Clark CC

#3 JOEL BAKER



6-0 • Freshman • Guard
Alliance, Neb.
Alliance HS



#4 | NICK CITO



5-10 • Junior • Guard
Arvada, Colo.
Mullen HS

#5 | CARTER KENT



6-2 • Junior • Guard
Crete, Neb.
Crete HS





PLAYER PROFILES

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

#10 | JUSTIN WIERSEMA



6-3 • Junior • Guard
Loveland, Colo.
Thompson Valley HS

#11 | GAGE SMITH



6-6 • Junior • Forward
Elizabeth, Colo.
Elizabeth HS



#12 | NOAH SCHUTTE



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

#14 | AJ WATSON



5-8 • Sophomore • Guard
Kansas City, Kan.
Bonner Springs HS





#20 | TANNER WUBBELS



6-7 • Junior • Forward
Waverly, Neb.
Waverly HS

#21 | KLAY UHER



6-5 • Junior • Forward
Crete, Neb.
Crete HS



#30 | GARRETT SEAGREN



6-2 • Sophomore • Guard
Oakland, Neb.
Chaminade University

#32 | RYAN HOLT



6-5 • Senior • Forward
Highlands Ranch, Colo.
ThunderRidge HS





PLAYER PROFILES

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

#41 | TRISTAN SMITH



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

#44 | SKYLER WOITA



6-7 • Sophomore • Forward
Wahoo, Neb.
St. Gregory



#50 | BRADLEY BENNETT



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

#55 | KELLY VYHNALEK



6-7 • Sophomore • Forward
Seward, Neb.
Seward HS



UNFORGETTABLE BUZZER BEATER MADE GPAC TITLE POSSIBLE



By Jake Knabel, Director of Athletic Communications

An all-time classic moment that will go down in Concordia University Men's Basketball lore caught the attention of ESPN's SportsCenter. Tristan Smith's game-winning layup via the full-court alley-oop from Carter Kent was featured on multiple editions of SportsCenter on the evening of Feb. 17. In nearly a minute of airtime, ESPN showcased the wild final 15 seconds that featured three lead changes, including the dramatic game winner.

The incredible 74-73 victory on Feb. 16 over Briar Cliff (a matchup of the top two teams in the GPAC standings) had been the talk of campus. As fifth-year senior guard Sam Scarpelli tweeted the following day, "Next day and I'm still having a hard time processing this actually happened." Meanwhile, media personalities both far and wide weighed in on what had occurred. The consensus was that this was one of those rare instances in sports that deserves celebration.

For those who missed it, Concordia took a 72-70 lead with 10 seconds left on Carter Kent's elbow jumper. On the ensuing possession, after a timeout, the Chargers regained the advantage on Jaden Kleinhesselink's double-clutch trey with just 1.0 second remaining. The Bulldogs called timeout and that's when Head Coach Ben Limback instructed the left-handed Kent to fire a baseball pass to the rim and give Smith a chance to make a play. The pass was perfectly executed and Smith rose above a Briar Cliff defender and laid the ball of the glass, setting off a court storming inside Friedrich Arena.

Kent attempted to make sense of the play in the aftermath of the rush of excitement. Said Kent, "Coach said when he drew it up, 'You gotta throw it to Tristan.' He's like, 'You gotta throw it all the way.' I knew they were going to put a big man on the ball. I just threw it up there and hoped it was going to get there, and thankfully it did. It

was pretty crazy. Tristan's so athletic that he went up and got it."

Limback broke down the win, and that final play, on the Bulldog Coaches Show on 104.9 Max Country. Said Limback, "It was an incredible game throughout. We take a two-point lead with 10 seconds left and they call timeout. They don't get a good look but a wonderful clutch play by their guard with the double-clutch 3-pointer to take the lead. It was such a rollercoaster of emotions. Our guys come off the floor and they're just dejected because of the shot the kid hit. We had to regroup and get our emotions back in order. We said, hey, there's one second and we know Carter's got a great arm and we know Tristan can jump. We put something together and the guys executed wonderfully. You have to have it perfect. Carter throws an unbelievable pass off his back leg like a quarterback coming out of the pocket and Tristan makes an unbelievable catch – then has the body control and court awareness to put it in. There was spectrum of emotions – raw enthusiasm and being awestruck where you just don't know what to do. You're in complete shock.

"Now in today's world, you've got the phones that are videoing it. It's been fun to see the execution side of things from a basketball sense and to also to see the thrill and the raw emotions of people there. It was senior night. I'm so thankful we got to share that moment with so many fans, alums and community members, people that have been around to support us over the years. God gives you amazing things. We gave Him a lot of glory after the game. To be able to have that moment and share it with so many people is an incredible blessing."

The importance of the game was heightened by the fact that Concordia had to win to keep hopes alive of sharing the GPAC regular season title. Over the next few days, everything the Bulldogs



needed to have happen, did happen. Briar Cliff was upset at Doane and the Bulldogs finished the regular season with an 86-70 win at Dakota Wesleyan.

Kent and his fellow classmates could not have asked for a more memorable senior night. It's a group that helped lead the program to a GPAC tournament title in 2020 and has the Bulldogs on the cusp of another national tournament appearance this March. The class served a major role in building the program back up beginning in 2018-19 and pushing it towards the top of the conference standings.

Through adversity, they find ways to get it done. Added Kent on Wednesday, "That's this group in a nutshell. We always keep working. We've faced adversity throughout our entire careers. I think it showed tonight where we get hit in the mouth and we get up and keep going. It's pretty awesome to see on senior night for this to happen. Throughout our careers, we've been through a lot."

The group of four-year seniors also includes Nick Cito, Gage Smith, Klay Uher, Justin Wiersema and Tanner Wubbels. Scarpelli and Ryan Holt are fifth-year seniors on the team. While his little brother Tristan made the game-winning basket, Gage had a big night of his own in the memorable win over Briar Cliff. He totaled 23 points and 17 rebounds. Kent finished with 18 points while Justin Wiersema added 11 and AJ Watson scored 10 points.

As part of that win, Kent pushed his career point total to 1,595 (now at 1,638 entering the national tournament), surpassing former teammate Tanner Shuck for eighth place on the program's all-time list. Next to pass on that list was Matt List with 1,608 points. A big-time playmaker, Kent hit the game-winner to beat Doane on the

GPAC semifinals and is closing in on the No. 5 spot on the program's all-time scoring list.

Kent's scoring total became a sidebar after the hectic finish that bumped Concordia's home record to 13-0 at the time. Most of those victories came without late game theater.

Said Limback, "You hate to see either team lose a game like that where there's such an incredible emotional rollercoaster. Briar Cliff is a fantastic team. It was a very well-fought game on both ends. We've been on the other side. They hit one two years ago – a corner, 3-point buzzer beater they got to rush the court on our home floor. We've all had those experiences. You just have to enjoy those times when you're on the winning side. This was one of those fun moments that you can soak up and never forget."





