

ALL IN: THE ROAD TO KC



**THE STORY OF THE 2021-22
CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**

2021-22 SCHEDULE / RESULTS

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	28-7	16-0	6-5	6-2
CONFERENCE	15-5	10-0	5-5	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	13-2	6-0	1-0	6-2

Date	Opponent	Score	Att.	High Points	High Rebounds
10/29/21	vs Friends	W 87-57	300	(19)Wiersema, Justin	(10)Watson, AJ
10/30/21	vs Presentation	W 96-72		(21)Kent, Carter	(9)Wiersema, Justin
11/5/21	WALDORF	W 89-72	475	(22)Kent, Carter	(9)Smith, Gage
11/6/21	BENEDICTINE (KS)	W 68-53	425	(18)Wiersema, Justin	(12)Wiersema, Justin
11/9/21	PERU STATE	W 91-90	350	(24)Holt, Ryan	(8)Wiersema, Justin
11/13/21	*at Briar Cliff	48-65 L		(16)Schutte, Noah	(7)Schutte, Noah
11/17/21	*MIDLAND	W 80-63	500	(24)Smith, Gage	(9)Kent, Carter
11/20/21	*at Dordt	W 84-82		(21)Schutte, Noah	(8)Schutte, Noah
11/23/21	*JAMESTOWN	W 92-76	350	(27)Schutte, Noah	(8)Wiersema, Justin
12/1/21	*at Morningside	77-79 L		(20)Carter Kent	(7)Smith, Gage
12/4/21	*NORTHWESTERN	W 95-78	475	(32)Kent, Carter	(7)Smith, Gage
12/8/21	*MOUNT MARTY	W 87-72	425	(25)Smith, Gage	(11)Smith, Gage
12/11/21	*at Hastings	W 81-66		(25)Kent, Carter	(9)Smith, Gage
12/19/21	vs William Jessup	62-70 L	73	(16)Schutte, Noah	(10)Schutte, Noah
12/21/21	vs Rochester	W 71-64	35	(15)Schutte, Noah	(10)Schutte, Noah
12/29/21	at Ottawa University	W 91-82		(19)Kent, Carter	(14)Wiersema, Justin
1/1/22	*DOANE	W 60-50	450	(14)Wiersema, Justin	(7)Wiersema, Justin
1/5/22	*at Mount Marty	67-70 LOT	215	(35)Kent, Carter	(6)Wiersema, Justin
					(6)Schutte, Noah
					(6)Smith, Gage
1/8/22	*DAKOTA WESLEYAN	W 88-71	500	(19)Kent, Carter	(9)Smith, Gage
01/15/22	*at Jamestown	W 82-79		(26)Kent, Carter	(12)Schutte, Noah
1/19/22	*MORNINGSIDE	W 83-68	750	(25)Kent, Carter	(11)Smith, Gage
1/22/22	*at Northwestern	77-92 L		(19)Kent, Carter	(7)Schutte, Noah
					(7)Smith, Gage
1/26/22	*HASTINGS	W 82-68	575	(28)Smith, Gage	(11)Smith, Gage
					(11)Schutte, Noah
2/2/22	*at Midland	W 92-87		(21)Wiersema, Justin	(5)Smith, Gage
					(5)Schutte, Noah
2/5/22	*DORDT	W 92-62	565	(18)Schutte, Noah	(12)Smith, Gage
2/9/22	*at Doane	50-54 L		(17)Smith, Gage	(11)Schutte, Noah
2/16/22	*BRIAR CLIFF	W 74-73	800	(23)Smith, Gage	(17)Smith, Gage
2/19/22	*at Dakota Wesleyan	W 86-70		(20)Schutte, Noah	(10)Schutte, Noah
2/23/22	MORNINGSIDE	W 83-70	855	(17)Kent, Carter	(9)Smith, Gage
2/26/22	DOANE	W 67-65	1200	(14)Smith, Gage	(6)Smith, Tristan
3/1/22	JAMESTOWN	W 77-70	1800	(22)Schutte, Noah	(5)Wiersema, Justin
					(5)Smith, Gage
3/11/22	vs Indiana Northwest	W 96-78	560	(21)Schutte, Noah	(9)Schutte, Noah
3/12/22	vs Marian	W 90-67		(20)Schutte, Noah	(16)Smith, Gage
3/18/22	vs IU Kokomo	W 75-65		(24)Schutte, Noah	(12)Schutte, Noah
3/19/22	vs Talladega	69-77 L		(21)Watson, AJ	(11)Schutte, Noah

* - Conference game

2021-22 SEASON BOX SCORE

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	28-7	16-0	6-5	6-2
CONFERENCE	15-5	10-0	5-5	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	13-2	6-0	1-0	6-2

#	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								
2	Scarpelli, Sam	35-2	491	14.0	50-124	.403	35-91	.385	7-12	.583	2	17	19	0.5	20	0	29	17	0	12	142	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	35-35	1213	34.7	186-427	.436	68-196	.347	114-136	.838	13	110	123	3.5	45	0	113	50	18	39	554	15.8
10	Wiersema, Justin	34-34	1093	32.1	141-272	.518	46-126	.365	52-69	.754	20	153	173	5.1	39	0	98	53	19	38	380	11.2
11	Smith, Gage	32-31	779	24.3	160-296	.541	26-78	.333	92-127	.724	67	187	254	7.9	97	5	69	58	19	34	438	13.7
12	Schutte, Noah	35-29	858	24.5	180-322	.559	30-68	.441	95-129	.736	51	165	216	6.2	55	0	30	42	8	24	485	13.9
14	Watson, AJ	34-33	899	26.4	115-282	.408	46-135	.341	61-73	.836	15	85	100	2.9	58	1	84	67	2	33	337	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	28-2	263	9.4	30-45	.667	0-1	.000	15-22	.682	15	23	38	1.4	42	0	11	11	7	2	75	2.7
30	Seagren, Garrett	33-0	425	12.9	31-63	.492	9-31	.290	9-12	.750	15	37	52	1.6	32	0	16	11	1	10	80	2.4
32	Holt, Ryan	33-9	544	16.5	54-129	.419	28-91	.308	5-11	.455	10	73	83	2.5	49	0	44	22	7	20	141	4.3
41	Smith, Tristan	33-0	344	10.4	57-88	.648	3-11	.273	21-39	.538	34	63	97	2.9	54	2	8	30	23	11	138	4.2
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	Vyhnalek, 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.....		35	7024		1009-207	.486	293-843	.348	478-641	.746	288	988	1276	36.5	505	8	510	378	104	226	2789	79.7
Opponents.....		35	7022		939-2150	.437	257-761	.338	342-493	.694	288	857	1145	32.7	581	-	423	377	100	202	2477	70.8

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Totals
Concordia University	1431	1352	6	2789
Opponents	1255	1213	9	2477



2021-22 POSTSEASON VARSITY ROSTER

Ben Limback



Head Coach

Ryan Tegtmeier



Assistant Coach

Brevin Sloup



Assistant Coach

#2 Sam Scarpelli



SR • G

#3 Joel Baker



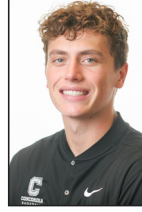
FR • G

#4 Nick Cito



JR • G

#5 Carter Kent



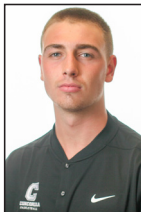
JR • G

#10 Justin Wiersema



JR • G

#11 Gage Smith



JR • F

#12 Noah Schutte



FR • F

#14 AJ Watson



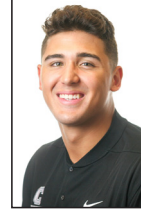
FR • G

#20 Tanner Wubbels



JR • F

#21 Klay Uher



JR • F

#30 Garrett Seagren



SO • G

#32 Ryan Holt



SR • F

#41 Tristan Smith



FR • F

#44 Skyler Woita



SO • F

#55 Kelly Vyhnalek



SO • F

Additional Varsity Contributors

Brad Bennett, Fr.
Carson Richters, Manager
Haden Richters, Manager

Randy Baack, Athletic Trainer
Todd Berner, Strength & Conditioning



2021-22 SEASON PREVIEW



The top seven scorers from last season return to form the nucleus of a roster that just might be the most talented and seasoned for the Concordia Men's Basketball program since the 2004-05 season that resulted in a national championship game appearance. The national buzz seems to be lacking, but there's a quiet confidence within the locker room. Any team that can roll out Carter Kent, Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema has the potential to be special.

Head Coach Ben Limback doesn't seem to mind if his team floats just a bit under the radar in the preseason – but it really shouldn't. Last season, the Bulldogs swept the regular season series from Northwestern (GPAC tournament champion) and came within an eyelash of doing the same to Jamestown (NAIA national quarterfinalist).

Said Limback, "We know that we have some good things in place. I think the league will be very competitive as usual. There are other teams that return guys from last year too. We might be under the radar and I'm okay with that. We talked at practice about how every team in America wants to make nationals and they feel like they can. It's about the sweat and the hard work that you put in on a daily basis. This team gets that. They're not going to take anything for granted."

The program really turned the corner down the stretch of the 2019-20 season when it went on a seven-game winning streak, captured the GPAC postseason championship and earned a bid to the national tournament. Had the national tournament field remained at 64 last season (as originally planned), Concordia might be talking about back-to-back appearances on the national stage. All last season's abbreviated postseason did was make this team anticipate 2021-22 even more.

Not only do all three All-GPAC honorees from last season return, starters Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli made the decision to take advantage of their extra "COVID" year. Yes, all five starters are back. Foremost among them is Wiersema, who rose to the level of First Team All-GPAC last winter. The 6-foot-3 guard from Loveland, Colo., can do it all. Last season he averaged 16.4 points, 5.0 rebounds and 1.6 steals while shooting an impressive 55.6 percent from the floor.

Wiersema entered the program in the fall of 2018 along with the likes of Kent, Smith and Klay Uher. Said Wiersema, "We've been together throughout the whole four years. We're all really great friends. We all spent two years in the dorms together and we see each other every day. It's a tight bond. We're almost brothers. I want to see everyone succeed – everyone wants to see everyone succeed. It's awesome



to see the improvement our team has made from player to player.”

Kent has proven he can fill it up. His 1,145 career points and 180 career treys are most of anyone on the active roster. He’s been a starter and a dependable performer from day one. Meanwhile, Smith blossomed last season while becoming one of the top rebounders in the GPAC. At 6-foot-6, Smith’s ability to score inside and out makes him a difficult matchup. Scarpelli started all 26 games last season at point guard and the muscular Holt contributes in many areas.

Limback isn’t guaranteeing that the starting lineup will be exactly the same as last season. Uher and AJ Watson have the most experience among the returning reserves. Limback raved about the progress of Watson, a 5-foot-8 guard who can score, pass, handle the ball and play defense. He averaged 5.0 points per game last season while Uher contributed 4.4 points. In the post, Noah Schutte has the ability to make a significant jump in his second year in the program. Schutte amassed more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in his high school career.

“It’s a true blessing to have your most talented players also be your guys that are the hardest working,” Limback said. “They have a hunger each day to get better and that sets the tone. They come in and they know we didn’t do what we wanted to do last year. There’s something to prove. Each one has individual goals, but they know ultimately, they want to help our team achieve success that maybe we’ve never had before. Those three (Kent, Smith and Wiersema) are special and so is the entire class. We have eight seniors, including Sam and Ryan. It’s a special group.”

The depth does not stop there. Limback will have the option

of going deeper into the bench than he has in years’ past. Watch out for transfers Garrett Seagren (Chaminade University) and Skyler Woita (St. Gregory). In addition, Gage Smith’s younger brother Tristan brings with him the right amount of skill and athleticism to compete for immediate playing time. Additional returners such as Nick Cito and Tanner Wubbels possess varsity playing experience.

It would be reasonable to expect that the Bulldogs will again be a perimeter-oriented offensive team. Last season, Concordia outnumbered its opponents in 3-point field goals, 276-204, and ranked second in the GPAC in 3-point field goals per game. Three-point marksmanship and strong team chemistry should lead to plenty of wins this winter.

Said Wiersma, “The five starters who are coming back have a lot of chemistry together. We always play together. Everyone knows where they need to be at all times. Everyone knows their role. I feel like when someone new comes in they know what to do too.”

The Bulldogs were especially dominant inside Friedrich Arena last season, going 9-1 in GPAC home games. Eight of those nine wins were decided by double digits. The only defeat came at the hands of Morningside. It could be jokingly said that new assistant coach and former Morningside standout Ryan Tegtmeier was brought in to help solve the Mustangs. Tegtmeier replaced Lance Korell as the lead assistant.

In 2021-22, Concordia Men’s Basketball will be no joke. The Bulldogs are rallying around a theme of “All In.” Limback has scheduled appropriately with a challenging nonconference run as part of a back-to-normal 30-game regular season schedule. There’s a trip to Daytona Beach, a Concordia Invitational Tournament at home and a whole lot more to look forward to.

“Our team as a whole shoots more threes than most other teams so that extra time put in away from practice has been an emphasis with our guys,” Limback said. “Defensively, we aren’t going to have a 6-10 rim protector so we have to get better at keeping the ball in front and rotating to prevent easy baskets. This should be a very fast and hard-working team. Offensively, we need to share the ball and understand how to make the simple plays. This team is pretty fun to watch and coach.”

There’s a feeling that Concordia “left some meat on the bone” last season. The Bulldogs do not want to let that happen this winter. Says Wiersema, “I feel like a lot of things could have went differently (last year). My sophomore year, going to the GPAC championship and playing in that atmosphere was unbeatable. Going to the national tournament was even more insane. I know for a fact everyone wants to get back there. We’ve all been in that atmosphere and want to get back just as much.”

BULLDOGS PICK UP VOTES IN NAIA PRESEASON POLL



SEWARD, Neb. – The Concordia University Men's Basketball team will begin the 2021-22 season with some degree of national respect. The Bulldogs picked up eight points in the NAIA Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll released on Wednesday (Oct. 27). That puts Concordia 16 spots out of the NAIA top 25 in the preseason. In the GPAC preseason poll announced last week, the Bulldogs landed at No. 3 behind Morningside and Jamestown.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad will have to earn its way into the top 25. Under Limback, Concordia finished both the 2016-17 and 2019-20 seasons as a team that received votes in the national poll. The program last cracked the top 25 in 2010-11 when it rose as high as No. 20. During the GPAC era (2000-present), the Bulldogs' highest national ranking was No. 4 in 2004-05 when they advanced to the NAIA Division II national championship game.

Concordia hopes to return to the national tournament as it did in 2020 when it played the final NAIA Division II game ever (remainder of tournament was canceled due to COVID-19). In program history, the Bulldogs have made 10 national tournament appearances, including nine under

former head coach Grant Schmidt. They last won a national tournament game in 2005.

Limback's crew tied for third in the GPAC last season while equaling a program record for conference wins in a single season (14). The Bulldogs return all five starters (and their top seven scorers) from last season, including All-GPAC honorees in Carter Kent, Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema, in addition to super seniors in Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli. Wiersema rose to first team all-conference status while becoming one of the top backcourt players in the GPAC.

Based on the preseason poll, the Bulldogs will play five regular season games against top 25 opponents: No. 12 Morningside (twice), No. 18 Benedictine and No. 19 Jamestown (twice). Nonconference opponent Ottawa (Kan.) is receiving votes in the preseason.

Concordia will open the 2021-22 season this weekend at the Hastings Classic. The Bulldogs will take on Friends University (Kan.) at 3 p.m. CT on Friday before battling Presentation College (S.D.) at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

GAGE SMITH READY TO BUILD UPON BREAK-THROUGH JUNIOR SEASON



Entering the 2020-21 basketball season, Concordia opponents were likely aware of standouts such as Carter Kent and Justin Wiersema. But if they happened to leave Gage Smith off the scouting report, they paid for it in a big way. No contest last season better represented Smith's quantum leap forward than his 32-point outburst in a dominant February win over then 16th-ranked Dakota Wesleyan.

Smith rose from a complimentary player during his first two collegiate seasons to a Second Team All-GPAC honoree last season. His play demanded that he be included in any discussion regarding the most improved players in the conference. The native of Elizabeth, Colo., served as a major reason why the Bulldogs went 14-6 in GPAC play.

Said Smith, "I didn't care what the other teams thought, honestly. I just wanted to show my team that I could step into this role and that I learned from guys like T-Shuck (Tanner Shuck) and the seniors that graduated from that GPAC tournament championship team (in 2020). It's great to get the recognition I got, but I just wanted our team to succeed – and I wanted to win."

The recognition is something new for the Elizabeth High School alum, who says he received only minimal attention during the recruiting process. Overlooked and under-recruited, Smith's breakthrough performance last season is the type of thing that only happens for athletes who work for it. The byproduct of Smith's work ethic is what people have seen play out on the court. Smith went from averages of 2.3 points and 1.3 rebounds in 2018-19, to 4.7 points and 4.5 rebounds

in 2019-20 to 13.9 points and 9.2 rebounds in 2020-21.

Head Coach Ben Limback has been impressed by the physical transformation Smith has undergone since arriving on campus. Limback and former assistant coach Lance Korrell saw immense potential in Smith. It was simply going to take a year or two of development for Smith to refine his offensive game and make himself into an all-conference player.

"It's rare to see kids physically transform the way that he has," Limback said. "He always played hard and he always had certain skills, especially on the perimeter. He was more of a guard or a wing when he came in. He was probably 175-180 when he got here and now he's over 200 and plays with a lot of physicality. The transformation took a lot of hard work that he put in during the offseason. During the recruiting process we saw a scrawny kid from Colorado that we knew one day would be a good player. He's even surpassed the level that we anticipated."

It's become cliché to talk about someone's on-court energy, but it's a big part of Smith's game. It isn't unusual for Smith to fire up a 3-point shot and then sprint after it. On multiple occasions, such hustle resulted in put-back baskets last season. It has to be a pain to try to play Smith one-on-one, because his motor never stops. He can also score in the post, hit a mid-range jumper or bomb away from beyond the arc.

When the ball is tipped, the 6-foot-6 Smith takes on the mentality of a rabid Dawg. In a three-game span near the beginning of last season, Smith totaled a combined 49 rebounds

while putting forth his best Dennis Rodman impression. He wound up reaching double figures in rebounds 11 times in 2020-21.

"I'm the nicest guy off the court, but on the court I turn into a different animal," Smith said. "I can't jump the highest and I'm not the biggest. It's about positioning. Once you get that positioning early, that's how you get more boards. Throughout the season I became more of a scorer, but I enjoy that role as a rebounder."

Somewhat unproven heading into last season, Smith was rewarded with a starting role. He never looked back while making people appear foolish for looking past him as a high school recruit. Smith won't complain about how things have worked out. He's found a fit for himself athletically, academically and socially. Smith first learned about Concordia through a former Bulldog who also came out of his home state of Colorado.

Said Smith, "I came out here and fell in love with the school. The facilities and the business professors were great and the coaches and players I met were really cool. I also liked the Christian environment. I fell in love with all of that."

Smith's experience has been so positive that his younger brother Tristan has followed him to Seward. Gage's own exploits may have helped enhance the profile of Tristan, who was a more heralded high school prospect than his older brother. If Tristan's game progresses as rapidly as Gage's, it will be a scary proposition for the rest of the GPAC.

Family or not, the Smith brothers won't lose their fiery competitiveness on the practice courts. In fact, the Smiths have already gone head-to-head several times during preseason practice. Tristan will turn heads with his ability to finish with authority. The talent for younger brother is obvious, but as big brother, Gage isn't likely to let Tristan get the best of him – at least not if he has it his way. They will poke fun about going up against one another, but as Gage says, they are "super tight."

"He's got more bounce for sure," Gage said. "If it's a dunk contest, he's got me. Anything else, I've got him." Jokes Gage, "I have to show him who the older brother is."

Said Limback, "It was a draw for Tristan to come here because of his brother. Any time at practice we tell them to pair up and go against someone one-on-one, those two always go together. They bang and compete. They're different players. Tristan is more athletic but doesn't have some of Gage's ability on the perimeter yet. They're definitely competitors, but they're also like best friends off the court."

Now entering the 2021-22 season, Gage is a trusted veteran who is much more than just a rebounder. This offseason,



Smith says he has put a lot of his focus on improving his ball-handling skills. Even at 6-foot-6, Smith wants to have the versatility to play at a guard or wing position. Gage is willing to fill what role will help the team win.

There may be more preseason buzz surrounding GPAC rivals Morningside, Jamestown and Northwestern, but Gage Smith and company cannot be ignored. All five starters return for a squad that likely would have qualified for the national tournament last season had it featured a 64-team format that will be used this season.

There's a hunger to get back to that level. Says Gage, "Our senior class has had those three years we've been playing together that most teams probably don't have. We've gotten to know each other and play with each other. I think that's going to be a benefit going into this season. We know how each other plays and how we work together. That's one of our strengths."

Off the court, Smith has been active in the community as an Administrative Assistant with the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership. The Business Administration major certainly has an interest in the business world, but he says he also would enjoy a chance to be a graduate assistant basketball coach.

Should Smith attack his career pursuits the way he hunts missed shots, the future will be a prosperous one.

DOMINANT SECOND HALF KEYS SEASON OPENING BLOWOUT WIN

HASTINGS, Neb. – A close contest for much of the first half morphed into a blowout victory as the Concordia University Men's Basketball team opened the 2021-22 season at the Hastings Classic on Friday (Oct. 29). Five Bulldogs reached double figures in what amounted to an 87-57 victory over Friends University, a member of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. Concordia feasted on 24 Falcon turnovers while point guard AJ Watson notched his first career double-double.

Head Coach Ben Limback returns a seasoned and talented roster that led to the Bulldogs receiving votes in the preseason. Friday's second half was something this team can build upon.

"I felt like our offense in the first half was solid, we just didn't finish every play and shoot well," Limback said. "Second half, I really challenged our guys. I thought our bigs, Klay (Uher) and Ryan (Holt), did a great job on ball screen coverage. Friends had really good guards coming in here with experience. I think we held them in check, second half especially. I was really proud of our defensive effort in the second half."

The season opener flipped late in the opening half when Watson drilled a trey just before the buzzer. That shot triggered a 14-0 run that turned a two-point advantage into a 51-35 lead. The contest became a rout as the Bulldogs turned up the defensive intensity. The Falcons failed to score a point during the first five minutes of the second half while Concordia did a number on returning Honorable Mention All-American Davonte Pack (two points on 1-for-5 shooting).

Even without a projected starter and a key reserve, the Bulldogs flashed their depth. Returning First Team All-GPAC honoree Justin Wiersema led the way with 19 points. In the scoring column, he was followed by teammates in Watson (16), Carter Kent (15), Klay Uher (13) and Noah Schutte (10). Defensively, the backcourt was active as Kent, Watson and

Wiersema combined for seven steals.

Said Watson of the team's depth, "It's going to be scary. We're going to have a scary team the whole season. We've got 10 players that you can pull out of a hat and start five."

Concordia outscored Friends, 47-22, in the second half while building a lead as large as 34 points. Not only did the Falcons commit 24 turnovers, they shot only 37 percent (20-for-54) for the game. It took 15 shots for their leading scorer, Ian Konek, to reach a team high 10 points. The tenacious Bulldog D also swatted eight shots (three rejections by freshman Tristan Smith).

With the team's top seven scorers back from last season, Concordia expects to be in the mix at the top of the GPAC standings. Wiersema went 8-for-14 from the floor and added four assists, two steals and two blocks in the type of all-around effort Bulldog fans have become accustomed to. Wiersema was one of six Concordia players to knock down a triple (10-for-30 as a team from 3-point range).

Said Limback, "I told the guys I have a hard job this year with the rotations and finding the right combinations, but I'd much rather have that problem than not having enough horses. I thought everyone that stepped out there today did some really good things."

The Falcons went 8-16 last season and are in the process of building up the program under a first-year head coach in Austin McBeth. Concordia also defeated Friends at last season's Hastings Classic with the final score being 102-82.

The Bulldogs will return to the Hastings Classic on Saturday for a 2 p.m. CT tipoff with Presentation College (S.D.). Entering the event, the Saints (1-3) had been beaten by three GPAC opponents already during the 2021-22 season.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Friends
10/29/21 3:00 PM at Lynn Farrell Arena

Concordia University 87 • 1-0, 0-0

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	8-14	3-7	0-1	2	1	3	1	19	4	2	2	2	29
14	Watson, AJ	*	5-14	1-4	5-6	4	6	10	1	16	2	1	0	2	23
21	Uher, Klay	*	6-6	0-0	1-2	2	2	4	1	13	0	1	1	1	21
32	Holt, Ryan	*	2-4	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	2	4	2	1	0	1	26
5	Kent, Carter	*	7-15	1-5	0-1	1	2	3	0	15	2	0	2	3	32
12	Schutte, Noah		3-8	3-4	1-4	2	5	7	2	10	2	1	0	1	20
2	Scarpelli, Sam		1-5	1-5	0-0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	18
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
3	Baker, Joel		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
4	Cito, Nick		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	4
41	Smith, Tristan		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	5	2	1	1	3	0	11
44	Woita, Skyler		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	7
50	Bennett, Bradley		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team						3	2	5							
Totals			35-72	10-30	7-14	15	26	41	17	87	14	8	8	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-36 44.4% 2nd half: 19-36 52.8% Game: 35-72 48.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-13 30.8% 2nd half: 6-17 35.3% Game: 10-30 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 3-5 60.0% Game: 7-14 50.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Friends 57 • 0-1, 0-0

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
1	Ian Konek	*	3-15	2-10	2-2	0	5	5	2	10	1	3	0	1	27
11	Davonte Pack	*	1-5	0-1	0-0	1	3	4	2	2	5	5	0	0	25
12	Tim Barbieri	*	0-4	0-1	3-3	3	2	5	4	3	2	1	3	1	21
2	Trey Reid	*	4-7	1-2	0-3	1	2	3	1	9	1	2	0	0	34
25	Anthony Cameron	*	2-4	0-0	3-5	0	3	3	0	7	1	3	0	0	9
10	Jordan Gary		4-5	0-0	1-2	0	3	3	3	9	0	3	1	0	17
3	Elijah Conley		2-4	0-0	2-2	3	1	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	14
30	Darryon Frierson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
33	Eastyn Ruffin		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
35	Josh Osborn		2-4	0-1	1-2	2	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	1	12
4	Drew Patterson		2-5	2-3	0-0	0	2	2	2	6	1	5	0	1	26
41	Connor Kern		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Team						3	2	5							
Totals			20-54	5-18	12-19	14	26	40	14	57	13	24	4	4	197

FG % 1st Half: 13-35 37.1% 2nd half: 7-19 36.8% Game: 20-54 37.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-14 35.7% 2nd half: 0-4 0.0% Game: 5-18 27.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-6 66.7% 2nd half: 8-13 61.5% Game: 12-19 63.2%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Friends-None.

Attendance: 300

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	40	47	87
Friends	35	22	57

BULLDOGS POLISH OFF 2-0 START WITH ROUT OF PRESENTATION

HASTINGS, Neb. – The offense was alive and well in Concordia University Men's Basketball route of Presentation College on Saturday (Oct. 30) afternoon, scoring nearly 100 points. There were five bulldogs with double figures in the scoring column in the 96-72 win. Concordia shot 50 percent from the field and a solid 38.1 percent from beyond the arc.

Head Coach Ben Limback team had an impressive opening weekend at the Hastings Classic while starting the season off 2-0. The Bulldogs outscored their opponents 183-129 at the tournament. Limback was happy with the hot start from his squad on Saturday.

"I thought our guys were ready to play," Limback said. "I think they understand the importance of not letting up. This Presentation team hung with Jamestown and played Hastings tough last night. They have talent and are well-coached. We sent a message right away. Our starting group got some easy baskets in transition. The first half was a really good start."

Ryan Holt was big for Concordia early, shooting a perfect 4-4 from the field and scoring 12 points. Carter Kent heated up after halftime and finished the game with 21 points and seven assists. Justin Wiersema was a rebound shy of a double-double, collecting 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Klay Uher did his part tossing in 17 points and snagging six rebounds. AJ Watson was the fifth Concordia player in double figures with 11 points and five assists. The Bulldogs also won the turnover battle, only turning the ball over nine times compared to the Saints' 17. The Bulldogs Bench was a key part in the victory as well, nine players total put points on the board in the game.

Said Limback, "It's an unselfish team. We have guys off the bench who pick up where the starters leave off with moving the ball and sharing it. That makes it a lot harder to defend. When we space the floor with a lot of guys who can score, we're difficult to guard."

For Presentation (1-5), its leading scorer was Denzel McDuffey with 15 points. McDuffey also captured the double-double with 10 rebounds in the contest. Justin Steed was the only other Saint in double figures with 14 points. Presentation shot 50 percent (8-for-16) from the 3-point arc. The Saints have gone 0-5 against GPAC opponents in the early going.

Concordia will be at home for the first time this season next weekend (Nov. 5-6) when it stages the 22nd annual Cattle Classic inside Friedrich Arena. The Bulldogs will welcome nonconference opponent Waldorf University (Iowa) to town on day one for an 8 p.m. CT tipoff. The two schools last met in 2019 when Concordia won narrowly.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Presentation
10/30/21 2:00 PM at Lynn Farrell Arena

Concordia University 96 • 2-0, 0-0

#	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	5-10	1-5	5-6	0	9	9	0	16	5	2	0	33
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-11	2-3	3-3	0	2	2	3	11	5	0	0	27
21	Uher, Klay	*	7-8	0-0	3-4	3	3	6	1	17	1	0	0	22
32	Holt, Ryan	*	4-5	2-3	2-4	0	2	2	0	12	0	0	0	21
5	Kent, Carter	*	6-14	3-7	6-7	1	3	4	1	21	7	2	0	32
12	Schutte, Noah		3-8	0-0	1-2	3	2	5	1	7	0	1	0	15
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	20
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
3	Baker, Joel		2-3	0-1	0-1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3
4	Cito, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	3
41	Smith, Tristan		3-5	0-1	1-2	3	1	4	0	7	1	2	1	15
44	Woit, Skyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
55	Vyhnaelek, Kelly		0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Team						0	3	3						
Totals			33-66	8-21	22-31	10	28	38	10	96	21	9	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-33 48.5% 2nd half: 17-33 51.5% Game: 33-66 50.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 7-12 58.3% 2nd half: 1-9 11.1% Game: 8-21 38.1%
 FT % 1st Half: 14-17 82.4% 2nd half: 8-14 57.1% Game: 22-31 71.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
4

Presentation 72 • 1-5, 0-0

#	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
0	Ian Kelly	*	1-4	0-2	2-2	0	2	2	0	4	0	2	0	14
11	Travez Nyx	*	3-5	0-0	1-1	0	1	1	0	7	3	3	0	23
3	Denzel McDuffey	*	7-14	1-2	0-0	6	4	10	4	15	1	2	1	23
4	Dwight Felton	*	3-8	0-1	2-2	1	2	3	4	8	1	2	0	16
5	Justin Steed	*	5-10	4-5	0-0	0	0	0	1	14	0	3	0	24
2	Jeremiah Gilyard		1-3	1-2	0-0	0	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	16
20	Isaac Sumption		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	18
21	Lavell Brown		3-8	2-4	0-0	0	2	2	4	8	0	0	0	18
24	Jackson Becker		3-5	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	6	0	1	0	15
30	Jasper Gibson		1-2	0-0	2-4	0	3	3	3	4	0	1	0	14
33	Maximo Guillermo		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
34	Tyler Kartchner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
35	Kiegan Phung		0-0	0-0	3-5	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	11
Team						1	1	2						
Totals			27-61	8-16	10-14	9	27	36	19	72	9	17	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-31 35.5% 2nd half: 16-30 53.3% Game: 27-61 44.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd half: 4-8 50.0% Game: 8-16 50.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-3 100.0 2nd half: 7-11 63.6% Game: 10-14 71.4%

Deadball
Rebounds
1,1

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Presentation-Dwight Felton.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	53	43	96
Presentation	29	43	72

KENT, WIERSEMA GUIDE CONCORDIA PAST WALDORF AT CATTLE CLASSIC



SEWARD, Neb. – Visiting Waldorf University (Iowa) gave its best effort in attempting to spoil the opening night of the 22nd annual Cattle Classic, but the Concordia University Men's Basketball team had too much firepower. Stars Carter Kent and Justin Wiersema both reached the 20-point mark in powering the Bulldogs to an 89-72 win inside Friedrich Arena on Friday (Nov. 5) night. Concordia shot 51.5 percent from the floor in the second half while responding to the Warrior comeback bid.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad has jumped out to a 3-0 record having also played last weekend at the Hastings Classic. One more game remains on this weekend's slate.

"Give Waldorf and their staff a lot of credit. They came out, fought hard and chipped away," Limback said. "I thought we took some quick shots in the second half. We didn't get in a good rhythm and didn't talk well enough in transition. We

want to guard, we can guard. We just have to bring that mentality over 40 minutes. I loved how we answered at the end with some big plays."

The Bulldogs saw a first-half lead as large as 18 points get whittled all the way down to three (64-61) with just under 8:30 left to play. Four minutes later, Waldorf was still hovering within six (75-69) before Concordia finally slammed the door. The Bulldogs outscored the Warriors, 14-3, over the final four minutes with the help of a trey from Wiersema and a couple of layups from Garrett Seagren.

Kent finished his night with a stat-stuffing 22 points (7-for-14 from the floor), six assists, five rebounds and three steals. Wiersema was similarly effective in notching 20 points, five rebounds and three steals. Wiersema got the crowd roaring in the first half with a steal and a two-hand slam. While making his return to the lineup, Gage Smith posted 11 points and nine rebounds. Off the bench, AJ Watson canned 14 points on the strength of four treys. Ryan Holt's day included nine points, six assists and six rebounds. Seagren (transfer from Chaminade University) chipped in with seven points on 3-for-4 shooting.

Said Limback, "It was nice to see Gage back and I thought Garrett played really well defensively. He's a guy who brings a lot of versatility. It was good to get them in and get some rhythm back. It's an adjustment after two games without them. Now we're just trying to figure out some of those rotations, but I thought both guys did some good things."

For Waldorf (0-2), Lorenzo Smith did his best to keep his side in the game. He racked up 23 points and went 9-for-14 from the floor. Bryanth Farr totaled 16 points. The Warriors shot an impressive 63.0 percent (17-for-27) from the field in the second half. Located in Forest City, Iowa, Waldorf competes as a member of the NAIA's North Star Athletic Association.

Concordia shot 49.3 percent (33-for-67) for the game. It made 11-of-26 (.423) tries from beyond the arc. The Bulldogs had a slight edge in rebounding, 38-34, and took care of the ball (just six turnovers).

Based on the rankings, Concordia will face its stiffest challenge so far this season when it hosts No. 18 Benedictine College (Kan.) at 4 p.m. CT on Saturday. It will mark the eighth and final game of the Cattle Classic, which raises canned food items and cash donations for the Blue Valley Community Action's Food Pantry. The event is sponsored by Cattle Bank & Trust of Seward.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Waldorf vs Concordia University
11/5/21 08:10 PM at Friedrich Arena

Waldorf 72 • 0-2, 0-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
1	Quincy Minor, Jr.	*	4-12	2-5	3-3	2	1	3	2	13	8	3	0	1	40
21	Chett Helming	*	3-10	0-3	0-0	0	3	3	3	6	0	2	0	2	22
23	Tyree'on Johnson	*	4-5	0-0	0-2	3	13	16	0	8	4	2	2	0	33
34	Bryanth Farr	*	7-13	2-5	0-0	0	1	1	5	16	1	2	0	0	31
5	Lorenzo Smith	*	9-14	3-5	2-2	0	5	5	3	23	1	2	0	0	34
14	Jacob Daing		1-2	1-1	0-0	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	1	2	12
33	Tristan Furgeson		0-2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
4	Noah Miller		1-4	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	18
Team						1	0	1							
Totals			29-62	9-23	5-7	7	27	34	16	72	14	11	3	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-35 34.3% 2nd half: 17-27 63.0% Game: 29-62 46.8%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-15 33.3% 2nd half: 4-8 50.0% Game: 9-23 39.1%
 FT % 1st Half: 1-3 33.3% 2nd half: 4-4 100.0 Game: 5-7 71.4%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Concordia University 89 • 3-0, 0-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	7-12	3-4	3-4	0	5	5	3	20	2	0	1	3	31
11	Smith, Gage	*	4-7	1-2	2-5	3	6	9	2	11	2	1	1	1	21
2	Scarpelli, Sam	*	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	15
32	Holt, Ryan	*	4-7	1-4	0-0	3	3	6	0	9	6	1	0	0	29
5	Kent, Carter	*	7-14	2-6	6-6	1	4	5	3	22	6	0	0	3	36
12	Schutte, Noah		2-4	0-0	0-2	1	2	3	1	4	0	2	0	0	10
14	Watson, AJ		5-15	4-9	0-0	0	3	3	1	14	2	0	0	1	29
30	Seagren, Garrett		3-4	0-1	1-1	0	1	1	2	7	0	1	0	1	20
41	Smith, Tristan		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	9
Team						1	2	3							
Totals			33-67	11-26	12-18	11	27	38	12	89	21	6	3	9	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-34 47.1% 2nd half: 17-33 51.5% Game: 33-67 49.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 7-15 46.7% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 11-26 42.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-9 66.7% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% Game: 12-18 66.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Waldorf-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 475

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Waldorf	30	42	72
Concordia University	45	44	89

CONCORDIA OUT-GRITS NO. 18 BENEDICTINE IN EARLY SEASON'S TOUGHEST TEST

SEWARD, Neb. – In an early season bout between two undefeated teams, the Concordia University Men's Basketball team managed to fend off 18th-ranked Benedictine College (Kan.), ending the Cattle Classic with a win. Despite shooting struggles for the Bulldogs, their defense held strong and they gritted out a 68-53 victory on Saturday (Nov. 6). Two Concordia players, Carter Kent and Justin Wiersema, were both named to the Men's All-Cattle Classic team after the matchup.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad has been hot early, as it improves to 4-0 on the young season. Limback was happy with the fast start that the Bulldogs jumped out to.

Said Limback, "I thought the first half set the tone and we were ready. The guys brought a lot of energy, I thought our bench was outstanding. I think that's really what it stems from, this team chose the theme of 'All In' and it was certainly very evident to start this game. I was really proud of the way we came out."

Wiersema led the Bulldogs in scoring with 18 points. He also added 12 rebounds, giving him the double-double. AJ Watson tossed in 11 points and a pair of assists. Noah Shutte finished with 10 points for Concordia. Carter Kent had eight points and six assists in the contest. The Bulldogs went cold from beyond the arc (3-for-26), but they made up for it by scoring 42 of their 68 points in the paint.

Despite some of the second half shooting struggles, Concordia maintained a double-digit lead for the entire second half.

"It felt like a good old-fashioned rock fight in the second half where it was just back in fourth and where neither team could really ball in the hole," Limback said. "I thought there was some fatigue their and both teams playing hard but just couldn't get shots to fall. The second half was ugly, but this is a team that can defend and score. When you put both together it's special, but certainly if you can win both ways that's a sign of a great team."

Benedictine finished with two players in double figures. Jaiden Bristol ended the contest with 16 points and five assists. Eric Krus tossed in 18 himself and led the Ravens in scoring. Benedictine fell to 4-1 with the loss. The Ravens earned an 82-62 win over Hastings on Friday.

Concordia will be at home again on Tuesday, welcoming Peru State College to Friedrich Arena. The Bobcats are 1-2 so far on the season. The Bulldogs fell to Peru State in last year's

meeting in late December. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. CT.

2021 All-Cattle Classic Team

TJ Babikir, Hastings

Jaiden Bristol, Benedictine

Carter Kent, Concordia

Quincy Minor Jr., Waldorf

Justin Wiersema, Concordia



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Benedictine (KS) vs Concordia University
11/6/21 04:10 PM at Friedrich Arena

Benedictine (KS) 53 • 4-1, 0-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Jaiden Bristol	*	5-9	1-3	5-7	0	4	4	5	16	5	4	1	0	36
15	Jayden Temme	*	1-10	0-4	1-2	1	7	8	3	3	1	0	0	2	30
20	Matt Austin	*	3-12	0-3	0-0	0	2	2	2	6	2	0	0	1	28
24	Eric Krus	*	6-14	2-9	4-4	1	2	3	2	18	0	2	0	0	25
25	Saxton Thuston	*	2-6	0-1	0-0	4	2	6	2	4	0	0	0	1	19
0	Nysir Scott		0-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	10
21	Braden Belt		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
23	Joel Adese		0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
31	Ahmad Louis		2-4	2-4	0-2	0	4	4	0	6	1	1	0	0	21
32	Tyson Cathy		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	20
Team						2	1	3							
Totals			19-62	5-24	10-15	10	27	37	20	53	11	8	1	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-29 31.0% 2nd half: 10-33 30.3% Game: 19-62 30.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-12 16.7% 2nd half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 5-24 20.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 5-7 71.4% 2nd half: 5-8 62.5% Game: 10-15 66.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,2

Concordia University 68 • 4-0, 0-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	7-13	0-3	4-4	2	10	12	2	18	4	1	0	0	32
11	Smith, Gage	*	4-8	0-3	1-2	1	7	8	3	9	1	1	0	1	29
14	Watson, AJ	*	2-10	2-7	5-6	1	2	3	2	11	2	0	0	0	29
32	Holt, Ryan	*	3-10	1-6	0-0	1	4	5	4	7	0	1	0	1	32
5	Kent, Carter	*	3-8	0-4	2-2	0	4	4	1	8	6	2	0	0	36
12	Schutte, Noah		4-6	0-0	2-2	2	2	4	2	10	0	1	0	0	16
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-4	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	10
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	0-0	1-1	1	3	4	0	3	0	2	0	1	10
41	Smith, Tristan		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	6
Team						1	3	4							
Totals			25-62	3-26	15-17	10	36	46	15	68	14	10	0	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-35 51.4% 2nd half: 7-27 25.9% Game: 25-62 40.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-14 14.3% 2nd half: 1-12 8.3% Game: 3-26 11.5%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-4 100.0 2nd half: 11-13 84.6% Game: 15-17 88.2%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,2

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Benedictine (KS)-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 425

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Benedictine (KS)	25	28	53
Concordia University	42	26	68

HOLT'S HEROICS COMPLETE COMEBACK IN DRAMATIC SHOOTOUT WITH PERU STATE

SEWARD, Neb. – This wasn't your routine Tuesday evening nonconference tilt. By night's end, everyone playing – or in attendance – needed a breather and maybe a little Pepto Bismol. When the buzzer sounded, Ryan Holt was embraced by a mob of teammates following his game-winning trey in the final seconds. Holt's heroics completed a comeback from eight points down and lifted the Concordia University Men's Basketball team to a 91-90 victory over visiting Peru State College.

This one may have aged Head Coach Ben Limback, but he's not going to complain too much about a squad that is finding different ways to win. The Bulldogs are now 5-0 on the season.

"It's incredible – that was just a tremendous game," Limback said. "Twenty-two (Jibril Harris) had an amazing night. He was tough to stop and we had to switch to zone. I thought we lost our composure a little bit in the second half. The switch flipped and we were fortunate enough to have a play at the end to try to tie it. I thought Ryan Holt had a tremendous game even before that (game winner). He comes out in the corner and hits a big shot. We survived – and that's what team's have to do."

There was a bit of a survive-and-advance feel to this one. Offensive fireworks characterized the night, but Concordia would have had no chance if it had not been able to dig in defensively. The tactical move to a zone press finally resulted in a series of stops. Peru State went cold after Tyrece Grigg's triple with 6:01 remaining pushed the Bobcat lead to 87-79.

Peru State went just 1-for-7 from the floor and turned it over twice in the closing six minutes.

A misfire by the Bobcats in the final 30 seconds gave the Bulldogs, down 90-88, a shot. After a timeout, the ball ended up in AJ Watson's hands at the top of the key. Watson dribbled into the paint, briefly lost control, then pitched the ball into the left corner for Holt, who cold-bloodedly sunk the game winner. An errant desperation shot by Peru State at the buzzer set Friedrich Arena into a frenzy.

Holt was emotionally and physically drained at that point. Said Holt, "It was a mix of being happy, really exhausted – I could barely breathe out there – and confidence. I knew as soon as I touched it and AJ threw it to me, it was going in. I just felt it. As soon as it went in, I was like, 'We've got to get back on D, there's still some time on the clock.' It was a mix of all the emotions."

The final tally of 24 points represented a career high for Holt, who went 10-for-14 from the floor, including 4-for-7 from 3-point range. Four teammates joined him in double figures in the scoring column: Carter Kent (19), Gage Smith (18), Noah Schutte (13) and Watson (10). Justin Wiersema added seven points, eight rebounds and seven assists. The Bulldogs shot a blistering 55.2 percent (37-for-67) from the field.

Concordia needed each of those field goals to keep pace with Peru State (1-4), which played plenty well enough to win on Tuesday. The Bulldogs struggled mightily to contain Harris, a transfer from NCAA Division I Mississippi Valley State. The 6-foot-8 Harris wound up with 32 points on 13-for-16 shooting from the field. Once Concordia focused more attention on Harris, the Peru State backcourt went wild from long range. The Bobcats finished 14-for-27 (.519) from beyond the arc. Harris and company managed to turn a 12-point first-half deficit into a lead as large as eight in the second half.

Three days after winning a slugfest, 68-53, over No. 18 Benedictine College (Kan.), the Bulldogs had to win with offensive firepower. Said Holt of what it took on Tuesday, "A lot of mental toughness. It comes down to how well we can play together, making the smart plays and getting the right shots ... We just have to keep playing together and pull through."

GPAC play will get started on Saturday when the Bulldogs are set to venture to Sioux City, Iowa, for a matchup with Briar Cliff (2-2, 0-0 GPAC). Tipoff from the Newman Flanagan Center is set for 6:45 p.m. CT. Last season, the two sides split their regular season meetings with the home team winning in both instances.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Peru State vs Concordia University
11/9/21 07:00 PM at Friedrich Arena

Peru State 90 • 1-4, 0-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
01	Troy Houghton	*	4-8	0-0	0-0	2	3	5	4	8	2	0	0	27
04	Henry Tanksley	*	3-7	0-2	0-0	1	3	4	2	6	0	1	0	27
11	Skyler Wilson	*	5-11	3-4	1-1	0	2	2	1	14	5	4	0	34
22	Jibril Harris	*	13-16	5-5	1-2	4	4	8	2	32	3	2	0	33
32	Isaac Simpson	*	1-4	1-4	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	10
02	SJ Allison Jr.		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
03	Tyrece Griggs		3-5	2-3	1-2	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	20
15	Donzell Johnson		1-3	1-2	0-0	0	3	3	1	3	0	1	0	18
23	Ajantae Hogan		6-11	2-6	1-2	0	4	4	0	15	1	0	1	18
55	Amitai Afenjar		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	12
Team						2	2	4						
Totals			36-67	14-27	4-7	10	22	32	12	90	14	10	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 21-36 58.3% 2nd half: 15-31 48.4% Game: 36-67 53.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-14 42.9% 2nd half: 8-13 61.5% Game: 14-27 51.9%
 FT % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 3-5 60.0% Game: 4-7 57.1%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,3

Concordia University 91 • 5-0, 0-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-6	1-2	0-0	1	7	8	1	7	7	2	0	30
11	Smith, Gage	*	7-12	0-1	4-6	5	2	7	2	18	0	1	0	29
14	Watson, AJ	*	4-7	1-4	1-2	0	0	0	1	10	4	0	0	30
32	Holt, Ryan	*	10-14	4-7	0-1	1	3	4	0	24	2	0	2	33
5	Kent, Carter	*	7-15	3-7	2-4	0	4	4	2	19	3	1	0	32
12	Schutte, Noah		6-8	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	13	1	0	0	18
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-2	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	11
41	Smith, Tristan		0-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	7
Team						1	1	2						
Totals			37-67	10-24	7-13	11	21	32	9	91	19	5	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 21-36 58.3% 2nd half: 16-31 51.6% Game: 37-67 55.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-14 42.9% 2nd half: 4-10 40.0% Game: 10-24 41.7%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-6 66.7% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 7-13 53.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,3

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Peru State-Henry Tanksley. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 350

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Peru State	49	41	90
Concordia University	52	39	91

BULLDOGS FALL IN CLUNKER TO OPEN GPAC PLAY



SIOUX CITY, Iowa – The GPAC opener for the Concordia University Men's Basketball team is one it will want to quickly flush. The Bulldogs went just 1-for-21 from 3-point range and struggled to the tune of a 65-48 loss at Briar Cliff on Saturday (Nov. 13). As a contrast, the Chargers made eight treys in their home gym, the Newman Flanagan Center.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad has tasted defeat for the first time this season and sits at 5-1 overall. The performance fell well below the team's high standards. Said Limback, "We struggled mightily offensively, had uncharacteristic turnovers and didn't finish plays. Noah (Schutte) was a bright spot."

A tight 20-18 game through the first 13 minutes and change gave way to a double-digit halftime lead for Briar Cliff. For the entirety of the second half, the Chargers maintained an advantage of at least eight points in a surprisingly comfortable victory. It's a challenge to dig out of such a hole when the shots aren't falling. Briar Cliff shot 45.6 percent (26-for-57) from the floor while Concordia shot 36.7 percent (18-for-49) overall.

Only Schutte (16) and AJ Watson (11) reached double figures in scoring for the Bulldogs. A native of Laurel, Neb., Schutte has made big strides in his second season in the program. He made 6-of-7 shots from the free throw line on Saturday and topped Concordia with seven rebounds. In a rare occurrence, both Carter Kent (eight) and Justin Wiersema (four) were held to single digit scoring outputs. Gage Smith posted a line of five points, six rebounds and three steals.

The star for the Chargers (3-3, 1-0 GPAC) was Jaden Kleinhesselink, who drilled 4-of-5 attempts from long range and led all scorers with 21 points. Kyle Boerhave chipped in with 13 points, Quinn Vesey totaled 11 points and Quiten Vasa (nine points, nine rebounds) fell just shy of a double-double. Not only did Briar Cliff shoot the ball much better than Concordia, it also owned a plus-five turnover margin (17-12).

The 48 points scored by the Bulldogs were easily a season low. Concordia had just come off a 91-90 nail-biter of a win over Peru State College. As for the Chargers, it's been an up-and-down run outside of league play. Briar Cliff has collected wins over Bellevue University and Indiana University East.

The Bulldogs will have to wait until Wednesday to put this loss behind them. On that day, Concordia will host Midland (5-1, 0-0 GPAC) at 7:45 p.m. CT. The Bulldogs have won each of the last five meetings with the Warriors.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Briar Cliff
11/13/21 6:45 PM at Newman Flanagan Center

Concordia University 48 • 5-1, 0-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	2-5	0-3	0-1	0	4	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	33
11	Smith, Gage	*	2-7	0-1	1-2	1	5	6	2	5	0	4	0	3	24
14	Watson, AJ	*	5-7	1-2	0-0	0	3	3	1	11	1	5	0	0	27
32	Holt, Ryan	*	0-3	0-3	0-0	1	3	4	2	0	3	1	0	0	29
5	Kent, Carter	*	4-11	0-4	0-0	0	4	4	3	8	3	2	2	2	38
12	Schutte, Noah		5-11	0-4	6-7	4	3	7	3	16	0	2	0	0	25
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-1	0-0	4-4	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	11
41	Smith, Tristan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Team						0	1	1				1			
Totals			18-49	1-21	11-14	6	23	29	13	48	7	17	2	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-25 44.0% 2nd half: 7-24 29.2% Game: 18-49 36.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 1-10 10.0% 2nd half: 0-11 0.0% Game: 1-21 4.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 8-9 88.9% Game: 11-14 78.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
3,2

Briar Cliff 65 • 3-3, 1-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Jaden Kleinhesselink	*	8-10	4-5	1-2	0	2	2	1	21	2	2	0	1	37
20	Quinten Vasa	*	3-5	1-3	2-4	1	8	9	4	9	1	2	1	1	28
23	Kyle Boerhave	*	6-8	0-1	1-2	1	2	3	4	13	0	3	0	0	26
4	Quinn Vesey	*	4-12	2-5	1-2	3	3	6	1	11	5	2	0	5	33
5	Conner Groves	*	1-8	0-1	0-0	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	0	1	24
1	Carson Kruger		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Sammy Green		1-5	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	9
15	Andrew Gibb		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
22	Jamison Helmers		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	Nick Hoyt		1-2	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	20
25	Nathan Hall		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
55	Matthew Stilwill		1-6	0-1	0-0	0	3	3	0	2	1	1	0	2	19
Team						0	0	0							
Totals			26-57	8-19	5-10	7	23	30	17	65	12	12	1	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-33 45.5% 2nd half: 11-24 45.8% Game: 26-57 45.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-12 33.3% 2nd half: 4-7 57.1% Game: 8-19 42.1%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 3-5 60.0% Game: 5-10 50.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
4,2

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Briar Cliff-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	26	22	48
Briar Cliff	36	29	65

STAR TRIO OF KENT, SMITH AND WIERSEMA POWERS WIN OVER MIDLAND



SEWARD, Neb. – A return to the home court brought a return to high level play for the Concordia University Men's Basketball team on Wednesday (Nov. 17). The Bulldogs were back to operating efficiently, shooting 54.0 percent from the floor in the process of claiming an 80-63 win over Midland inside Friedrich Arena. The Bulldogs constructed a lead as large as 20 and absorbed an 11-1 second half run by the Warriors.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad shook off what occurred four days earlier at Briar Cliff and earned its first GPAC win of the season. Concordia boosted its record to 6-1 overall (1-1 GPAC).

"I thought our guys played really hard defensively tonight and limited some of their clean looks," Limback said. "The whole team was hungry. We wanted to play well today. It helps to be at home. Gage (Smith) was really good tonight and I thought Sam Scarpelli did some nice things off the bench. Those three guys (Carter Kent, Justin Wiersema and Smith) had really good nights offensively and it's good to see them get back in a rhythm."

It would certainly appear that last week's rough shooting performance at Briar Cliff was an outlier. After going 1-for-21 from 3-point range last time out, the Bulldogs heated up to 12-for-23 from distance on Wednesday. Concordia never allowed Midland to grab a lead at any point and had control all evening. The Warriors did have a flicker of hope when they cut a 19-point deficit (63-44) down to nine (64-55) with 7:47 left. Back-to-back treys from Wiersema and Smith restored order. Midland could not stop Smith down the stretch.

The Elizabeth, Colo., native led all players with 24 points on the strength of 9-for-12 shooting from the floor. Wiersema added 18 points, six rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

He returned to the game after receiving a blow to the jaw. In addition, Kent chipped in 16 points, nine rebounds, three assists and two steals. Kent knocked home 11 points in the second half.

"We had a rough game on Saturday with Briar Cliff. You just have to forget about it and have a next-game mentality," Smith said. "We came out and executed. We just trust each other. When we move the ball around the key, we're hard to stop. Anyone of us can score."

Concordia hopes this was the springboard to plenty more conference wins. Said Limback, "It's a tough league. That team right there is going to win a lot of games. To come out here and defend home court is important. We want to keep that momentum going on Saturday."

Midland (5-2, 0-1 GPAC) was held to 36.4 percent (20-for-55) shooting from the floor. Offensive output was tough to come by outside of Bo Sanquist (21 points) and Laurence Merritt (15 points). To make matters worse, the Warriors were outrebounded, 35-26.

Noah Schutte got his first career start and notched eight points on 3-for-5 shooting for the Bulldogs. Scarpelli went 2-for-2 from 3-point range off the bench and Tristan Smith contributed five points. Wiersema's career point total now stands at 998.

Another conference road test is coming up on Saturday when the Bulldogs will be in Sioux Center, Iowa, to take on Dordt (6-2, 0-1 GPAC). The two sides split last two 2020-21 regular season meetings with the home team winning in both instances. The Defenders will be fresh off an 88-75 loss to No. 12 Morningside on Wednesday.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Midland vs Concordia University
11/17/21 07:50 PM at Friedrich Arena

Midland 63 • 5-2, 0-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
05	Jake Rueschhoff	*	1-7	0-4	4-4	2	1	3	2	6	5	3	0	3	38
10	Colton Uhing	*	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
22	Bo Sandquist	*	7-16	5-13	2-2	0	4	4	1	21	0	0	0	0	40
24	Laurence Merritt	*	4-11	2-8	5-5	0	4	4	0	15	0	1	0	0	35
43	Tyler Sandoval	*	1-3	0-0	2-2	1	0	1	5	4	0	1	1	0	9
02	Ryan Larsen		4-11	1-8	0-0	0	3	3	2	9	1	1	0	1	37
03	Emanuel Bryson		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	4
20	Samuel Mailloux		1-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	8
21	Colby Tichota		0-1	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	12
34	Jack Cooper		0-1	0-0	1-2	2	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	10
Team						1	2	3							
Totals			20-55	9-35	14-15	8	18	26	18	63	7	10	1	6	199

FG % 1st Half: 11-35 31.4% 2nd half: 9-20 45.0% Game: 20-55 36.4%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-22 22.7% 2nd half: 4-13 30.8% Game: 9-35 25.7%
 FT % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd half: 14-15 93.3% Game: 14-15 93.3%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Concordia University 80 • 6-1, 1-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	5-10	2-6	6-6	0	6	6	3	18	4	5	2	0	36
11	Smith, Gage	*	9-12	3-5	3-5	1	5	6	2	24	3	1	0	0	30
12	Schutte, Noah	*	3-5	0-1	2-2	0	2	2	4	8	0	0	0	0	20
14	Watson, AJ	*	1-6	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	6	2	0	0	32
5	Kent, Carter	*	6-9	4-6	0-0	0	9	9	1	16	3	3	0	2	35
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-2	2-2	0-0	1	0	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	15
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-2	0-1	0-0	2	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	17
4	Cito, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
41	Smith, Tristan		1-4	0-0	3-5	1	1	2	2	5	1	1	0	0	13
44	Woit, Skyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
55	Vyhnaelek, Kelly		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
Team						3	2	5							
Totals			27-50	12-23	14-18	8	27	35	17	80	18	14	2	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-26 53.8% 2nd half: 13-24 54.2% Game: 27-50 54.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd half: 7-12 58.3% Game: 12-23 52.2%
 FT % 1st Half: 7-10 70.0% 2nd half: 7-8 87.5% Game: 14-18 77.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
1,1

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Midland-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 500

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Midland	27	36	63
Concordia University	40	40	80

SCHUTTE STEPS UP, CONCORDIA HOLDS OFF DORDT ON ROAD



SIoux CENTER, Iowa – If the Concordia University Men's Basketball team is to reach the heights it seeks in 2021-22, it must find ways to persevere on the road. A sharp performance offensively and a career high outing from Noah Schutte were just enough for the Bulldogs to hold off Dordt, 84-82, in Sioux Center, Iowa, on Saturday (Nov. 20). Fittingly, it was Schutte who picked off an inbounds pass to seal the victory in a tension-filled final few seconds.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad failed to pass its first GPAC road test a week earlier, meaning Saturday's win at Dordt was an important step forward. Concordia has jumped out to a 7-1 overall record (2-1 GPAC).

"They're a really good team. They wouldn't go away," Limback said of Dordt. "I felt like we were really good offensively tonight, and thankfully so because we didn't guard consistently. Then Gage (Smith) gets in foul trouble and our depth inside is thin right now. I'm really proud though. Noah had a great game overall. Defensively, I thought AJ (Watson) did a nice job on their point guard. What a gutsy performance by both teams – and we were fortunate to win the game tonight."

It's rarely a picnic for any visiting team at De Witt Gymnasium. The Defenders roared back from a 10-point deficit with less than seven minutes remaining and had a look for a potential game-tying bucket in the closing 10 seconds. It was Schutte's layup on a pretty feed from Watson with just over a minute left that provided enough cushion for the Bulldogs to eventually breathe a sigh of relief.

This was fun basketball featuring few turnovers (13 combined) for either side and a whole lot of shots that found the bottom of the net. Concordia shot 50 percent or better in both halves. Schutte is a rising star. Without two key posts (Ryan Holt and Klay Uher), Schutte came through with a career high 21 points to go along with eight rebounds, three

steals and a blocked shot. Justin Wiersema also enjoyed a fine night in supplying 19 points, six rebounds and four assists. The Bulldogs shot 50.7 percent (34-for-67) from the floor and made 10-of-26 (.385) attempts from 3-point range.

Dordt (6-3, 0-2 GPAC) kept on coming. The Defenders were just as hot, shooting 50.8 percent (32-for-63) overall. Jacob Vis powered in 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while Cade Bleeker (15 points and 11 rebounds) also recorded a double-double. Considering the lack of frontcourt depth, Concordia did well to only be outrebounded, 37-33.

Said Limback, "We knew it was going to be a physical game. We made some mistakes, but we played through it. I'm just so proud of the guys and how they weathered the storm. You have to find ways to get road wins. Tonight our offense won the game for us. Justin gets his 1,000th point – what a fun day."

Entering the night, Wiersema needed just two points to become the program's 33rd member of the 1,000-point club. That group includes teammate Carter Kent, who contributed 10 points on 4-for-11 shooting on Saturday. Meanwhile, Smith posted 16 points and five rebounds despite being limited to 19 minutes due to foul trouble. Watson added 10 points and four assists without a single turnover. Their collective offensive firepower had the Bulldogs in control for the majority of the night.

A major opportunity to make a splash awaits on Tuesday when Concordia will host No. 10 Jamestown (7-0, 1-0 GPAC) at 7:45 p.m. CT inside Friedrich Arena. The Jimmies went on to reach the NAIA national quarterfinals last season behind conference player of the year Mason Walters. The two sides split the two 2020-21 matchups with the home team holding serve in both cases.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Dordt
11/20/21 5:45 PM at DeWitt Gymnasium, Sioux Center, IA

Concordia University 84 • 7-1, 2-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	8-11	3-6	0-2	0	6	6	0	19	4	0	0	37
11	Smith, Gage	*	7-9	1-3	1-1	2	3	5	5	16	3	2	0	19
12	Schutte, Noah	*	8-18	0-2	5-7	5	3	8	2	21	0	0	1	37
14	Watson, AJ	*	4-10	2-5	0-0	0	2	2	0	10	4	0	0	33
5	Kent, Carter	*	4-11	2-5	0-0	0	2	2	2	10	2	3	0	34
2	Scarpelli, Sam		1-3	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	13
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	5
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	11
41	Smith, Tristan		1-3	0-1	0-0	2	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	11
Team						1	0	1						
Totals			34-67	10-26	6-10	10	23	33	13	84	15	6	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-36 50.0% 2nd half: 16-31 51.6% Game: 34-67 50.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 7-16 43.8% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 10-26 38.5%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 3-6 50.0% Game: 6-10 60.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Dordt 82 • 6-3, 0-2

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
00	Luke Rankin	*	3-7	1-2	0-2	0	0	0	3	7	4	4	0	26
02	Bryce Coppock	*	6-16	2-6	0-1	1	3	4	0	14	1	2	0	32
03	Cade Bleeker	*	5-9	3-6	2-2	1	10	11	2	15	2	0	1	30
22	Jackson Louscher	*	4-6	0-1	2-2	2	1	3	5	10	0	0	0	21
34	Jacob Vis	*	9-16	0-2	3-5	5	8	13	1	21	2	1	0	31
05	Caleb Harmsen		1-1	0-0	1-2	0	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	27
10	Jackson Lee		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	14
41	Josh Baugher		2-3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	10
50	Matt Haken		1-4	0-0	2-2	0	1	1	1	4	1	0	1	9
Team						1	1	2						
Totals			32-63	8-19	10-16	10	27	37	15	82	11	7	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-30 56.7% 2nd half: 15-33 45.5% Game: 32-63 50.8%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 8-19 42.1%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-11 54.5% 2nd half: 4-5 80.0% Game: 10-16 62.5%

Deadball
Rebounds
4

Officials: Pete Larson, Jacob Hinz, Brent McNurlin
 Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Dordt-None.
 Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	46	38	84
Dordt	45	37	82

SCHUTTE, BULLDOGS PULL AWAY FROM NO. 10 JAMESTOWN IN HIGH INTENSITY CLASH

SEWARD, Neb. – Head Coach Ben Limback referred to Tuesday's high intensity clash between the Concordia University Men's Basketball team and 10th-ranked Jamestown as a "title fight." The Bulldogs absorbed some haymakers from an imposing Jimmie frontcourt but bounced back to deliver the knockout punch in the form of a 22-6 blitz to close out the game. In one of the program's most significant regular-season triumphs in many years, Concordia sent Jamestown packing, 92-76, on Tuesday (Nov. 23).

Limback's program is now 21-1 over its last 22 home games (including eight wins in a row inside Friedrich Arena). This was the type of signature win the Bulldogs (8-1, 3-1 GPAC) needed to legitimize hopes of a potentially special season.

"It was a title fight," Limback said. "It was two teams that could really score it. I didn't know if we would ever get rebounds there. We kept giving them second and third opportunities. When we started giving up threes to them in the first half, that really changed the momentum. We made our run in the last eight minutes – Gage (Smith) got some rebounds and we started to get some turnovers and breakaway layups. And how about Noah Schutte? He continues to make some big plays."

Schutte is developing into a star before everyone's very eyes. There's no fear in the Laurel, Neb., native, who finished the game with a tissue wedged in his right nostril. During the 10-0 spurt that gave Concordia an 80-70 lead with just under 4:30 remaining, Schutte buried two cold-blooded treys. The second one even prompted a rare fist pump from Limback. The Bulldogs wanted this one, bad.

While dropping in 27 points on Tuesday, Schutte managed to surpass his previous career high (21) from the win at Dordt three days earlier. This time around, Schutte curled in four treys and was a perfect 5-for-5 from the foul line. He struck for three-point plays three separate times.

"We knew we had to bring the energy today," Schutte said. "Really tough team, really physical. I think our toughness was great today down the stretch. Holding them to 31 points in the second half was the key to our victory ... Coach wants me to shoot rhythm threes. My teammates always tell me at halftime – just let it fly. Down the stretch you just have to shoot it with confidence and see it go in."

In terms of physical, man-to-man action, this one lived up to the billing. The Jamestown towers of Mason Walters and Devon Schultz were a lot to handle on the interior. Walters is almost always going to get his. He notched 28 points and 11



rebounds while Schultz powered his way to 16 points and 12 rebounds. As a team, the Jimmies held a commanding 43-27 advantage on the boards while grabbing 20 that were of the offensive variety.

That's not to say there weren't plenty of energy plays for Concordia, which forced many more one-and-dones down the stretch. AJ Watson came through with a momentum-building steal and the likes of Carter Kent, Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema supplied their typical offensive production. Kent got loose for a couple of late buckets to help grow the lead as part of his 15-point, four-assist outing. Smith added 16 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals while Wiersema collected 12 points and eight rebounds.

The well ran dry for Jamestown (8-1, 2-1 GPAC), which suffered its first defeat of the season. The Jimmies were just 1-for-8 from 3-point range after halftime. They finished with an overall shooting percentage of 45.1 (32-for-71), falling short of the 50.8 percent clip (32-for-63) posted by the Bulldogs. Concordia was also a spotless 17-for-17 from the foul line.

Said Limback, "You knew they were going to have size. We didn't want them to score the offensive rebounds, and that's easier said than done. I think we saw what happens when we do get rebounds – we can score. We knew we were going to have to beat them from the perimeter and get out in transition. Thankfully in the second half we started to pull away."

Up next, the Bulldogs will head to Kansas City, Mo., on Saturday for an exhibition contest with NCAA Division II Rockhurst University. Tipoff is set for 2 p.m. CT. Concordia will return to GPAC play next week.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Jamestown vs Concordia University
11/23/21 7:45 PM at Friedrich Arena

Jamestown 76 • 8-1, 2-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
0	Marc Kjos	*	3-14	1-8	0-0	0	9	9	2	7	7	3	0	1	38
1	Will Cordes	*	2-5	2-5	0-0	0	2	2	3	6	1	0	0	0	38
33	Mason Walters	*	13-20	0-1	2-2	6	5	11	0	28	2	2	0	1	37
43	Devon Schultz	*	7-12	0-0	2-2	9	3	12	2	16	2	4	2	0	27
5	Cole Woodford	*	4-12	3-8	0-0	1	0	1	0	11	0	2	0	0	37
21	Devan Praska		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	9
50	Brady Birch		2-7	0-0	2-2	2	3	5	3	6	0	4	1	0	14
Team						1	1	2							
Totals			32-71	6-22	6-6	20	23	43	13	76	12	15	3	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-39 48.7% 2nd half: 13-32 40.6% Game: 32-71 45.1%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-14 35.7% 2nd half: 1-8 12.5% Game: 6-22 27.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 4-4 100.0 Game: 6-6 100.0

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Concordia University 92 • 8-1, 3-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-6	0-1	4-4	2	6	8	0	12	3	1	0	2	33
11	Smith, Gage	*	7-12	2-4	0-0	1	6	7	2	16	5	2	0	4	30
12	Schutte, Noah	*	9-19	4-11	5-5	1	3	4	2	27	0	0	0	0	32
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-7	1-2	0-0	2	0	2	1	7	4	2	0	0	31
5	Kent, Carter	*	5-11	1-4	4-4	0	2	2	0	15	4	0	1	3	33
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	9
30	Seagren, Garrett		2-3	1-1	2-2	1	1	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	14
32	Holt, Ryan		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	9
41	Smith, Tristan		1-1	1-1	2-2	1	0	1	1	5	0	0	1	2	9
Team						0	0	0				1			
Totals			32-63	11-27	17-17	8	19	27	9	92	18	8	2	11	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-36 41.7% 2nd half: 17-27 63.0% Game: 32-63 50.8%
 3FG % 1st Half: 8-18 44.4% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 11-27 40.7%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-6 100.0 2nd half: 11-11 100.0 Game: 17-17 100.0

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Jamestown-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 350

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Jamestown	45	31	76
Concordia University	44	48	92

RALLY COMES UP SHORT IN PULSE-POUNDER AT NO. 18 MORNINGSIDE

SIOUX CITY, Iowa – It was a down-to-the-wire battle between two squads with hopes of reigning atop the GPAC by season's end. Unfortunately for the visitors on Wednesday (Dec. 1), Morningside continues to be an unsolvable jigsaw puzzle. The Concordia University Men's Basketball team couldn't quite overcome a sluggish first half in a what amounted to a 79-77 loss to the 18th-ranked Mustangs in Sioux City, Iowa.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad returned to GPAC action for the first time since last week's victory over 10th-ranked Jamestown. Both losses for the Bulldogs (8-2, 3-2 GPAC) have come in Sioux City.

"The first half we didn't seem to have the fight or belief that we could win this game," Limback said. "That was the challenge at halftime. They played with more effort than we did in the first half. Second half, I thought we really settled in. Sam Scarpelli off the bench was really big and Gage Smith made some plays and everybody fed off it. I loved our second half – we just didn't make the plays down the stretch. To come on the road and dig a hole in the first half, our takeaway is to learn from it."

Concordia picked up its intensity in the second half with the aid of the spark that Scarpelli provided. Scarpelli sank both a layup and a trey during a 9-0 run that got the Bulldogs within three (57-54) midway through the second half and made it a barn burner the rest of the way. Concordia even held a four-point lead (77-73) with under a minute-and-a-half to go following Carter Kent's trey.

Just seconds away from a potential overtime, the Mustangs turned to big man Trey Brown, who muscled his way to the game-winning basket with 2.5 seconds left on the clock. The Bulldogs got one last look, but Smith's 35-footer banked off the backboard and rimmed out. Morningside (6-1, 4-0 GPAC) could finally exhale with its 12th-straight series win over

Concordia in hand.

Kent enjoyed a monster second half on his way to a 20-point night. He was also highly commended by Limback for his defensive work on Mustang leading scorer Aidan Vanderloo, who went 0-for-5 from the floor and failed to score. Meanwhile, Noah Schutte made his first seven shot attempts and notched 17 points. Scarpelli finished with 10 points and three assists while Justin Wiersema put up nine points, five rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocks. Smith chipped in with eight points and seven rebounds.

Brown paced the Mustangs with 20 points and eight rebounds. Other double-figure scorers for Morningside were Will Pottebaum (15), Zach Imig (10) and Joey Skoff (10). Both teams shot better than 50 percent from the floor while rebounds (31-30 Concordia edge) and turnovers (14-11 Morningside advantage) were mostly a wash.

The Bulldogs will expect to put together a full 40 minutes next time on the road. Said Limback, "Every night you have to show up for both halves and compete. Morningside's a good team and they're going to win games on the road and at home. We had a chance to win at the end and steal one on the road. The expectations for this team are high, and I think we know that was one we could have had. It's going to hurt. Hopefully it motivates us to be better next time out."

This was a reunion of sorts for Concordia assistant coach Ryan Tegtmeier, a former standout player at Morningside. As for the Mustangs, they have a first-year head coach in Trent Miller, who took over from Jim Sykes.

The Bulldogs will return home on Saturday to host Northwestern (8-3, 1-2 GPAC) for a 3:45 p.m. CT tipoff from Friedrich Arena. Concordia has won each of the previous five meetings with the Red Raiders. The Bulldogs are 21-1 over their past 22 home games (eight wins in a row).



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Morningside
12/1/21 7:45 PM at RVSC-ALLEE GYM

Concordia University 77 • 8-2, 3-2

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
05	Carter Kent	*	7-14	4-10	2-2	0	2	2	1	20	0	2	0	2	37
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-10	1-6	0-1	1	4	5	2	9	4	2	2	2	32
11	Smith, Gage	*	2-6	0-1	4-4	0	7	7	4	8	2	2	0	0	23
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-9	2-2	1-2	0	5	5	0	17	4	1	0	1	23
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-6	1-3	0-0	1	0	1	1	7	2	4	0	0	22
02	Sam Scarpelli		3-5	2-4	2-2	0	0	0	1	10	3	1	0	0	19
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
21	Uher, Klay		2-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	4	1	0	0	1	17
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	11
32	Holt, Ryan		1-4	0-2	0-0	2	3	5	2	2	3	1	0	0	16
Team						0	2	2							
Totals			29-56	10-28	9-11	4	27	31	13	77	20	14	2	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-29 44.8% 2nd half: 16-27 59.3% Game: 29-56 51.8%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-16 31.3% 2nd half: 5-12 41.7% Game: 10-28 35.7%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 6-7 85.7% Game: 9-11 81.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Morningside 79 • 6-1, 4-0

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
12	Zach Imig	*	5-11	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	10	4	1	0	2	26
14	Will Pottebaum	*	7-14	1-3	0-0	1	4	5	3	15	3	0	0	1	30
22	Aidan Vanderloo	*	0-5	0-1	0-0	0	3	3	4	0	3	6	0	2	25
23	Justin Sitti	*	3-5	0-2	0-1	0	6	6	1	6	1	1	0	0	19
32	Trey Brown	*	9-11	0-0	2-6	4	4	8	0	20	2	1	0	2	32
02	Jack Dotzler		2-3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	5	2	1	1	1	13
03	Trey Powers		0-1	0-0	4-4	0	2	2	2	4	1	0	0	2	15
05	Tyler Vavrina		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11	Trey Knudsen		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Joey Skoff		3-5	0-1	4-4	0	1	1	1	10	0	1	0	0	13
24	Collin Hill		3-4	1-1	0-1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	19
33	Ely Doble		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	7
Team						2	0	2							
Totals			33-62	3-11	10-16	7	23	30	14	79	17	11	1	11	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-31 58.1% 2nd half: 15-31 48.4% Game: 33-62 53.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 1-6 16.7% Game: 3-11 27.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-5 80.0% 2nd half: 6-11 54.5% Game: 10-16 62.5%

Deadball
Rebounds
1,2

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Morningside-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	34	43	77
Morningside	42	37	79

KENT LEADS OFFENSIVE FIREWORKS AS HOME DOMINANCE CONTINUES

SEWARD, Neb. – It was an especially dizzying first half of action as both teams shot better than 58 percent from the floor. Behind Carter Kent, the Concordia University Men's Basketball team kept up its offensive pace while increasing its defensive intensity in the process of earning a 95-78 home win over Northwestern on Saturday (Dec. 4). Kent sizzled on his way to a career high 32 points and the Bulldogs built a lead as large as 21 points in the second half.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad effectively bounced back from the nail-biter loss at No. 18 Morningside three days earlier and has moved to 9-2 overall (4-2 GPAC). A re-commitment to defensive effort made the difference in the latest outing.

"That was our whole talk at halftime," Limback said. "Offensively, we were really good. We were moving it and sharing it, and Carter was really good in both halves. Our message was that we have to defend. We were up 13 at one point in the first half and I thought we started to relax and get a little bored on the defensive end. Those are two really good players – (Trent) Hilbrands and (Alex) Van Kalsbeek. It's tough to stop them, but we needed to slow them down a little bit better."

The message was taken to heart. A 15-2 run to begin the second half blew open a 15-point lead (67-52). Five different Bulldogs scored during that run that included a three-point play by Justin Wiersema in transition. Unlike the first half, Concordia protected the lead by playing stout in its man-to-man. The Red Raiders slipped from 58.8 percent shooting in the first half to 29.0 percent in the second half.

Kent was impressive on both ends of the floor. It took him roughly 21 minutes of game time to reach the 20-point mark. He made 11-of-19 shots from the floor, grabbed five rebounds and two steals and managed to contain Hilbrands in the second half. Northwestern (8-4, 1-3 GPAC) did not get much production outside of Hilbrands and Van Kalsbeek.

Said Kent, "Coach came in and talked to us at halftime and said that we need to buckle down on the defensive end. They have great players. We just really locked in and tried to get stops and turn that into offense on the other side."

All five starters scored at least eight points for the Bulldogs. Noah Schutte posted 18 points on 7-for-9 shooting, Wiersema finished with 14 points and four rebounds and Gage Smith collected 11 points, seven rebounds, three blocked shots and three steals. When it's clicking, the Concordia offense is a thing of beauty. The Bulldogs wound up shooting 55.7 percent (34-for-61) overall and a near perfect 19-for-20 from the foul line. Kent and company also started the first



half hot, racing out to a 19-6 advantage to start the game. Northwestern closed the gap to two (52-50) at halftime.

Limback couldn't say enough about Kent after the game. Said Limback, "That was one of the best two-way performances I've ever seen from Carter. We decided in the second half, even though he was doing well offensively, to move him to Hilbrands, and I thought he did an outstanding job on him. You see the points, but there are a lot of other things Carter Kent can do."

Van Kalsbeek paced Northwestern with 23 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks. Hilbrands posted 22 points on 7-for-17 shooting from the floor. The Red Raiders shot 44.6 percent for the game.

The Bulldogs now look forward to their final home game for the month of December. Concordia will welcome Mount Marty (3-10, 0-5 GPAC) to Friedrich Arena for a 7:45 p.m. CT tipoff on Wednesday. The Bulldogs have won each of the past three matchups with the Lancers, who are still in search of their first GPAC victory of the season.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Northwestern vs Concordia University
12/4/21 04:12 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Northwestern 78 • 8-4, 1-3

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
04	Trent Hilbrands	*	7-17	4-8	4-5	0	2	2	3	22	0	2	0	35
05	Noah Slagter	*	1-2	0-1	2-2	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	0	20
14	Grant DeMeulenaere	*	3-5	2-3	0-0	1	6	7	2	8	6	2	0	33
34	Matt Onken	*	4-10	1-3	2-2	2	3	5	2	11	3	1	0	32
42	Alex Van Kalsbeek	*	11-19	0-0	1-1	3	8	11	0	23	2	3	2	35
03	Conner Geddes		2-7	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	2	4	1	0	0	26
10	Austin Alexander		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
12	Carter Francis		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	Jack Vermeer		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Jesse Van Wyk		1-2	0-1	4-4	1	0	1	3	6	1	1	0	14
33	Kade Fey		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Team						1	0	1						
Totals			29-65	7-21	13-14	8	22	30	14	78	13	10	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 20-34 58.8% 2nd half: 9-31 29.0% Game: 29-65 44.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-10 50.0% 2nd half: 2-11 18.2% Game: 7-21 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 5-5 100.0 2nd half: 8-9 88.9% Game: 13-14 92.9%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,1

Concordia University 95 • 9-2, 4-2

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	5-11	3-8	1-1	0	4	4	2	14	1	2	0	31
11	Smith, Gage	*	5-11	0-4	1-1	1	6	7	3	11	0	1	3	23
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-9	0-1	4-4	2	1	3	0	18	3	1	0	27
14	Watson, AJ	*	2-5	0-2	4-4	0	4	4	0	8	0	2	0	28
5	Kent, Carter	*	11-19	3-7	7-8	0	5	5	2	32	3	0	1	33
2	Scarpelli, Sam		1-2	1-2	2-2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	11
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
21	Uher, Klay		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2	2	2	0	1	10
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
32	Holt, Ryan		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	14
4	Cito, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
41	Smith, Tristan		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	6
44	Woita, Skyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
50	Bennett, Bradley		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Team						1	3	4						
Totals			34-61	8-26	19-20	5	28	33	11	95	10	7	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-31 61.3% 2nd half: 15-30 50.0% Game: 34-61 55.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 8-17 47.1% 2nd half: 0-9 0.0% Game: 8-26 30.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 13-13 100.0 Game: 19-20 95.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,1

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Northwestern-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 475

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Northwestern	50	28	78
Concordia University	52	43	95

SMITH'S MONSTER SECOND HALF ALLOWS CONCORDIA TO PULL AWAY

SEWARD, Neb. – There were ebbs and flows in a performance not quite as crisp as desired, but the end result was another double-digit home victory for the Concordia University Men's Basketball team. A 16-4 Mount Marty run made for some drama before the Bulldogs restored order behind Gage Smith's monster second half. Concordia defended the home court, 87-72, while shooting 53.6 percent from the floor inside Friedrich Arena on Wednesday (Dec. 8).

Head Coach Ben Limback's program has won 11 in a row and 23 of its last 24 at home. The Bulldogs have moved to 10-2 overall (5-2 GPAC) on the season.

"That's a tough basketball team," Limback said. "I told the guys that Mount Marty has talent and they change the pace up on you. They're very methodical – and they don't quit. We got up 16 in the second half and then I thought we became unaggressive. Once Gage started to go to work inside, that really changed the momentum ... I really liked how we finished the game. We stepped up and made some free throws. Any win in this league is a good win."

Concordia had its hands full with Tyrell Harper, who paced the Lancers (3-12, 0-7 GPAC) with 24 points and 10 rebounds. With Harper at the forefront, Mount Marty chiseled a 14-point halftime deficit down to just two points midway through the second half. That's when Smith took over. He poured in nine points during a 16-2 Bulldog run that supplied a 70-54 advantage with just over four minutes remaining. The Lancers never got closer than nine points the rest of the way.

Smith took the baton from Noah Schutte, who enjoyed a stellar first half (10 points on 4-of-5 shooting). Carter Kent also played an instrumental role down the stretch and finished with 19 points (6-for-11 shooting), one day after being named the GPAC Player of the Week. When at its best on Wednesday, Concordia asserted its will.

"It was 54-52 and it was just like, boys, we're not playing like ourselves," Smith said. "We have to play our game and not play their game. We came out and did what we do best – back screens and cuts. You're going to have to fight every night. There are no days off in the GPAC. Everybody's really good."

Smith boasted his way to 25 points and 11 rebounds with 18 of his points coming after halftime. Schutte (14 points) joined Smith and Kent in double figures in scoring. AJ Watson and Justin Wiersema chipped in eight points apiece. Wiersema dished out five assists and Watson dropped four dimes. Off the bench, Ryan Holt put up six points and four rebounds.



As of late, the Bulldogs have become a dead-eye free throw shooting team. They made 19-of-21 from the charity stripe on Wednesday.

"The guys knew in the locker room we didn't play our best," Limback said. "We turned it over a little too much and offensively didn't get in a rhythm until later in the second half. We wanted to get a win and protect our home court and keep fighting in this league."

Mount Marty had lost by just seven points four days earlier at No. 18 Morningside. The Lancers got 19 points from Elijah Pappas in addition to the 24 from Harper. Mount Marty (2020 GPAC tournament runner up) fell in Seward despite shooting 47.2 percent from the field.

The Bulldogs will close GPAC play for the calendar year 2021 when they play at Hastings (6-6, 1-4 GPAC) on Saturday. Tipoff is slated for 3:45 p.m. CT from Lynn Farrell Arena. Concordia will attempt to extend its 11-game series win streak over the Broncos, who slipped, 83-78, at Midland on Wednesday.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Mount Marty vs Concordia University
12/8/21 7:45 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Mount Marty 72 • 3-12, 0-7

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds									Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk		Stl
1	Nick Coleman	*	3-11	0-2	2-4	1	4	5	4	8	3	3	0	1	35
21	Kade Stearns	*	3-5	2-3	0-0	0	2	2	1	8	2	2	0	0	35
25	Lincoln Jordre	*	0-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	10
3	Allen Wilson	*	2-4	1-2	3-4	0	0	0	3	8	2	1	0	1	28
5	Elijah Pappas	*	6-14	2-5	5-6	0	3	3	4	19	6	2	0	2	38
0	Josh Arlt		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Gio Diaz		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
11	Tyrell Harper		9-13	0-0	6-8	3	7	10	2	24	2	4	0	3	30
13	Caden Casey		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
24	Matthew Becker		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
35	Jonah Larson		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
4	Chase Altenburg		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
Team						5	2	7							
Totals			25-53	6-14	16-23	9	19	28	19	72	15	14	1	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-26 42.3% 2nd half: 14-27 51.9% Game: 25-53 47.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 0-4 0.0% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 6-14 42.9%
 FT % 1st Half: 5-7 71.4% 2nd half: 11-16 68.8% Game: 16-23 69.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
4

Concordia University 87 • 10-2, 5-2

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds										Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-6	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	8	5	0	1	1	27
11	Smith, Gage	*	8-12	1-3	8-9	3	8	11	3	25	2	5	1	1	25
12	Schutte, Noah	*	6-9	2-2	0-0	2	2	4	4	14	1	2	1	1	27
14	Watson, AJ	*	1-6	0-2	6-6	0	0	0	3	8	4	3	1	3	26
5	Kent, Carter	*	6-11	3-5	4-4	1	1	2	2	19	3	1	0	1	38
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	14
21	Uher, Klay		1-2	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	15
30	Seagren, Garrett		2-3	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	12
32	Holt, Ryan		2-6	2-5	0-0	0	4	4	1	6	1	0	1	0	14
41	Smith, Tristan		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	2
Team						1	2	3			1				
Totals			30-56	8-21	19-21	9	22	31	20	87	17	14	6	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-32 50.0% 2nd half: 14-24 58.3% Game: 30-56 53.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-13 46.2% 2nd half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 8-21 38.1%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 16-17 94.1% Game: 19-21 90.5%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Mount Marty-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 425

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Mount Marty	27	45	72
Concordia University	41	46	87

PASSION, NON-STOP MOTOR MAKE WIERSEMA ONE OF GPAC'S BEST



NOTE: Story was published on Jan. 21, 2021

Justin Wiersema is the guy who catches every coach's attention. It's not simply because he's good – it's also because his motor never stops and his energy level never slips. Wiersema leads the Concordia University Men's Basketball team in scoring, but he also leads it in number of yeah baby's, let's go's and prolonged screams of competitive joy while on the court. Okay, Sam Scarpelli might have him beat for most bicep flexes.

Wiersema's story is the classic one about a student-athlete who came to Concordia not necessarily expecting to become a star, but became one anyway through day-to-day focused energy and development over time.

"As a freshman I wasn't really sure where I was going to be in the lineup," Wiersema said. "We had a lot of good players, but I knew I could be up there with them and at least try my best. I came to practice ready to go. It definitely paid off. That's what you have to do when you come in as a freshman – play as hard as you can no matter what in practice or games."

No one embodies the mantra of the 2020-21 Bulldogs, "Win The Day," better than Wiersema, who brings maximum effort at both ends of the floor. He has the type of confidence to want the ball when the game is on the line. He is also just as likely to be the one going all out for a loose ball. The hustle and tenacious competitiveness are certainly appreciated by Head Coach Ben Limback and his staff.

When a star player like Wiersema sells out for his teammates, it sets a tone inside the locker room. It's rare to have a player so consistent and as reliable as Wiersema. He entered the week having scored in double figures in 22 straight games. His field goal percentage of 57.8 is especially eye-popping for a guard. He's the only player in the GPAC who currently ranks in the top five of the league in scoring, field goal percentage, 3-point percentage and steals per game. Translation: he's one of the best players in the entire conference.

"When we go to practice today I don't have to worry about him in terms of his effort or his attitude," Limback said. "That's truly why he's so consistent. I've never coached a guard that has been this consistent each game as a junior, let alone a senior. He constantly produces in games because he does it in practice every day. He'll find ways to score even if he's not making shots from the perimeter. He'll always do something to impact the game and we know he'll guard as hard as he can."

As a native of Loveland, Colo., Wiersema prepped at Thompson Valley High School and played for the Colorado Titans club basketball program. He was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., and moved with his family to Colorado at a young age. He has always taking a liking to sports. Wiersema played baseball, basketball, football and soccer and says he realized basketball was his "calling" while in high school.

Wiersema's game began to develop on the playgrounds of his

hometown. He credits his close friends with pushing him to get better and to pursue the sport of basketball beyond high school. One of Wiersema's friends had preceded him at Concordia and Titans club coach Rick Jimenez encouraged him to look at the Bulldogs as a possible college destination.

Said Wiersema, "My mom told me, 'Why don't you go look at the campus and check it out?' I was like, 'all right, let's do it.' I came down and I loved it and decided to come. This was my only college visit in high school. I liked it and wanted to give it a try."

Wiersema liked how Limback and his staff made him feel wanted at Concordia. An insight into the recruiting process for Wiersema provides some insight into what makes him tick. Wiersema took mental note of the schools that showed a lack of interest – and he uses that as motivation when needed. He's always looking for something to give him that edge or that chip on his shoulder.

"What stood out then still stands out now," says Limback of the recruitment of Wiersema. "He's a tremendously gifted athlete with an extreme motor. As you get to know Justin you can tell there's more to him than basketball. He loves his family and he's strong in his faith. Even in road games when a lot of his family is back in Colorado, he has aunts and uncles that show up to games. He has a great Christian character that certainly fits at Concordia."

Wiersema's rise has been precipitous. He has gone from a scoring averages of 5.4 points as a freshman to 10.8 as a sophomore and to 17.3 right now as a junior. With the help of Limback and his staff, Todd Berner and the strength and conditioning staff and his own intrinsic motivation, Wiersema quickly grew out of being a scrawny freshman.

He's strong but powerful. He can shoot from long range and he can blow by defenders and throw down dunks with authority. He'll then let people know about it because he can't play the game if he can't play it with passion. It's what got him here.

"I definitely knew that the school part of college was going to be tougher," Wiersema said. "It was, but that was easier to adapt to than college basketball. Going from high school to college basketball is a huge jump. I wasn't expecting the all weight room stuff, the long practices and just the grind of it. I gained about 20 pounds my first two months here. It was all muscle. Developing as a player and person that first semester was really important to me. That's when I knew I wanted to stick with it and see how far I could take it."

In the program's upward movement the past couple of seasons, the spotlight has often shown upon the likes of Carter Kent, Tanner Shuck and Brevin Sloup. Somewhere in the background, Wiersema kept working – a true Bulldog.



The tenacity and drive of Wiersema factored into Concordia leaping from 1-9 in the GPAC at one point in 2018-19 all the way to a GPAC tournament title in March 2020.

Wiersema and a junior class that includes starters Carter Kent and Gage Smith represent the backbone of another team with national tournament hopes. "I think it's pretty special," Wiersema said. "We came in not knowing what was going to happen. We had some players leave when we came in as freshmen, but we all wanted to make our mark. We've been together about two-and-a-half years now. It's really special the bonds we've made. We all trust each other to make the right play."

Making the right play and winning the day is simplified when Wiersema is on your side. Number 10 is a winning player and a winning teammate. Says Limback, "Our theme this year totally embodies how he lives his life and what he wants to accomplish on the basketball court."

DOMINATION OF HASTINGS CONTINUES

HASTINGS, Neb. – The Concordia Bulldogs Men's Basketball team stayed hot on Saturday (Dec. 11), defeating Hastings for its second GPAC road win of the season. After trailing by five at the half, the Bulldogs offense caught fire as they rallied and pulled away, winning by a final score of 81-66. Over the final 20 minutes, Concordia shot 56.7 percent from the field and made 6-of-15 tries from beyond the arc. This marks the 12th-straight series win over the Broncos.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad moves to 11-2 overall in what is the best 13-game start to a season during Limback's tenure. This was the Bulldogs' final conference game of the calendar year. They are currently 6-2 in GPAC play.

Concordia's scoring was led by none other than Carter Kent, who put up 25 points, snagged six rebounds, and added four assists in the contest. Kent, who is coming off earning the GPAC Sports Player of the Week award, has been lights out as of late. In his past four games, he is averaging 24 points. In addition, Noah Schutte tossed in 18 points and had six rebounds. Justin Wiersema was also instrumental in the win, coming just two rebounds shy of a double-double. He had 13 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Concordia was dominant in every way inside, both outrebounding (47-36) and scoring 24 more points inside the paint than the Broncos.

In the second half, as the Bulldogs heated up, Hastings cooled down. The Broncos managed to shoot only 29.4 percent from the field in the second half (36.2 percent for the game). They were led by Karson Ganseboom who had 26 points and five rebounds. Ganseboom did the majority of his offensive damage in the game's first 10 minutes. Dashawn Walker was also in double figures with 12 points and seven rebounds. TJ Babikir came off the bench to add 10 points for the Broncos. Hastings falls to 6-7 overall (1-5 GPAC) with the loss.

The key stretch came after Ganseboom had tied the game (53-53) with a trey at the 14:29 mark. The Bulldogs responded with a 12-0 surge spurred by seven points from Kent. Included in the run was an authoritative one-handed slam by Tristan Smith in transition. Following the run, Concordia maintained a lead of at least eight points for the remainder of the contest.

Concordia can now look forward to warmer weather as they will be traveling to Daytona Beach, Fla., to play its holiday tournament. Coach Limback is excited to not only enjoy the weather but also to see some good competition as they step away from conference play.

"We'll enjoy some sunny weather and some really good basketball teams that we play out there like William Jessup and Rochester," Limback said. "It's fun you get to go somewhere nice, play outside your league against some good teams, and certainly we'll enjoy that. It should be some good basketball."

During the stay in Daytona Beach, the Bulldogs will play 23rd-ranked William Jessup University (Calif.) on Dec. 19 and then Rochester University (Mich.) on Dec. 21.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Hastings
12/11/21 3:45 PM at Lynn Farrell Arena

Concordia University 81 • 11-2, 6-2

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-13	4-11	1-2	3	5	8	1	13	4	2	1	36
11	Smith, Gage	*	2-6	1-2	2-2	2	7	9	4	7	0	1	0	20
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-10	0-0	4-5	2	4	6	2	18	1	4	0	30
2	Scarpelli, Sam	*	2-6	1-4	0-0	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	0	20
5	Kent, Carter	*	10-20	5-12	0-0	1	5	6	1	25	4	1	1	36
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	10
30	Seagren, Garrett		4-5	1-2	0-0	1	4	5	0	9	0	1	0	22
32	Holt, Ryan		0-4	0-3	0-0	0	4	4	2	0	0	1	0	14
41	Smith, Tristan		2-2	0-0	0-0	2	3	5	1	4	0	1	1	12
Team						0	2	2						
Totals			31-66	12-34	7-9	11	36	47	14	81	12	11	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-36 38.9% 2nd half: 17-30 56.7% Game: 31-66 47.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-19 31.6% 2nd half: 6-15 40.0% Game: 12-34 35.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 5-7 71.4% Game: 7-9 77.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Hastings 66 • 6-7, 1-5

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
01	Dawson Zenger	*	3-6	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	21
02	Dashawn Walker	*	5-21	1-3	1-2	2	5	7	3	12	2	2	2	39
03	Karson Gansebom	*	10-19	4-12	2-2	1	4	5	0	26	2	1	0	39
13	Zach Rust	*	2-6	0-4	0-1	1	3	4	2	4	1	1	0	33
23	Mathias Nchekwube	*	1-6	0-1	1-2	4	3	7	4	3	0	1	1	19
15	TJ Babikir		4-8	2-5	0-0	0	3	3	1	10	3	2	0	30
31	Phil Cisrow		0-3	0-0	4-4	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	18
35	Evan Kingston		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Team						3	6	9						
Totals			25-69	8-26	8-11	11	25	36	11	66	9	7	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-35 42.9% 2nd half: 10-34 29.4% Game: 25-69 36.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-13 38.5% 2nd half: 3-13 23.1% Game: 8-26 30.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 8-11 72.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Hastings-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	36	45	81
Hastings	41	25	66

CONCORDIA TRIPPED UP IN TOP 25 DAYTONA BEACH MATCHUP

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – After settling in near the Atlantic Ocean, the 23rd-ranked Concordia University Men's Basketball team went to the wire in its first game of the Daytona Beach Shootout. The Bulldogs just didn't have enough offensive firepower in what amounted to a 70-62 loss to No. 8 William Jessup University (Calif.) in a contest played on the campus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on Sunday (Dec. 19) evening. Concordia was held to 37.3 percent shooting.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad slipped to 11-3 overall in its first action since being rewarded with a top 25 national ranking. The Bulldogs have one more game to play in Daytona Beach.

"I thought we competed hard and laid everything out there," Limback said. "We just didn't have a clean game. We turned it over too many times and offensively we were too timid in the first half with some missed bunnies. We guarded much better in the second half but just wasn't a clean enough game against a team like that."

The Warriors (14-1), who compete in the Golden State Athletic Conference, will be a handful for everyone they play. They were coming off a 75-69 win over No. 9 Indiana Wesleyan University on Saturday. William Jessup's athleticism and length played a role in Concordia's subpar shooting performance (at one point it missed 13 shots in a row in the first half). The Bulldogs grinded through it, tied the game in the second half and got within four points in the final minute. They managed to limit the Warriors to 32.1 percent (9-for-28) shooting in the second half.

William Jessup seemed to stay one step ahead thanks to a big effort off the bench from Tarren Storey-Way (19 points) and the work of Myles Corey (16 points and three steals) and Cashemin Williams (12 points and nine assists). The length and athleticism of the Warriors (seven blocked shots) caused issues throughout the night.

A major storyline was the absence of Concordia budding star Noah Schutte down the stretch. At the 10:18 mark of the second half, Schutte drove the right baseline and flushed home a dunk. At the time, the Bulldogs trailed by just one (49-48) and Schutte (16 points and 10 rebounds) had already notched a double-double. Soon after that, he was helped off the court by two teammates and didn't return until the very latter stages of the game.

Schutte was the team's best offensive performer on an evening when Carter Kent (1-for-10 from the floor) and Gage Smith (0-for-10 from the floor) had uncharacteristic outings on the offensive end. Meanwhile, Justin Wiersema put up 14 points and six rebounds and AJ Watson chipped in with five points. Ryan Holt and Klay Uher supplied five points apiece off the bench. Smith totaled nine boards.

The loss halted a three-game win streak for the Bulldogs, who had hopes of claiming a second win this season over a top 10 opponent (defeated then No. 10 Jamestown on Nov. 23). Despite Sunday's result, Concordia remains a confident locker room.

"There's a lot of optimism for us," Limback said. "Some of our best offensive players certainly didn't play their best. Some of that is due to the way they defended us, but we showed we can compete. That's a great team we played. That's the type of team you're going to see at a national tournament or a conference championship level. We can hang our heads or we can learn from it."

Concordia will be back in action at the same venue, the ICI Center, on Tuesday for a 1 p.m. CST / 2 p.m. EST tipoff with Rochester University (Mich.) (9-4). Rochester is slated to play against Indiana Wesleyan on Monday.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs William Jessup
12/19/21 07:05 PM at ICI Center

Concordia University 62 • 11-3

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
05	Carter Kent	*	1-10	0-5	4-4	1	1	2	2	6	3	1	0	34
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	6-13	2-6	0-0	0	6	6	2	14	0	3	1	35
11	Smith, Gage	*	0-10	0-2	4-6	5	4	9	0	4	2	3	1	24
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-11	0-1	2-3	4	6	10	2	16	0	1	0	26
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-5	1-3	2-2	0	1	1	1	9	2	5	0	24
02	Sam Scarpelli		1-3	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	0	3	1	1	0	14
21	Uher, Klay		2-4	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	2	5	0	0	0	13
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	12
32	Holt, Ryan		2-2	1-1	0-0	0	2	2	3	5	3	0	1	15
41	Smith, Tristan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Team						1	1	2						
Totals			22-59	5-22	13-17	12	26	38	14	62	12	14	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-35 34.3% 2nd half: 10-24 41.7% Game: 22-59 37.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-13 30.8% 2nd half: 1-9 11.1% Game: 5-22 22.7%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd half: 11-12 91.7% Game: 13-17 76.5%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

William Jessup 70 • 14-1

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
00	Cashemin Williams	*	3-8	2-5	4-4	0	3	3	1	12	9	2	0	36
11	Myles Corey	*	6-14	3-7	1-3	2	0	2	3	16	0	4	1	38
22	Jaylen Johnson	*	1-6	0-1	0-0	3	4	7	2	2	1	1	1	22
23	Charlie Garrison	*	2-4	0-0	2-3	6	5	11	4	6	1	0	3	23
25	Jayden DeJoseph	*	0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	14
01	Jordan Adams		0-2	0-0	3-5	1	6	7	2	3	0	1	0	16
10	Malik Corey		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	5
20	Tim Strijaous		5-10	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	1	10	2	2	1	19
24	Tarren Storey-Way		7-12	3-8	2-2	0	2	2	1	19	2	0	0	27
Team						0	2	2						
Totals			25-59	8-24	12-17	12	26	38	15	70	16	11	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-31 51.6% 2nd half: 9-28 32.1% Game: 25-59 42.4%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-12 25.0% 2nd half: 5-12 41.7% Game: 8-24 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 10-15 66.7% Game: 12-17 70.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
3,1

Officials: John Washburn, Charles Howell, Marty Dempsey
 Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. William Jessup-None.
 Attendance: 73

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	30	32	62
William Jessup	37	33	70

SECOND HALF DEFENSE THE DIFFERENCE IN WIN OVER ROCHESTER



DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – It took a stingy second half defensive performance to ensure that the 23rd-ranked Concordia University Men's Basketball team returned home with a victory during its stay at the Daytona Beach Shootout. The Bulldogs held NAIA nonconference foe Rochester University (Mich.) to 25.8 percent second-half shooting and pulled out a 71-64 win in The Sunshine State on Tuesday (Dec. 21) afternoon. The Warriors of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference had led by five at halftime.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad (12-3 overall) bounced back from the 70-62 loss to No. 8 William Jessup University (Calif.) it endured two days earlier at the same location, the ICI Center, home to Embry-Riddle University Aeronautical in Daytona Beach.

"I felt like the second half we had more urgency," Limback said. "I think they came out and were a little hungrier in that first half. They made some tough shots and they're a good team. Second half, we took care of the ball, got to the free throw line and played much better defensively. We got five guys in double figures and made some key free throws the last few minutes.

"It's great to come back with a win and some great lessons against good teams. It was a pretty special experience for our guys."

The key stretch on Tuesday came in the middle of the second half when Rochester went more than seven minutes without scoring a single point. That drought allowed Concordia to turn a two-point deficit into an eight-point lead (64-56) as part of a methodical 10-0 run. During which, the Warriors missed 11-straight field goal attempts. They weren't quite done yet though. They climbed back within two (66-64) with just under four-and-a-half minutes before the well again ran dry.

Over the final four minutes, the Bulldogs went 5-for-6 from the foul line on a day when they mustered enough offense to get the job done. Noah Schutte (15 points and 10 rebounds)

recorded a second double-double in a row while returning to form after hobbling off the court in the second half of Sunday's game. Each of the other four starters also cracked double figures in scoring: Carter Kent (13), Justin Wiersema (11), Gage Smith (10) and AJ Watson (10). Off the bench, Klay Uher chipped in with eight points.

Rochester (9-6) was unable to capitalize on a sometimes sloppy Concordia effort (17 turnovers). The Warriors were limited to 21 points in the second half after shooting 48.6 percent from the floor in the first half. Attacking guard Andrew Kline poured in a game high 23 points (15 in the first half) in leading a Rochester squad that knocked off then seventh-ranked Indiana Wesleyan University earlier this season. The Bulldogs helped make up for the giveaways with a 41-31 rebounding advantage.

In backing Schutte on the boards, Smith (seven), Kent (six) and Wiersema (six) each pulled down a half-dozen rebounds or more. In addition, Kent plucked three steals and Schutte and Smith notched a pair of thefts apiece. Concordia wound up shooting 45.1 percent (23-for-51) from the floor while enjoying a significant edge from the foul line – 21-for-28 (.750) compared to 4-for-6 (.667) for the Warriors.

With no game on Monday, the Bulldogs had a full day to experience the sights and cuisine of Daytona Beach. The team will fly back to Nebraska early on Wednesday morning.

Said Limback, "Some of our guys got to try some seafood and we've had beautiful weather. There was some body surfing going on and guys got to do things they've never done before. Coach (Ryan) Tegtmeier and Brev (Sloup) got out there (in the ocean). I just got my suntan by the pool. It should also be noted that we had great parent support down here."

Concordia will be at Ottawa University (Kan.) (10-5) for a 6 p.m. CT matchup in Ottawa on Wednesday, Dec. 29. It will be a rematch of the 2020 national tournament game won by the Braves, 87-84, in Sioux Falls, S.D. Ottawa fell, 83-80, at Briar Cliff in its most recent outing.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Rochester
12/21/21 2:00 PM at ICI Center (Daytona Beach, FL)

Concordia University 71 • 12-3

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
11	Smith, Gage	f	3-5	0-0	4-5	2	5	7	2	10	3	1	1	20
12	Schutte, Noah	f	6-12	0-0	3-5	1	9	10	2	15	1	2	0	31
05	Carter Kent	g	3-11	1-5	6-9	0	6	6	1	13	2	3	1	36
10	Wiersema, Justin	g	4-9	1-2	2-3	1	5	6	1	11	2	4	0	31
14	Watson, AJ	g	3-7	2-4	2-2	1	2	3	2	10	0	2	0	31
02	Sam Scarpelli		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
21	Uher, Klay		3-4	0-0	2-2	1	2	3	1	8	0	2	0	11
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-2	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	14
32	Holt, Ryan		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	16
	Team					0	1	1				1		
Totals			23-51	4-12	21-28	6	35	41	14	71	9	17	2	199

FG % 1st Half: 13-25 52.0% 2nd half: 10-26 38.5% Game: 23-51 45.1%
 3FG % 1st Half: 1-2 50.0% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 4-12 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 11-14 78.6% 2nd half: 10-14 71.4% Game: 21-28 75.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Rochester 64 • 9-6

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
00	Federico Gallinari	f	5-13	2-7	1-1	0	6	6	2	13	1	2	0	26
01	AJ Johnson	g	4-12	2-8	0-0	1	4	5	2	10	1	1	1	31
05	Cannon Campbell	g	1-3	0-1	0-0	2	2	4	3	2	5	2	0	30
11	Noah Holly	g	0-4	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	9
23	Andrew Kline	g	8-14	4-7	3-3	1	5	6	2	23	2	4	1	37
02	James Ballard Jr.		4-9	0-2	0-2	1	5	6	4	8	1	1	1	22
03	Logan Eling		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
10	Bralin Toney		2-7	2-4	0-0	1	1	2	2	6	5	0	0	19
15	Colby Wiggins		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	7
34	Anthony Cukaj		1-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	17
	Team					0	0	0						
Totals			25-66	10-35	4-6	6	25	31	21	64	15	14	4	201

FG % 1st Half: 17-35 48.6% 2nd half: 8-31 25.8% Game: 25-66 37.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 7-19 36.8% 2nd half: 3-16 18.8% Game: 10-35 28.6%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 4-6 66.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
2,1

Officials: Lance Gordon, Erik Aellig, Travis Caswell
 Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Rochester-None.
 Attendance: 35
 2021 Daytona Beach Shootout

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	38	33	71
Rochester	43	21	64

OFFENSIVE FIREWORKS LEAD NO. 23 BULLDOGS TO ROAD WIN

OTTAWA, Kan. – No matter the defensive looks it encountered, the Concordia University Men's Basketball team got buckets. In returning for its first action in just over a week, the 23rd-ranked Bulldogs shot 54.0 percent from the floor and outgunned Ottawa University, 91-82, in Ottawa, Kan., on Wednesday (Dec. 29) night. Concordia earned a measure of revenge for the 2020 national tournament defeat it suffered at the hands of Ottawa, a member of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad played for the first time since topping Rochester University (Mich.), 71-64, on Dec. 21. The Bulldogs will take a 13-3 overall record into the new year.

"We knew coming in this was going to be a battle," Limback said. "They're really, really good at home and can really score. We tried our best to keep them out of the lane and stay away from big runs. I thought our guard play today was outstanding. Carter (Kent) and Justin (Wiersema) made some huge shots down the stretch. I really loved our mindset throughout the game. We had to be tough in transition and I thought we did a good job on the glass overall. This is a great win."

Concordia sizzled on the offensive end while faced with a combination of zone, man-to-man and full-court pressure looks from the host Braves. Ultimately, the game defining run came in the latter part of the second half when the Bulldogs used an 11-0 surge to turn a six-point lead into a 17-point advantage (82-65). The final nine points of that run came via treys – two apiece from Kent and one from Wiersema. Kent filled it up with 11 of his game high 19 points coming after halftime.

High-powered Ottawa (10-6) managed to chisel the 17-point deficit down to seven (87-80) in the final minute, although it was too little too late. Concordia had its hands full in dealing with a Braves team that put five players in double figures, including the trio of Andre Jackson, Ty Bland and Tristen Hull (who combined for 46 points). Ottawa (most recent game on Dec. 17) shot 49.2 percent (32-for-65) from the floor.

This was a return to high efficiency basketball for the Bulldogs, who were not at their best at that end while in Florida. It was a big evening for the frontcourt. Noah Schutte made his first seven shots from the floor and finished with 18 points while Ryan Holt (who started in place of Gage Smith) knocked down three treys and piled up 16 points. Off the bench, Tristan Smith poured in 11 points on 4-for-5 shooting.

Finally, AJ Watson added 10 points, four assists and four steals. Wiersema hauled in a career high 14 rebounds as Concordia led the Braves in that department, 35-31.

"It's all about making those winning plays," Limback said. "You can't let one bad play turn into two or three. That was our mindset and what we talked about at halftime. They're going to make some shots and they're going to make a run. I thought we controlled the pace a little better in the second half – outstanding road win for us. When we scheduled this game we knew how good this team was going to be."

With his 19 points on Wednesday, Kent (1,413 career points) moved past Scott Beck (1,406) for 11th on the program's all-time scoring list. Kent needs five more points to leap into the top 10. An emerging star, Schutte is on a tear that has seen him score at least 14 points in nine-straight games. As for Holt, his point total was his second highest of the season.

It will be back to conference play on New Year's Day when the Bulldogs are set to host Doane (10-6, 3-3 GPAC) at 3:45 p.m. CT from Friedrich Arena. The Tigers have been idle since their 67-49 win over the University of Saint Katherine (Calif.) on Dec. 16. Concordia will attempt to extend a home win streak that currently sits at 11.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Ottawa University
12/29/21 06:00 PM at Wilson Field House Ottawa, Kan.,

Concordia University 91 • 13-3

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
12	Schutte, Noah	f	9-12	0-0	0-0	0	5	5	1	18	2	3	0	0	20
32	Holt, Ryan	f	6-11	3-6	1-2	0	1	1	0	16	4	1	0	2	24
05	Kent, Carter	g	6-13	5-8	2-2	0	4	4	1	19	5	4	0	0	37
10	Wiersema, Justin	g	2-5	1-2	0-0	0	14	14	1	5	3	1	0	2	32
14	Watson, AJ	g	2-7	1-3	5-6	1	1	2	2	10	4	4	0	4	23
02	Scarpelli, Sam		2-3	1-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	5	2	2	0	0	19
21	Uher, Klay		2-2	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	15
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-5	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	2	18
41	Smith, Tristan		4-5	0-0	3-3	2	2	4	2	11	2	0	0	0	12
Team						2	0	2				1			
Totals			34-63	11-22	12-15	5	30	35	12	91	24	16	1	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 20-32 62.5% 2nd half: 14-31 45.2% Game: 34-63 54.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-12 41.7% 2nd half: 6-10 60.0% Game: 11-22 50.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-3 66.7% 2nd half: 10-12 83.3% Game: 12-15 80.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
2,1

Ottawa University 82 • 10-6

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
11	Hull, Tristen	f	7-8	0-0	1-3	2	4	6	0	15	4	4	1	4	29
00	Daniels, Jaquan	g	3-9	0-3	0-0	0	1	1	2	6	4	1	0	0	24
05	Jackson, Andre	g	6-11	3-4	1-1	0	5	5	4	16	2	4	1	4	30
10	Johnson III, Joe	g	5-11	3-8	0-0	0	1	1	1	13	0	2	0	1	25
31	Mallory, Jackson	g	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	5	6	3	2	6	3	0	1	30
03	Moore, Ian		4-10	2-5	3-5	0	0	0	1	13	2	1	0	0	27
13	Bland, Ty		5-10	1-5	4-5	1	3	4	2	15	2	1	2	0	21
25	Torrey, Ryan		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
33	Mason, Elijah		1-3	0-2	0-2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	11
Team						2	4	6							
Totals			32-65	9-29	9-16	6	25	31	13	82	20	16	5	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-34 47.1% 2nd half: 16-31 51.6% Game: 32-65 49.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-14 28.6% 2nd half: 5-15 33.3% Game: 9-29 31.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 6-9 66.7% Game: 9-16 56.3%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Officials: Justin Wieberg, Carlos Boyd, Levi Vogt
 Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Ottawa University-None.
 Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	47	44	91
Ottawa University	39	43	82

FIRST-PLACE DAWGS CONTINUE HOME WIN STREAK IN DEFENSIVE GRINDER

SEWARD, Neb. – The action on New Year's Day sharply contrasted the pace of play in the win at Ottawa University (Kan.) three days earlier. The transition game was kept in check so the 23rd-ranked Concordia University Men's Basketball team got tough on the defensive end in the process of pulling out a 60-50 home win over Doane. The Bulldogs flustered the Tigers into shooting 33.9 percent from the floor.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad owns a four-game win streak within the conference and has kept its perch atop the GPAC standings at 7-2 within the league (14-3 overall). This Concordia team has many ways to skin a cat – or a Tiger.

"We wanted to get the new year off to a get start," Limback said. "I thought they did a great job of controlling the tempo. We couldn't get out in transition as much, but we got it done defensively. I'm really proud of our effort, especially the last two minutes. I thought we had some suffocating possessions when it mattered."

The Bulldog man-to-man squeezed the life out of Doane down the stretch. A Brady Timm basket with 6:03 left in the game got the Tigers within three (53-50). Doane proceeded to miss its final nine shots from the floor while going scoreless over the closing six minutes. AJ Watson helped put the finishing touches on the victory with a trey and a pair of free throws in that closing stanza.

In a low possession contest, Concordia shot a respectable 46.0 percent (23-for-50) from the floor. Justin Wiersema put forth a strong showing in posting 14 points while knocking down three triples (in addition to a team high seven rebounds and two steals). He was joined in double figures by three teammates: Gage Smith (13), Watson (12) and Noah Schutte (11). Carter Kent was limited to four points, but his defensive play was a key factor in containing Doane leading scorer Anthony Laravie.

"It just shows our versatility," Wiersema said of how the Bulldogs find ways to win. "Their game plan was to slow us up. They know we're a fast-paced team and we like to run the floor. We tried to take that to our advantage. It was definitely a defensive battle today, but we ended up making enough shots."

Doane (10-7, 3-4 GPAC) kept coming despite being down 10 midway through the first half (its only lead came after the game's first basket). The Tigers got 15 points from Josiah Gardner and 14 from Alec Oberhauser. However, Doane



struggled mightily to score from the perimeter. Guards Laravie and Brady Timm went a combined 4-for-22 from the floor.

Concordia has won five of the past six meetings with the Tigers and has pushed its home winning streak to 12. This is a team that is showing the type of game-to-game focus that it will need to carry throughout the remaining weeks of the regular season.

"This team is hungry," Limback said. "They want to compete for the league title. I think they understand you have to win each game and you have to win each day in practice. I didn't think we came out as hungry throughout the game as we could have. I told them at the end, defensively that's what we're capable of. There are definitely goals within the locker room and I think they understand the process of how you get to those goals."

The Bulldogs will be back on the road on Wednesday for a 7:45 p.m. CT tipoff at Mount Marty (4-14, 0-9 GPAC) in a matchup of teams at opposite ends of the GPAC standings. In this season's first meeting, Concordia pulled away from the Lancers for an 87-72 home win. The Bulldogs have won four in row in the series.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics**Doane vs Concordia University****1/1/22 07:20 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.****Doane 50 • 10-7, 3-4**

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
02	Brady Timm	*	2-14	0-6	0-0	1	5	6	1	4	1	1	0	2	28
03	Anthony Laravie	*	2-8	0-1	1-1	1	3	4	1	5	3	2	0	1	34
04	Alec Oberhauser	*	5-17	2-7	2-2	2	5	7	2	14	2	3	0	2	36
22	Jaxon Harre	*	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	21
41	Josiah Gardiner	*	6-7	1-1	2-2	1	2	3	1	15	0	1	2	1	38
01	Tyler Sullivan		3-6	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	15
20	Max Masin		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	7
21	Joe Burt		1-4	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	0	1	21
Team						3	4	7							
Totals			20-59	5-22	5-5	8	24	32	10	50	8	9	2	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 9-30 30.0% 2nd half: 11-29 37.9% Game: 20-59 33.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-11 18.2% 2nd half: 3-11 27.3% Game: 5-22 22.7%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-4 100.0 2nd half: 1-1 100.0 Game: 5-5 100.0

Deadball
Rebounds
0,3

Concordia University 60 • 14-3, 7-2

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	5-8	3-6	1-2	0	7	7	0	14	2	3	1	2	33
12	Schutte, Noah	*	4-11	0-3	3-6	1	2	3	0	11	0	0	1	0	27
14	Watson, AJ	*	4-8	2-4	2-2	0	5	5	1	12	1	1	0	2	31
32	Holt, Ryan	*	1-4	0-2	0-0	1	4	5	2	2	2	0	1	1	25
5	Kent, Carter	*	2-6	0-4	0-0	0	3	3	0	4	1	3	0	1	35
11	Smith, Gage		5-7	1-2	2-2	0	3	3	3	13	2	2	1	1	20
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	9
21	Uher, Klay		2-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	12
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
41	Smith, Tristan		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Team						2	3	5							
Totals			23-50	6-24	8-12	4	31	35	10	60	9	9	5	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-26 50.0% 2nd half: 10-24 41.7% Game: 23-50 46.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-13 30.8% 2nd half: 2-11 18.2% Game: 6-24 25.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 8-12 66.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Doane-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 450

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Doane	24	26	50
Concordia University	32	28	60

CONCORDIA UPSET IN YANKTON DESPITE 35 FROM KENT

YANTON, S.D. – A matchup between teams at opposite ends of the GPAC standings resulted in frustration for the 23rd-ranked Concordia University Men's Basketball team. Despite a career high performance from Carter Kent, the Bulldogs did not pass the test in Yankton, S.D. Tyrell Harper and Mount Marty celebrated an upset victory in overtime, 70-67, on Wednesday (Jan. 5) night.

The loss halted a four-game league win streak for Head Coach Ben Limback's squad, which began the day leading the conference standings. Concordia slipped to 14-4 overall (7-3 GPAC).

"I didn't think we moved the ball well tonight," Limback said. "We didn't have a collective group performance offensively. I thought Carter had a great game to push us, but we didn't get a lot of rhythm shots. Defensively we did some good things, enough to win. Offensively we didn't play as a team. I've got to make sure we do better having multiple threats out there. I didn't think we were a team offensively tonight."

This was a second league game in a row in which the Bulldogs were unable to dictate tempo and get loose in transition the way they like to. Unlike the 60-50 win over Doane four days earlier, Concordia wasn't able to pull out a slog of a contest. Kent nearly saved the day with his career high 35-point outing. He nailed a clutch trey that pushed the Bulldog lead to 61-57 with 1:31 left in regulation. Harper then emerged for the Lancers with two buckets in the paint to force the overtime.

Although it made only one field goal in overtime, Concordia held a 66-65 lead with less than a minute to go before Harper put the Lancers in front for good. Down 67-66 with a chance to win in the final seconds, the Bulldogs committed a costly turnover (one of 16 on the night).

Kent simply did not have enough help on the offensive end. The Crete High School product solidified himself inside the top 10 of the program's all-time scoring list (1,452 career points) while finding the bottom of the net in virtually every way imaginable on Wednesday. Kent made 10-of-20 shots from the floor (4-for-7 from 3-point range) and drained 11-of-12 attempts from the foul line. He added three blocked shots.

Harper's monster night included 25 points, eight rebounds, seven blocks, four assists and three steals. Elijah Pappas backed him up with 19 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. The Lancers (5-14, 1-9 GPAC) picked up their first league win of the season while shooting 39.1 percent (25-for-64) from the floor.

The second leading scorer following Kent was Sam Scarpelli, who produced eight points (3-for-5 shooting) off the bench. Justin Wiersema added seven points, six rebounds and two steals, Noah Schutte contributed six points and six rebounds and Gage Smith collected five points and six rebounds. The Bulldogs had the advantage on the boards (37-30) but shot just 38.9 percent (21-for-54) from the field.

The Bulldogs will welcome Dakota Wesleyan (6-9, 3-5 GPAC) to town on Saturday for a 3:45 p.m. CT matchup inside Friedrich Arena. The two sides last met in the quarterfinals of the 2021 GPAC tournament with the Tigers earning the win, 70-58. DWU, which won two of three from Concordia last season, will be coming off a 76-64 home loss to Briar Cliff.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Mount Marty
1/5/22 7:45 PM at Ciml Arena

Concordia University 67 • 14-4, 7-3

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds							Min			
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A		TO	Blk	Stl
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-5	0-1	1-2	0	6	6	1	7	1	3	1	2	36
11	Smith, Gage	*	2-8	1-5	0-0	2	4	6	2	5	1	2	0	1	16
12	Schutte, Noah	*	1-5	0-2	4-7	1	5	6	2	6	0	0	0	0	26
14	Watson, AJ	*	0-3	0-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	0	1	3	0	1	19
5	Kent, Carter	*	10-20	4-7	11-12	0	3	3	0	35	4	1	3	0	42
2	Scarpelli, Sam		3-5	2-3	0-0	1	1	2	2	8	0	1	0	0	26
21	Uher, Klay		0-2	0-0	1-2	0	4	4	4	1	2	3	2	0	20
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	13
32	Holt, Ryan		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	3	3	1	0	2	2	0	0	13
41	Smith, Tristan		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	3	4	3	2	0	1	1	0	14
Team						0	0	0							
Totals			21-54	8-25	17-23	5	32	37	17	67	11	16	7	4	225

FG % 1st Half: 10-24 41.7% 2nd half: 10-26 38.5% OT: 1-4 25.0% Game: 21-54 38.9% Deadball
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-12 33.3% 2nd half: 4-13 30.8% OT: 0-0 0.0% Game: 8-25 32.0% Rebounds
 FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 10-12 83.3% OT: 4-7 57.1% Game: 17-23 73.9% 4,1

Mount Marty 70 • 5-14, 1-9

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def								Tot
11	Tyrell Harper	*	9-15	2-6	5-7	2	6	8	4	25	4	1	7	3	35
21	Kade Stearns	*	1-4	1-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	3	0	1	1	1	40-
25	Lincoln Jordre	*	0-3	0-0	1-2	0	3	3	4	1	0	2	0	1	24
3	Allen Wilson	*	3-7	1-3	2-2	0	1	1	2	9	0	3	0	3	25
5	Elijah Pappas	*	8-17	3-8	0-0	0	10	10	2	19	7	2	0	0	42
0	Josh Arlt		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
10	Gio Diaz		3-10	3-7	1-2	0	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	1	27
35	Jonah Larson		1-8	0-4	1-1	2	3	5	5	3	0	0	0	2	24
4	Chase Altenburg		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
	Team					0	0	0							
	Totals		25-64	10-31	10-14	4	26	30	22	70	12	9	8	11	225

FG % 1st Half: 10-27 37.0% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% OT: 3-7 42.9% Game: 25-64 39.1% Deadball
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-17 35.3% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% OT: 0-3 0.0% Game: 10-31 32.3% Rebounds
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 5-8 62.5% OT: 3-4 75.0% Game: 10-14 71.4% 5,4

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Mount Marty-None.

Attendance: 215

Score by periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Concordia University	27	34	6	67
Mount Marty	28	33	9	70



2022 GPAC CHAMPIONS



WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS



DAWGS GET BACK ON TRACK WITH RETURN OF TRANSITION GAME

SEWARD, Neb. – This was more like it. After a week of slogging at a slower tempo than desired, the 23rd-ranked Concordia University Men's Basketball team got out on the run on Saturday (Jan. 8) and remained perfect at home. The Bulldogs forced 18 turnovers while pulling away from Dakota Wesleyan for an 88-71 win inside Friedrich Arena. Carter Kent led a group of four Concordia double-figure scorers with 19 points.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad has yet to be beaten at home this season and extended the program's home win streak to 13. The Bulldogs remain right in the thick of things near the top of the league standings at 8-3 in the GPAC (15-4 overall).

"It was a gut check," Limback said. "We didn't play well Wednesday (at Mount Marty). Offensively you always wonder if it's going to be a funk or if you're going to bounce back. I was really proud. You could sense it in shootaround today that these guys were hungry and ready. They didn't let Wednesday affect the next day, even in practice. Our seniors like Carter were phenomenal again today – Justin (Wiersema), Gage (Smith) – all those guys."



It was indeed a tough spot to have to go up against Concordia, which was forced to refocus after Wednesday's overtime loss. The turnovers helped spring the Bulldogs loose and leave no doubt in the second half. With DWU still hanging around down 74-64, Concordia put the game on ice with an 11-0 run that featured three steals from Noah Schutte, who threw down a thunderous jam during the surge. The Bulldogs built a lead as large as 21 points while shooting 56.7 percent from the floor.

It was an exceptional week for Kent, who poured in a career high 35 points at Mount Marty. In this outing, the Crete native added six assists and five rebounds to his stat line. Three teammates joined him in double figures: Gage Smith (16), Schutte (15) and AJ Watson (10). Smith also notched nine rebounds, four assists and two steals while just missing a double-double. Schutte put home 13 of his 15 tallies after halftime.

Kent and his class of fellow fourth-year standouts know how to respond after a poor outing. Said Kent, "It was a tough loss at Mount Marty. We made sure that we stayed together and focused on what we do. We didn't let that result define what we were doing in practice. We just got back to playing our game. We felt like these past couple games we haven't been pushing it. People have been trying to slow us down. This game we kept pushing it."

For the most part, the Bulldogs exerted control all night while leading for almost the entire 40 minutes. It was a true team effort that saw different players emerge at different times. Twelve Concordia players registered in the scoring column. Justin Wiersema chipped in with seven points and three assists and Ryan Holt notched seven points.

DWU (6-10, 3-6 GPAC) got 17 points apiece from Teegan Evers and Nick Wittler. After shooting 51.7 percent in the first half, the Tigers slipped to 34.5 percent in the second half. DWU, which played only three games in December, has dropped four in a row.

Said Limback, "It's fun to be around. Guys don't care who gets the credit. They're more interested in the outcome of the game. We had great balance."

The Bulldogs will have a bye in the middle of next week while preparing to travel to North Dakota for this season's second matchup with 12th-ranked Jamestown (16-3, 6-3 GPAC). Tipoff next Saturday (Jan. 15) is slated for 3:45 p.m. CT. In the meeting played on Nov. 23, Concordia rode a 27-point outing from Schutte to a 92-76 win over the Jimmies.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Dakota Wesleyan vs Concordia University
1/8/22 03:45 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Dakota Wesleyan 71 • 6-10, 3-6

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def								Tot
1	Koln Oppold	*	1-4	0-0	0-0	1	6	7	2	2	0	4	0	1	23
13	Jeffrey Schuch	*	2-7	1-2	4-4	1	5	6	2	9	4	1	0	0	32
2	Teegan Evers	*	7-10	2-4	1-1	2	2	4	2	17	1	2	1	1	25
3	Sawyer Schultz	*	2-4	2-4	0-0	0	2	2	4	6	2	4	0	0	21
4	Nick Wittler	*	7-16	3-6	0-0	1	2	3	4	17	1	2	0	2	31
10	Alan Kikwaki		1-2	0-1	2-2	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	11
12	Samuel Aslesen		0-0	0-0	0-2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
20	Gary White III		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
21	Kallan Herman		2-5	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	2	5	0	2	0	0	18
23	Ace Zorr		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	4
33	Drew Cole		0-3	0-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
34	Blaze Lubbers		0-2	0-1	2-2	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	8
40	Drew Van Regenmorter		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
44	Brady Fritz		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	4
5	Jakob Dobney		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	2
Team						1	1	2							
Totals			25-58	10-25	11-13	8	25	33	23	71	10	18	3	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-29 51.7% 2nd half: 10-29 34.5% Game: 25-58 43.1%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-13 38.5% 2nd half: 5-12 41.7% Game: 10-25 40.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-3 100.0 2nd half: 8-10 80.0% Game: 11-13 84.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,3

Concordia University 88 • 15-4, 8-3

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def								Tot
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-5	0-1	1-2	0	1	1	0	7	3	0	0	1	30
11	Smith, Gage	*	5-8	1-3	5-7	1	8	9	3	16	4	2	1	2	25
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-12	0-0	1-1	1	4	5	0	15	2	0	0	4	26
14	Watson, AJ	*	4-7	0-0	2-3	0	2	2	4	10	3	1	0	2	19
5	Kent, Carter	*	7-11	2-4	3-3	0	5	5	0	19	6	0	0	1	32
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-3	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	1	5	1	1	0	0	13
21	Uher, Klay		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	7
3	Baker, Joel		0-1	0-1	2-2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-3	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	11
32	Holt, Ryan		3-5	1-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	7	1	2	0	1	16
4	Cito, Nick		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
41	Smith, Tristan		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	9
44	Woita, Skyler		0-0	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
50	Bennett, Bradley		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
55	Vyhnalek, Kelly		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team						0	2	2							
Totals			34-60	5-16	15-20	3	26	29	15	88	21	7	2	11	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-32 56.3% 2nd half: 16-28 57.1% Game: 34-60 56.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 1-7 14.3% Game: 5-16 31.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 5-6 83.3% 2nd half: 10-14 71.4% Game: 15-20 75.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,2

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Dakota Wesleyan-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 500

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Dakota Wesleyan	38	33	71
Concordia University	45	43	88

BULLDOGS SHOW TOUGHNESS, EARN CRUCIAL ROAD WIN AT NO. 11 JAMESTOWN

JAMESTOWN, N.D. – This was the type of win special seasons are made of. In a showdown in North Dakota on Saturday (Jan. 15), the 25th-ranked Concordia University Men's Basketball team relinquished a 17-point lead and then showed the resolve to make the plays down the stretch. Behind a 26-point outing from Carter Kent, the Bulldogs held off No. 11 Jamestown, 82-79, for the program's first road win over a ranked opponent since the 2020 GPAC tournament title game at the Corn Palace.

With the victory, Head Coach Ben Limback's squad keeps pace near the top of the conference standings at 9-3 in the GPAC (16-4 overall). On the other hand, this was a critical blow to the Jimmies, who have endured five league losses, including two at the hands of Concordia.

"It was a fun celebration," Limback said of the postgame locker room. "It was two good teams going at it with a great ending by us. Our guys were all pumped. I'm proud of our bench too. They were amazing with their energy before, during and after. Our guys have worked hard and they wanted this after coming all this way."

The Bulldogs were faced with adverse situations in the second half that perhaps only a veteran, battle-tested team like themselves could have managed through. Instead of being demoralized by the swing of momentum, Concordia charged back with the aid of the likes of Kent, AJ Watson and Tristan Smith off the bench. With game tied at 72-72 late in the game, Kent emerged with a pair of free throws and then a bucket in the lane. Jamestown still wouldn't go away in a contest in which neither team led by more than six points the entire second half.

Leading 80-77 in the closing 30 seconds, the Bulldogs left the door open a crack when Justin Wiersema missed the front end of a one-and-one. He quickly made amends on the ensuing possession by stealing the post feed to Mason Walters, putting the game on ice. A year earlier, Concordia felt like it let one get away at Jamestown in similar circumstances.

"We got off to a fantastic start and the game changed a little bit physically," Limback said. "The free throw line kept them in it in the first half. Second half was kind of back and forth. They went on a spurt. Out of a timeout, I felt like we went back to how we started the game. Carter was really, really good and made amazing plays down the stretch for us. He made some great winning plays beyond the stat sheet and guarded their best guard on the other end. Tristan Smith was huge off the bench and I thought AJ Watson was really good."

Kent went 8-for-15 from the floor (8-for-8 from the foul line) while reaching the 20-point mark for the seventh time this season. Watson had already reached double figures less than seven minutes into the game and finished with 16 points (7-for-14 from the floor). Tristin Smith collected 10 points off the bench and Wiersema contributed nine points, three assists and three steals. Super seniors Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli chipped in with six points each as the Bulldogs shot 48.4 percent (30-for-62) from the floor.

Concordia won despite the usual eye-popping numbers from Jimmie star Mason Walters, who totaled 32 points and 14 rebounds. The Bulldogs combated his performance by surrendering only three treys and by competing much better on the boards, as compared to the first meeting with Jamestown (16-5, 6-5 GPAC). This time around, the Jimmies had only a 37-34 rebound advantage.

Said Limback, "I was really proud of our guys for hanging in there with the game plan. We didn't shoot well from three in the second half, which made it tougher ... What a steal by Justin there at the end. We're fortunate to get a win on the road."

The Bulldogs will get another crack at Morningside (10-6, 7-4 GPAC) on Wednesday when the two sides square off at 7:45 p.m. CT from Friedrich Arena. Back on Dec. 1, the Mustangs edged Concordia, 79-77, in Sioux City, Iowa. Morningside has won each of the past 12 meetings with the Bulldogs and will be aiming to rebound from a 72-71 overtime loss to Doane at the buzzer on Saturday.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Jamestown
01/15/22 04:00 PM at Harold Newman Arena Jamestown, ND

Concordia University 82 • 16-4, 9-3 GPAC

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
11	Smith, Gage	f	2-6	0-3	1-2	0	5	5	4	5	2	1	0	1	13
12	Schutte, Noah	f	1-5	0-1	0-0	2	10	12	2	2	0	0	0	1	22
05	Kent, Carter	g	8-15	2-2	8-8	0	3	3	0	26	3	1	0	1	36
10	Wiersema, Justin	g	3-5	0-2	3-4	1	2	3	1	9	3	3	0	3	29
14	Watson, AJ	g	7-14	2-6	0-0	0	2	2	1	16	2	2	0	0	32
02	Scarpelli, Sam		2-3	2-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	11
21	Uher, Klay		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	10
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	12
32	Holt, Ryan		2-7	2-6	0-0	0	2	2	2	6	1	0	1	0	23
41	Smith, Tristan		4-5	0-0	2-4	1	1	2	3	10	0	0	0	0	12
	Team					3	1	4							
	Totals		30-62	8-24	14-18	7	27	34	20	82	12	9	1	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-31 58.1% 2nd half: 12-31 38.7% Game: 30-62 48.4%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-14 35.7% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 8-24 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd half: 8-11 72.7% Game: 14-18 77.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Jamestown 79 • 16-5, 6-5 GPAC

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
33	Walters, Mason	f	12-22	0-2	8-10	4	10	14	1	32	3	1	1	0	38
50	Birch, Brady	f	2-7	0-0	2-2	0	3	3	3	6	0	1	0	0	13
00	Kjos, Marc	g	4-11	1-5	1-2	0	5	5	3	10	2	2	0	1	39
01	Cordes, Will	g	3-8	0-2	2-2	0	2	2	4	8	3	1	0	0	40
05	Woodford, Cole	g	4-7	2-3	0-1	0	0	0	1	10	0	2	0	1	25
04	Schumacher, Lucas		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
21	Praska, Devan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	13
24	Argue, John		1-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	9
43	Schultz, Devon		4-7	0-0	3-3	3	2	5	2	11	0	0	3	1	21
	Team					2	1	3				1			
	Totals		30-64	3-12	16-20	10	27	37	18	79	9	9	4	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-34 44.1% 2nd half: 15-30 50.0% Game: 30-64 46.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-6 33.3% 2nd half: 1-6 16.7% Game: 3-12 25.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 11-12 91.7% 2nd half: 5-8 62.5% Game: 16-20 80.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Officials:

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Jamestown-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	47	35	82
Jamestown	43	36	79

KENT ECLIPSES MILESTONE, BULLDOGS SOLVE MORNINGSIDE PUZZLE

SEWARD, Neb. – The current group of four- and five-year players have checked off so many boxes during their careers with Concordia University Men's Basketball. At long last, the 25th-ranked Bulldogs have conquered Morningside. Carter Kent and company shot 59.6 percent from the floor on Wednesday (Jan. 19) while exerting control of the action in an 83-68 victory over the visiting Mustangs.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad boosted the program home win streak to 14 while pushing the overall season record to 17-4 (10-3 GPAC). Every opposing GPAC men's basketball program has now dropped its most recent trip to Friedrich Arena.

"I was pleased with how we started the game and our energy throughout the game," Limback said. "Carter continues to be huge. I thought Gage (Smith) was really good today and Justin (Wiersema) hit some big shots for us. Certainly defensively is where we hung our hat tonight. They shook it up by playing a small lineup (in Trey Brown's absence), pressing and doing different things. I thought we did a good job of playing through that."

This was an important hurdle for Concordia, which had not beaten Morningside in any of the previous 12 meetings. Down one of the league's best big men, the Mustangs showed resilience in shaking off a rough start, but the Bulldogs were in control for the vast majority of the night. With Kent and Smith both reaching the 20-point mark, Concordia built a lead as large as 21 (60-39) in the middle of the second half and put it on cruise control. Morningside couldn't muster much offensively outside of Aidan Vanderloo's 20 points.

It didn't take long for Kent to reach a milestone. He entered the night needing three points for 1,500 in his career and collected a game high 25 points on 7-for-15 shooting from the floor (8-for-10 from the foul line). Smith backed him up with a double-double (20 points and 11 rebounds) and Wiersema was good for his usual end-to-end tenacity. He posted 13 points, five rebounds and three assists.

It didn't matter that the Bulldogs had just come off the high of an 82-79 win at No. 11 Jamestown, they were going to be ready for this one. Said Smith, "Since I've been here we hadn't beaten Morningside, so this one felt really good. The bond we have with each other is unbreakable. I've never been part of a team like this. We love each other and trust each other. We play together – and that's Concordia Basketball."

Morningside (10-7, 7-5 GPAC) had just come off a 72-71 overtime loss to Doane and has gone 3-6 since a 7-1 start. The Mustangs still have a dangerous team with plenty of



veterans used to winning. The Bulldogs limited the potent visitors to 39.1 percent (27-for-69) shooting from the floor. Vanderloo and Trey Powers (11) were the only Morningside players to reach double figures.

In addition to shooting it well, Concordia held a 41-27 advantage on the boards. The only real negative was a minus-nine turnover margin. AJ Watson chipped in with eight points, six assists and six rebounds. Off the bench, Garrett Seagren made all three attempts from the floor and notched six points.

"There's no rest right now, and I think our guys are ready for these," Limback said. "We wanted these games. Now is when we start to see some of our young guys emerge – Tristan (Smith) was good tonight. They're ready to go to Orange City."

The aim now is to come away with an impressive GPAC road win for the second weekend in a row. The Bulldogs will be at Northwestern (16-6, 8-4 GPAC) for a 3:45 p.m. CT tipoff in Orange City, Iowa, on Saturday. Concordia won this season's first meeting, 95-78, on Dec. 4 and moved its series win streak to six over the Red Raiders. On Wednesday, Northwestern fell at Briar Cliff, 81-69.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Morningside vs Concordia University
1/19/22 08:00 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Morningside 68 • 10-7, 7-5

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
12	Zach Imig	*	3-11	2-6	0-0	0	2	2	2	8	6	1	0	34
14	Will Pottebaum	*	1-3	0-1	2-2	0	1	1	2	4	2	0	0	20
20	Joey Skoff	*	2-14	1-7	0-0	0	4	4	4	5	1	0	0	28
22	Aidan Vanderloo	*	9-13	1-3	1-1	0	0	0	2	20	0	1	0	28
33	Ely Doble	*	4-9	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	3	8	1	2	0	24
02	Jack Dotzler		0-2	0-1	0-0	4	3	7	1	0	1	2	0	15
03	Trey Powers		4-9	1-5	2-2	0	4	4	1	11	1	0	0	23
05	Tyler Vavrina		1-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	4	2	0	0	0	9
23	Justin Sitti		2-2	2-2	0-0	0	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	9
24	Collin Hill		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7
30	Owen Coburn		0-2	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Team						1	3	4						
Totals			27-69	7-26	7-7	7	20	27	20	68	12	6	0	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-34 32.4% 2nd half: 16-35 45.7% Game: 27-69 39.1%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-13 15.4% 2nd half: 5-13 38.5% Game: 7-26 26.9%
 FT % 1st Half: 7-7 100.0 2nd half: 0-0 0.0% Game: 7-7 100.0

Deadball
Rebounds
0,5

Concordia University 83 • 17-4, 10-3

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	5-7	2-3	1-2	1	4	5	1	13	3	1	1	32
11	Smith, Gage	*	9-13	1-1	1-4	3	8	11	3	20	1	0	1	28
12	Schutte, Noah	*	2-3	0-1	0-0	1	5	6	1	4	2	3	0	19
14	Watson, AJ	*	2-6	1-2	3-4	0	6	6	3	8	6	5	0	30
5	Kent, Carter	*	7-15	3-4	8-10	0	2	2	2	25	4	2	1	36
2	Scarpelli, Sam		1-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	10
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	4
30	Seagren, Garrett		3-3	0-0	0-2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	15
32	Holt, Ryan		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	5	5	0	0	2	2	0	13
41	Smith, Tristan		2-2	0-0	1-2	0	4	4	2	5	0	0	1	13
Team						1	0	1						
Totals			31-52	7-13	14-24	6	35	41	14	83	19	15	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-25 56.0% 2nd half: 17-27 63.0% Game: 31-52 59.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd half: 4-6 66.7% Game: 7-13 53.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 10-13 76.9% 2nd half: 4-11 36.4% Game: 14-24 58.3%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Officials: ,,
 Technical fouls: Morningside-None. Concordia University-None.
 Attendance: 750

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Morningside	31	37	68
Concordia University	41	42	83

NO. 25 BULLDOGS TRUMPED ON THE ROAD BY NORTHWESTERN STAR POWER



ORANGE CITY, Iowa – It was one of those days on the road within the GPAC. Big man Alex Van Kalsbeek went wild for 35 points against a Concordia University Men's Basketball team that allowed season highs for points and opponent field goal percentage (.596). Northwestern used its offensive proficiency in claiming a 92-77 victory over the Bulldogs on Saturday (Jan. 22).

The result snapped what had been a six-game series win streak versus the Red Raiders. Head Coach Ben Limback's squad fell to 17-5 overall (10-4 GPAC). Concordia is now two losses behind first-place Briar Cliff (10-2 GPAC).

"Their big guy really had a good game – he got to the free throw line and finished at the rim," Limback said. "We didn't have an answer for him. I didn't think we had the best effort defensively, but they have some really talented guys. We knew coming in that it was a big game for both sides. They wanted it more today."

The game got away from the Bulldogs when Northwestern went on a 16-4 run that pushed its lead to 72-56 midway through the second half. With the likes of Van Kalsbeek and Trent Hillbrands feasting on the offensive end, the Red Raiders maintained a double-digit lead for the remainder of the contest. The work of Van Kalsbeek on the interior helped open it up on the perimeter for Hillbrands to drain four 3-point field goals and pile up 19 points.

Most opponents have struggled this season at the Bultman Center, where Northwestern is 11-1. Thanks to a big first half from Noah Schutte, Concordia hung within five (46-41) at the break on Saturday. Schutte posted 13 of his 17 points in the first 20 minutes. Meanwhile, the Red Raiders managed

to limit Carter Kent to four points in the first half. He got going after the intermission and finished with a team high 19 points (8-for-8 from the foul line). Despite foul trouble, Gage Smith collected 16 points and seven rebounds. Point guard AJ Watson chipped in 11 points and four rebounds.

None of that production could overcome Northwestern shooting 71.4 percent from the floor (15-for-21) in the second half. Van Kalsbeek made 14-of-19 on his field goal attempts. He and Hillbrands were joined in double figures by teammates Matt Onken (16) and Grant DeMeulenaere (12). The Red Raiders finished with a slight advantage on the boards, 34-30, in a contest that featured eight turnovers apiece. Northwestern (17-6, 9-4 GPAC) stands just a half-game behind Concordia in the standings.

Added Limback, "Defensively, we didn't do enough to disrupt their rhythm. Offensively, we didn't shoot well enough to offset what they were able to do tonight. We can't let it affect the next game."

While the Bulldogs have gone 7-0 in GPAC home games (all victories by double digits), they are now 3-4 in conference road games. A week ago, Concordia edged out No. 11 Jamestown, 82-79, in North Dakota. The season profile does include a solid nonconference road win at Ottawa University (Kan.).

The Bulldogs will return home on Wednesday to host Hastings (6-16, 1-11 GPAC) with tipoff set for 7:45 p.m. CT from Friedrich Arena. Concordia has had the Broncos' number, winning each of the past 12 meetings between the two rivals. In the first matchup this season, the Bulldogs earned an 81-66 road win after having trailed at halftime on Dec. 11.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Northwestern
1/22/22 3:45 PM at Bultman Center

Concordia University 77 • 17-5, 10-4 GPAC

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	1-6	0-3	0-0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	34
11	Smith, Gage	*	6-12	1-4	3-4	4	3	7	5	16	3	1	1	1	24
12	Schutte, Noah	*	4-9	3-7	6-7	0	7	7	1	17	1	1	0	0	26
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-5	2-3	3-4	0	4	4	1	11	2	3	0	1	26
5	Kent, Carter	*	5-12	1-5	8-8	0	1	1	1	19	0	1	1	3	35
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-5	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	13
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	13
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
32	Holt, Ryan		0-4	0-4	0-2	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	13
41	Smith, Tristan		2-4	0-2	1-2	0	1	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	12
Team						3	1	4							
Totals			24-58	8-32	21-27	10	20	30	17	77	8	8	2	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-27 44.4% 2nd half: 12-31 38.7% Game: 24-58 41.4%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-18 33.3% 2nd half: 2-14 14.3% Game: 8-32 25.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 11-15 73.3% 2nd half: 10-12 83.3% Game: 21-27 77.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Northwestern 92 • 17-6, 9-4 GPAC

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
03	Conner Geddes	*	1-4	1-4	0-0	0	2	2	2	3	3	2	0	0	30
04	Trent Hilbrands	*	7-13	4-7	1-1	0	2	2	1	19	2	1	0	0	36
14	Grant DeMeulenaere	*	4-7	2-3	2-2	1	7	8	2	12	5	1	0	2	32
34	Matt Onken	*	7-10	0-1	2-2	2	5	7	4	16	1	1	0	0	21
42	Alex Van Kalsbeek	*	14-19	0-0	7-8	1	6	7	1	35	4	1	2	0	39
05	Noah Slagter		0-3	0-1	2-2	0	4	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	17
20	Jesse Van Wyk		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	10
32	Keyton Mosure		0-0	0-0	3-6	1	1	2	4	3	0	2	0	1	15
Team						0	2	2							
Totals			34-57	7-16	17-21	5	29	34	19	92	19	8	2	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-36 52.8% 2nd half: 15-21 71.4% Game: 34-57 59.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-9 44.4% 2nd half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 7-16 43.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-4 100.0 2nd half: 13-17 76.5% Game: 17-21 81.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Officials: Joe Wells, Kirby Wells, Brent McNeulin
 Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Northwestern-None.
 Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	41	36	77
Northwestern	46	46	92

SMITH, DOMINANT FIRST HALF TRIGGER 15TH-STRAIGHT HOME WIN

SEWARD, Neb. – The Concordia University Men's Basketball team dominated the first half and then had a wakeup call in the second on Wednesday night (Jan. 26). After being up 19 points on visiting Hastings at halftime, the Concordia lead was cut to single digits late in the game. Ultimately the Bulldogs were able to prevail, winning by a final score of 82-68. Along with picking up its 11th conference win of the season, Concordia kept a 15-game home winning streak intact.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad improves to 18-5 overall and 11-4 in conference play. Coach Limback, had hoped for a more concentrated second half, but he was happy that his team found a way to come away with a victory.

"I give [Hastings] a lot of credit – they wanted to play in the second half and we challenged our guys," Limback said, "Even

at the end of the first half I thought we got a little complacent. Honestly, offensively we weren't making some shots, but I was really disappointed in our defense. They've got good players. First half they were missing some wide-open shots and I thought we got bored and lost interest in the game, which is unacceptable. We talked about it. It's nice to learn lessons when you win but we want to be a team that plays our best at the right time."

In the absence of Justin Wiersema, Gage Smith took over the scoring for the Bulldogs. He secured a double-double with 28 points and 11 rebounds. Noah Schutte also had a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. AJ Watson found himself in double figures at the end of the night with 13 points while also grabbing six rebounds. Carter Kent added eight points and four assists.

Said Limback, "They [Smith & Schutte] finished down the stretch. We turned it on and that's the goal to find that offensive urgency and defensive intensity all the way through."

The Bulldogs shot a respectable 43.5 percent (30-for-69) from the field compared to Hastings' 37.5 percent. Concordia also shot 33.3 percent from behind the three-point arc in the contest. The Bulldogs managed to win the rebounding battle as well, outmuscling the Broncos 46-35.

Hastings falls to 6-17 overall (1-12 GPAC) with the loss. Dashawn Walker led the Broncos in scoring with 20 points to go along with 10 rebounds. Karson Ganesbom and Zach Rust were the only other major contributors for Hastings – Ganesbom with 18 points and Rust with 17 points and five rebounds.

Concordia will have this upcoming weekend off after the cancellation of the Concordia Invitational Tournament for the second consecutive year. Coach Limback expects his team to bring the intensity to practice during the time off from game action.

"We've got to have a better practice intensity and the guys even mentioned that before the coaches got in there," Limback said. "Our leaders know that. We've got to put the pedal to the metal now. We can't just talk about it, we have to do the work. I know these guys will bounce back and be ready tomorrow and the next day."

Concordia won't be back in action until Wednesday (Feb. 2). Concordia will go on the road to face Midland (14-10, 5-9 GPAC) on Wednesday. The two teams last met in November when the Bulldogs came away with the victory, 82-68. Tipoff is set for 7:45 p.m. CT from Fremont, Neb.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Hastings vs Concordia University
1/26/22 08:00 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Hastings 68 • 6-17, 1-12

#	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
01	Dawson Zenger	*	1-5	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	3	2	2	0	0	26
02	Dashawn Walker	*	7-17	1-1	5-8	1	9	10	2	20	0	4	0	34
03	Karson Gansebom	*	6-13	2-7	4-4	0	2	2	1	18	1	1	0	37
13	Zach Rust	*	5-10	2-5	5-5	2	3	5	3	17	0	2	0	21
31	Phil Cisrow	*	2-5	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	2	4	1	0	0	16
05	Grady Corrigan		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
11	Logan Schuldt		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	10
15	TJ Babikir		1-7	0-3	0-0	2	3	5	0	2	1	0	0	21
23	Mathias Nchekwube		2-3	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	2	5	0	2	1	10
33	Ashton Valentine		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
35	Evan Kingston		0-2	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	16
51	Keith Howard		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Team						0	4	4						
Totals			24-64	5-20	15-19	6	29	35	16	68	8	9	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 8-33 24.2% 2nd half: 16-31 51.6% Game: 24-64 37.5%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-12 16.7% 2nd half: 3-8 37.5% Game: 5-20 25.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 1-1 100.0 2nd half: 14-18 77.8% Game: 15-19 78.9%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,2

Concordia University 82 • 18-5, 11-4

#	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
11	Smith, Gage	*	10-14	0-0	8-10	5	6	11	3	28	1	4	0	29
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-12	0-1	2-3	3	8	11	2	16	0	1	0	28
14	Watson, AJ	*	5-15	3-9	0-0	1	5	6	3	13	2	1	0	27
32	Holt, Ryan	*	2-6	1-4	0-0	0	3	3	2	5	4	0	0	23
5	Kent, Carter	*	3-12	2-4	0-1	0	1	1	2	8	4	1	0	30
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-5	2-5	0-0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	14
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
21	Uher, Klay		0-2	0-1	2-2	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	9
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	19
4	Cito, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
41	Smith, Tristan		1-1	0-0	2-2	0	4	4	2	4	0	2	0	15
Team						1	3	4						
Totals			30-69	8-24	14-18	12	34	46	16	82	14	10	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-36 44.4% 2nd half: 14-33 42.4% Game: 30-69 43.5%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-13 38.5% 2nd half: 3-11 27.3% Game: 8-24 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd half: 11-14 78.6% Game: 14-18 77.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,3

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Hastings-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 575

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Hastings	19	49	68
Concordia University	40	42	82

OFFENSIVE FIREPOWER KEYS SEASON SWEEP OF MIDLAND



FREMONT, Neb. – A quartet of Bulldogs netted 15 points or more apiece in an offensive-oriented Wednesday (Feb. 2) evening clash in Fremont, Neb. The Concordia University Men's Basketball team packed its shooting touch on the road and outgunned Midland, 92-87, inside the Wikert Event Center. In the process, the Bulldogs earned a season sweep of the Warriors while picking up their fourth GPAC road win.

Every league game has heightened meaning this February as Head Coach Ben Limback's squad remains right on the heels of Briar Cliff (12-3 GPAC) at the top of the league standings. Concordia bumped its overall record to 19-5 (12-4 GPAC).

"I thought we came out really aggressive, really hungry in that first five or six minutes," Limback said. "Justin Wiersema was unbelievable tonight at both ends. Down the stretch we didn't play with as much aggressiveness, but Midland is a good basketball team. They can really shoot it. I thought we locked in most of the night. We made some careless mistakes mentally the last five minutes, but it was a great road win for

us."

Midland had no response for the fearsome foursome of Carter Kent, Justin Wiersema, Noah Schutte and Gage Smith, which combined for 68 points in an offensive clinic. The Bulldogs shot a smoldering 61.0 percent (36-for-59) from the floor. Only trouble was that Midland was on its game on its own offensive end. Fueled by 20 points from Bo Sandquist, the Warriors sizzled their way to 55.2 percent (32-for-58) shooting.

In Limback's eyes, this one got more interesting than it needed to be. Concordia built the lead up to 18 (70-52) with just over 13 minutes remaining in the game. The advantage hovered in double digits all the way until the last 70 seconds. Sandquist drew a foul while shooting a trey with :31 left and made all three free throws for the game's final tallies. The Bulldogs had done enough to extend their series win streak to seven over Midland.

"On the road this time of year, there's a lot riding on this game," Limback said. "I think the guys felt that at the end. We have to be ready for a battle at home now. We still have a lot of work to be done. I was really proud of our practices on Monday and Tuesday. That's where it starts is mentally. We have to stay active and engaged. This team knows what's going on. They're senior heavy and they believe in each other."

Because he missed last week's win over Hastings, Wiersema hadn't played since Jan. 22. He showed no rust in racking up 10 points less than six minutes into Wednesday night's contest. He finished with a game high 21 points to go along with four assists. Meanwhile, Kent notched 17 points and three steals while Schutte and Smith both turned in exactly 15 points and five rebounds. AJ Watson chipped in eight points and Ryan Holt led the reserves with six. Midland never did own a lead on a night that saw Concordia in control for the most part.

The Warriors (14-12, 5-11 GPAC) have dropped eight in a row, including three by three points or less. Midland put five players in double figures against the Bulldogs. The host team fell despite making 17-of-22 from the foul line and committing only seven turnovers.

The Bulldogs will take aim at a regular season sweep of Dordt (17-7, 9-6 GPAC) on Saturday when the two sides meet at 3:45 p.m. CT inside Friedrich Arena. The first match-up went down to the wire in Sioux Center, Iowa, where Concordia escaped with an 84-82 victory on Nov. 20. On Wednesday evening, the Defenders eked out a 75-74 home win over Morningside.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Midland
2/2/22 07:50 PM at Wikert Event Center

Concordia University 92 • 19-5, 12-4

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def								Tot
05	Carter Kent	*	7-13	0-4	3-6	1	2	3	2	17	2	2	0	3	35
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	8-10	4-5	1-1	0	1	1	2	21	4	2	1	0	37
11	Smith, Gage	*	7-8	0-0	1-2	2	3	5	5	15	2	0	0	0	18
12	Schutte, Noah	*	5-7	1-2	4-6	0	5	5	0	15	2	0	0	0	21
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-9	0-4	2-4	0	3	3	2	8	0	2	0	1	31
02	Sam Scarpelli		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	8
21	Uher, Klay		1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	10
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-3	1-3	0-0	1	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	10
32	Holt, Ryan		2-4	2-4	0-0	0	3	3	0	6	1	0	0	0	21
41	Smith, Tristan		1-1	0-0	0-2	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	9
	Team					0	3	3							
	Totals		36-59	9-24	11-21	7	23	30	18	92	12	8	1	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 20-32 62.5% 2nd half: 16-27 59.3% Game: 36-59 61.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-14 42.9% 2nd half: 3-10 30.0% Game: 9-24 37.5%
 FT % 1st Half: 5-5 100.0 2nd half: 6-16 37.5% Game: 11-21 52.4%

Deadball
Rebounds
5

Midland 87 • 14-12, 5-11

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds									Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk		Stl
02	Ryan Larsen	*	5-10	1-5	2-2	0	3	3	1	13	4	1	1	2	35
05	Jake Rueschhoff	*	2-5	1-3	3-3	0	2	2	4	8	2	1	0	1	28
22	Bo Sandquist	*	6-14	3-9	5-6	0	2	2	3	20	1	0	0	0	40
24	Laurence Merritt	*	5-11	1-4	0-1	0	3	3	1	11	2	2	0	0	21
34	Jack Cooper	*	6-8	0-0	2-2	2	4	6	5	14	1	0	2	0	24
03	Emanuel Bryson		5-6	0-1	1-3	0	2	2	1	11	1	1	0	0	19
20	Samuel Mailloux		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	11
21	Colby Tichota		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
43	Tyler Sandoval		2-2	0-0	4-5	1	2	3	1	8	1	2	0	0	17
Team						1	2	3							
Totals			32-58	6-22	17-22	5	22	27	18	87	12	7	3	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-30 53.3% 2nd half: 16-28 57.1% Game: 32-58 55.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-11 27.3% 2nd half: 3-11 27.3% Game: 6-22 27.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 14-17 82.4% Game: 17-22 77.3%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-Smith, Gage. Midland-Jack Cooper.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	51	41	92
Midland	38	49	87

HOME DOMINANCE CONTINUES IN 3-POINT FLURRY

SEWARD, Neb. – A tight first half gave way to another dominant home win for a Concordia University Men's Basketball team on a mission. The Bulldogs netted 10 treys in the second half while speeding away from Dordt for a 92-62 rout on Saturday (Feb. 5). Seven Concordia players poured in eight points or more in completing a prolific offensive week.

Head Coach Ben Limback's program has moved the home win streak to 16 – each of the last 13 conference home affairs have resulted in victories by double-digit margins. The program has reached the 20-win mark for the third time under Limback. The Bulldogs stand at 20-5 overall (13-4 GPAC).

"First half, I thought Dordt was really clogging the paint and going under a lot of stuff," Limback said. "The message at halftime was just to be resilient and stick with it. We shot 52 percent from three in the second half. Sam Scarpelli off the bench gave us a nice lift. Tristan Smith had a solid game off the bench too ... Little plays kept us going. I thought the player of the game was AJ Watson. Defensively, he held their lead guard to one point. I felt like we stirred the drink constantly in that second half."

The second half was a white washing. By the time you returned from grabbing popcorn, Concordia had built a commanding lead. The key spurts were included an 8-0 run that provided a 50-41 lead and then a 14-5 run that made it 77-55 with 8:15 remaining in the contest. The Defenders gave the Bulldogs space to build a condo on the perimeter. Concordia treys rained in during the second half at the 10:02 mark (Garrett Seagren), the 9:16 mark (Scarpelli), the 8:33 mark (Tristan Smith) and the 8:15 mark (Scarpelli).

Watson was the straw that stirred the drink. He collected 11 points, eight assists and six rebounds (only one turnover) and stuck to Dordt's Luke Rankin (one point, four turnovers) like glue. Watson was one of six Bulldog double-figure scorers. The others were Noah Schutte (18), Tristan Smith (14), Scarpelli (11), Justin Wiersema (11) and Gage Smith (10). The latter notched another double-double while hauling down 12 rebounds. Carter Kent posted eight points and three assists.

"Early in the season we had a few losses that maybe we shouldn't have had, but we just try to look forward and take it game-by-game," Watson said. "We don't look at the rankings and stuff like that. We try to focus on who we are. We trust each other, we love each other and we hold each other accountable. That's how we stay focused."

Concordia put up the exact same point total that it had three days earlier in the win at Midland. This time, the Bulldogs got to that number by draining 17-of-43 (.395) attempts from

long range. Nine Concordia players knocked down at least one trey. Joel Baker helped put the cherry on top with one of his own in the final minutes. Tristan Smith made all six of his attempts from the floor in a starring effort off the bench. In addition, the Bulldogs held a 40-29 rebound advantage and were plus-two in turnovers.

Said Limback, "This is a really good basketball team we beat today. I felt like our defense led to our offense during that big run where we went from a five- to a 20-point lead. I'm really proud of the way the guys locked in and turned up the intensity."

Dordt (17-8, 9-7 GPAC) shot 40.4 percent from the floor and got a team high 15 points from Cade Bleeker. Concordia won this season's meeting in Sioux Center, Iowa, 84-82.

In the only outing of next week, the Bulldogs will be at Doane (15-11, 8-8 GPAC) on Wednesday for a 7:45 p.m. CT tipoff inside the Haddix Center. In this season's first matchup, Concordia won a defensive New Year's Day battle, 60-50, over the Tigers. On Saturday, Doane was clipped in overtime, 84-83, by Northwestern.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Dordt vs Concordia University
2/5/22 03:50 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Dordt 62 • 17-9, 9-8

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds						A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP					
00	Luke Rankin	*	0-4	0-1	1-2	0	2	2	0	1	3	4	0	1	25
02	Bryce Coppock	*	5-8	2-3	2-2	0	3	3	3	14	0	1	0	1	33
03	Cade Bleeker	*	5-11	2-5	3-4	0	3	3	1	15	0	1	0	2	27
22	Jackson Louscher	*	4-9	1-3	3-3	0	2	2	1	12	1	0	0	1	22
25	Camden Bialas	*	3-7	0-0	0-0	0	6	6	3	6	2	1	0	0	21
01	Trey Hinote		2-6	1-5	0-0	0	2	2	0	5	0	1	0	0	19
05	Caleb Harmsen		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	16
10	Jackson Lee		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
15	Ben Fairclough		2-5	1-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	5	0	1	0	0	12
20	Tyler Prins		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
32	Dawson Feenstra		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
35	Austin Van Donge		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
41	Josh Baugher		2-3	0-0	0-4	2	1	3	0	4	1	0	0	1	12
50	Matt Haken		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Team						1	2	3			1				
Totals			23-57	7-22	9-15	3	26	29	13	62	8	11	0	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-30 43.3% 2nd half: 10-27 37.0% Game: 23-57 40.4%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-13 30.8% 2nd half: 3-9 33.3% Game: 7-22 31.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 7-10 70.0% 2nd half: 2-5 40.0% Game: 9-15 60.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
0

Concordia University 92 • 21-5, 14-4

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds						PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot									
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-9	1-7	4-4	0	6	6	0	11	4	2	0	1		34	
11	Smith, Gage	*	4-7	0-2	2-3	3	9	12	2	10	1	2	1	2		25	
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-9	3-5	1-2	1	2	3	2	18	1	2	0	0		21	
14	Watson, AJ	*	4-9	3-8	0-0	0	6	6	2	11	8	1	0	1		28	
5	Kent, Carter	*	3-9	2-7	0-0	0	0	0	3	8	3	2	0	0		25	
2	Scarpelli, Sam		4-6	3-5	0-0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0		14	
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		5	
3	Baker, Joel		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0		2	
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0		12	
32	Holt, Ryan		1-4	1-4	0-0	0	3	3	1	3	2	0	0	2		13	
4	Cito, Nick		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	
41	Smith, Tristan		6-6	2-2	0-0	1	3	4	2	14	0	0	1	1		12	
44	Woita, Skyler		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0		2	
50	Bennett, Bradley		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	
	Team					0	1	1									
	Totals		34-64	17-43	7-9	6	34	40	13	92	21	9	2	7		200	

FG % 1st Half: 15-33 45.5% 2nd half: 19-31 61.3% Game: 34-64 53.1%
 3FG % 1st Half: 7-24 29.2% 2nd half: 10-19 52.6% Game: 17-43 39.5%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 5-7 71.4% Game: 7-9 77.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,3

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Dordt-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 565

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Dordt	37	25	62
Concordia University	39	53	92

BULLDOGS TRIPPED UP IN ROAD SLUGFEST

CRETE, Neb. – It was physical and it was ugly. In the end, the Concordia University Men's Basketball team couldn't pull out the grinder on the road. The Bulldogs shot just 32.8 percent from the floor in a 54-50 loss at Doane on Wednesday (Feb. 9). The defensive might of the Tigers held down a Concordia squad that had scored exactly 92 points in both of last week's wins.

The path to a potential GPAC regular season title got a bit bumpier for Head Coach Ben Limback's squad. With two games left in the regular season, the Bulldogs sit at 20-6 overall and at 13-5 in the conference.

"This team knows how to score – a lot of credit to Doane," Limback said. "They guarded our action and they're tough to score on. I felt like we were hesitant or we were forcing it. We just didn't get a good balance. We didn't shoot well – thankfully we defended well. You can't go 5-for-12 from the free throw line and miss the shots we did. We have to crave these moments. We wanted it and the effort was there, but I feel like we just didn't handle the big moments very well tonight."

The matchups with Doane always seem to have this same feel to them. Concordia likes to get out and run in transition, but the Tigers just didn't allow for that to happen in a slow-paced affair. Even so, the Bulldogs had their chances. They led by two (47-45) with less than three minutes remaining after Sam Scarpelli's clutch trey. Doane responded with an 8-0 run that provided a 53-47 spread in the final minute. Concordia clawed back and had a shot to tie it on Scarpelli's

desperation 3-point attempt that came up short in the closing seconds.

It just didn't look like Bulldog Basketball. Concordia mounted a 19-10 lead in the opening half before enduring a drought of more than seven minutes without a point. That dry spell gave the Tigers a chance to take a 24-21 lead to the halftime break. Doane was only slightly better on the offensive end as it shot 35.7 percent (20-for-56) from the floor. The heroes for the Tigers were the likes of Alec Oberhauser (19 points and 18 rebounds) and Josiah Gardiner (19 points and three blocks).

Both teams' top backcourt scoring options struggled. For the Bulldogs, Carter Kent went 1-for-9 from the floor while Doane's Anthony Laravie shot 1-for-15. Gage Smith led Concordia with 17 points (to go along with eight rebounds) in a hard-nosed effort in the paint. Noah Schutte turned in a double-double that featured 10 points and 11 rebounds. Scarpelli added nine points off the bench and Justin Wiersema notched six points, nine rebounds and four assists. Schutte and company won the rebound battle, 46-36.

The Bulldogs will wait a week until welcoming No. 22 Briar Cliff (17-8, 13-3 GPAC) to Friedrich Arena for a 7:45 p.m. CT tipoff next Wednesday (Feb. 16). With Concordia and Briar Cliff situated at the top of the standings, that contest could decide the GPAC regular season champion. The Bulldogs will be out to avenge their 65-48 loss at Briar Cliff back on Nov. 13.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Doane
2/9/22 7:45 PM at Crete, Neb. (Haddix Center)

Concordia University 50 • 20-6, 13-5

#	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
05	Carter Kent	*	1-9	1-7	0-0	0	4	4	1	3	1	3	1	33
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-6	0-1	0-0	1	8	9	1	6	4	1	0	38
11	Smith, Gage	*	6-15	1-5	4-6	2	6	8	4	17	2	2	0	32
12	Schutte, Noah	*	4-12	1-3	1-2	2	9	11	3	10	0	1	0	25
14	Watson, AJ	*	0-6	0-5	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	20
02	Sam Scarpelli		3-7	3-6	0-2	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	20
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	0	9
32	Holt, Ryan		1-2	1-2	0-0	0	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	17
41	Smith, Tristan		0-0	0-0	0-2	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Team						4	3	7						
Totals			19-58	7-29	5-12	10	36	46	15	50	9	13	1	200

FG % 1st Half: 8-26 30.8% 2nd half: 11-32 34.4% Game: 19-58 32.8%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-10 20.0% 2nd half: 5-19 26.3% Game: 7-29 24.1%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 5-12 41.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Doane 54 • 16-11, 9-8

#	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
02	Brady Timm	*	1-5	0-2	2-2	0	3	3	3	4	2	5	0	24
03	Anthony Laravie	*	1-15	1-6	0-0	0	3	3	0	3	1	0	1	39
04	Alec Oberhauser	*	7-14	2-6	3-6	0	18	18	2	19	2	0	1	40-
21	Joe Burt	*	1-5	1-3	3-4	1	4	5	0	6	1	1	0	30
41	Josiah Gardiner	*	9-14	0-1	1-1	0	3	3	4	19	2	3	3	40
22	Jaxon Harre		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	10
24	Trey Winkler		1-2	1-1	0-0	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	17
Team						1	2	3						
Totals			20-56	5-19	9-13	3	33	36	12	54	9	9	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 10-30 33.3% 2nd half: 10-26 38.5% Game: 20-56 35.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-13 23.1% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 5-19 26.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 1-1 100.0 2nd half: 8-12 66.7% Game: 9-13 69.2%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Doane-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	21	29	50
Doane	24	30	54

CLOSE-KNIT SENIOR CLASS ABOUT WINNING IN ALL ASPECTS



Story published on Jan. 20, 2022

Enjoy it before it's too late. The number of games left is dwindling for a senior class that has earned the right to be celebrated, lauded and thanked. Not only has this group of four-year student-athletes paved the way for the most successful four-year on-court run during Head Coach Ben Limback's tenure, it has also represented exactly what Bulldog Basketball aspires to be.

Christian character. Toughness. Resilience. Class acts. Servant leaders. High academic achievers. Winners. That's the legacy the seniors will leave behind, no matter the results the remainder of the 2021-22 season.

Limback and his staff hit home runs, even if they didn't know it at the time, when in the fall of 2018 they welcomed in future stand-outs Carter Kent, Gage Smith, Klay Uher and Justin Wiersema along with the likes of key contributors Nick Cito and Tanner Wubbels. Each of them has had a role in elevating the program to heights it hadn't reached in many years.

Said Limback prior to the season, "It's a true blessing to have your most talented players also be your guys that are the hardest working. They have a hunger each day to get better and that sets the tone. They come in and they know we didn't do what we wanted to do last year. There's something to prove. Each one has individual goals, but they know ultimately, they want to help our team achieve success that maybe we've never had before. The entire class is special."

The memories made over four years will be too thick for any one of them to ever brush away. Consider that this group has navigated through the most trying days of the COVID-19 era in collegiate athletics, celebrated a wild GPAC tournament title run in March of 2020, have competed intensely in road trip card games of "Pitch," brought dominance back to CIT and made it an incredible chore for

visitors to win in Friedrich Arena, all while playing with consistency and class. It's a group that has never wavered in its commitment and resolve, no matter the circumstances.

There were certainly early signs that this collection of young men could take a hit and keep on coming. Kent and company were essential parts of a roster makeover heading into 2018-19. There were growing pains to be sure, but a 102-92 upset of seventh-ranked Briar Cliff in January of that season showed promise. Kent and Wiersema had already been inserted into the starting lineup and they responded with 26 and 15 points, respectively, in the victory. At one point in 2018-19, Concordia stood at 1-9 in conference play, but it wasn't enough to deter a tough-minded bunch.

Says Kent, "I think that our senior class has brought a mentality of competing and working hard every day, which has been amazing to see throughout our time together here at Concordia. Ever since our freshman year, we have focused on bringing energy and effort each day, no matter where we were in the rankings or what happened the previous game. I think that we bring that effort each day, not for ourselves, but because of how much we care for each other and want the group as a whole to succeed."

The key pieces of the class were assembled by Limback and former lead assistant coach Lance Korrell. They didn't have to go far to find Kent and Uher, Crete High School teammates who have been friends since childhood. Meanwhile, Smith and Wiersema ventured to Seward via Colorado after watching older teammates and friends choose Concordia. The studious Kent cited the campus atmosphere and academics as major reasons for his decision. A First Team All-GPAC performer last season, Wiersema did not even visit another college before settling on the Bulldogs.

This was 'their' college, and once they made that decision, they were all in. Some of the challenges that were presented to them as freshmen and the obstacles brought about by COVID-19 only

served to strengthen the group.

Said Uher, "I'm most proud of our persistence and ability to get through things together. We came in our freshman year and didn't have the season any of us wanted to have. We talked about being first in the conference and the national tournament a lot, but at that time it wasn't feasible. Through countless workouts, shooting sessions and practices over the years, we have worked hard enough to put ourselves in a position to make those things come to fruition."

Things came together quite nicely in year two. As Smith says, he and his teammates "constantly talk about winning the GPAC tournament" as they did in March of 2020. In those simpler, pre-pandemic days, the Bulldogs enjoyed a breakthrough while edging 11th-ranked Dakota Wesleyan, 68-66, in the GPAC tournament final. Concordia found a way to get it done inside a raucous and hostile environment at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. Such a major turnaround from the previous season would not have been possible if not for the right mix of resilient players, which included star up-perclassmen in Tanner Shuck and Brevin Sloup.

The momentous win put the program in the national tournament for the first time since 2005 and allowed members of the 2019-20 squad to realize a dream. Hopes are high for more thrills this 2021-22 season, but it will be hard for any singular game to top what occurred two years ago.

Recalls Kent, "It was such a fun environment to play in and we had gone through a lot of hard work during that season to get to that point. Seeing all the work pay off and being able to experience that together as a team was definitely something that I won't forget. That is what college basketball is all about."

As of mid-January, the picture is still coming into focus in terms of the GPAC regular season title race, but the Bulldogs have emerged as one of the prime contenders. The list of accomplishments for this class includes a 73-39 four-year record, in addition to a GPAC tournament title and national tournament appearance, and recognition as an NAIA top 25 team in back-to-back polls. When Concordia landed at No. 23 on Dec. 15, the program achieved its first national ranking since the 2010-11 season.

Because of where things stood just a few winters ago, the Bulldogs have had to earn every ounce of respect they have gotten. Still, the underdog role fits them. Said Wiersema, "To be a part of this team has meant the world to me these last four years. We started out at the bottom of the GPAC and just believed in each other and eventually started to see results that gave us confidence to do the things we did and eventually get here. Ultimately, it feels pretty satisfying to develop like we have and come out our senior year and really try to prove something."

Undoubtedly, Concordia has played with an edge to it over the past four seasons. Never are the Bulldogs expected to reign atop the conference, but that's why they wanted it so bad in 2020 and why they want it even more now. The official team themes of the past few seasons personify who they are – "Stay Hungry," "Win The Day" and "All In." They haven't just talked about such things, they've lived them.

"I'm proud to be part of a group of guys that have had to fight through a lot of adversity over the years to become the successful team we are today," Smith said. "Our group of guys have that 'no quit' mentality and I'm proud of our senior class always showing up for each other."

Broken down individually, each piece of the senior class brings unique talents and skillsets to the table. Kent has flourished in a big way this season, averaging 17.6 points per game while cracking the top 10 on the program's all-time scoring list. Smith and Wiersema have both become known for their nonstop motors. Wiersema's game has taken off as he rose to First Team All-GPAC status last season. As for Smith, he broke through in 2020-21 as one of the GPAC's most improved players. At a moment's notice, Uher can step in and start as he did in this season's first two games (17 points in the win over Presentation). In addition, Cito and Wubbels have been supportive leaders and positive contributors.

Understandably, Limback will have a difficult time saying goodbye. Senior day may just be a bit more emotional in 2022. There will also be the goodbyes said to 'super seniors' Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli, who have also had a hand in the program's success. Just a few short years ago, the group was trying to find its way as freshmen.

"This group really took everything in stride," Limback said. "Carter was the GPAC freshman of the year, but all those guys were instrumental in raising the level of the program. This year they wanted to do really, really big things. That first year we were just trying to get in the conference tournament. This year we want to have a chance to win the league. There's a reason why they're in this position. They bought in for four years. The culture has been established because of their level of commitment. I already know the banquet and the last game is going to be a tough deal for me as a head coach."

Years from now, Limback will be able to continue to look upon the group like a proud father. Upon graduation this May, Carter will head to vet school at the University of Nebraska, Gage will continue into the business world (or perhaps return for a fifth season), Klay will take on a full-time role with Northwestern Mutual and Justin plans to attend nursing school back in Colorado.

They will head into the world and make a difference, just like they did here at Concordia. But no matter where they go, they won't forget these last four years spent with some of the best friends they'll ever have, making some of the best memories they'll ever forge. They can be proud, knowing they did it by winning in all aspects.

Explained 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."

Added Limback, "They're all ready to launch and make that next step, whether it's starting a real estate business or going to med school. They're all ready to make an impact. It's going to be bitter-sweet. They have more to their lives than just basketball. I'm proud to be able to coach them."

KENT-TO-SMITH BUZZER BEATER SETS FRIEDRICH ARENA ABLAZE IN INSTANT CLASSIC



SEWARD, Neb. – Shock, disbelief and pure joy were felt all at once as Tristan Smith’s game-winning layup beat the buzzer and sent Friedrich Arena into pandemonium. Smith finished the perfectly executed length-of-the-court heave from Carter Kent to lift Concordia University Men’s Basketball to a 74-73 win over 22nd-ranked Briar Cliff on Wednesday (Feb. 16). A wave of Bulldog students and fans engulfed Smith and his teammates in one of the wildest scenes in the arena’s history.

Afterwards, Head Coach Ben Limback and company were still struggling to process what had happened. With one second left, the Chargers’ Jaden Kleinhesselink nailed a go-ahead trey that had seemingly torn Concordia’s heart out.

But this was a night that featured the ultimate dejection-to-jubilation finish. Said Limback, “You can’t put that one into words. It was a great, great game all the way throughout. We got a little stagnant at the end offensively and they made some tough shots. Man, what a shot by Kleinhesselink to

take the lead. Coming to the bench, the guys were defeated. They poured their hearts out.

“Carter made an unbelievable pass, Tristan made an unbelievable catch and now all the sudden you win. You go from losing a heartbreaker to winning.”

The final 15 seconds were great theater. The tough-minded Chargers made it more dramatic than mid-day television with an 11-0 run that knotted the score, 70-70. Finally, Kent peeled the lid off the basket by draining an elbow jumper with 10 seconds left. The 72-70 Bulldog lead was short-lived thanks to Kleinhesselink’s are-you-kidding-me, double-clutch deep trey with a defender draped all over him.

All that did was set the stage for an even more improbable, absolutely nutty finish. A former star high school baseball player, Kent shuffled the baseline to his left and whirled a 90-foot in-bounds toss so precise it would be nearly impossible to duplicate. The athletically gifted Smith did the rest.

Limback joked that the first thing he saw was AJ Watson wrapping him up in a bear hug. Kent tried to make some sense of the moment after the heartrate came back down. 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.”

There was already a little more juice in the atmosphere with Briar Cliff (19-9, 15-4 GPAC) and Concordia (21-6, 14-5 GPAC) residing at the top of the GPAC standings. The only hope the Bulldogs had to still earn a share of the GPAC regular season title was to win on Wednesday. Concordia also wanted to keep its unblemished home record intact.

By night’s end, it was easy to forget that the Bulldogs had owned a 14-point lead with fewer than eight-and-a-half minutes to go. One of the six fourth-year seniors honored prior to tipoff, Gage Smith (Tristan’s older brother) had himself a night. Gage went off for 23 points and 17 rebounds (game highs in both categories). The efficiency of the Elizabeth, Colo., native was a major reason why Concordia shot 50 percent (28-for-56) from the floor. Kent also added 18 points (moved to No. 8 on the program’s all-time scoring list) while Justin Wiersema tallied 11 points and Watson chipped in 10.

It’s just not easy to put the Chargers away. Kent and his fellow classmates remembered when Briar Cliff’s Nick Hoyt

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics**Briar Cliff vs Concordia University****2/16/22 08:00 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.****Briar Cliff 73 • 19-9, 15-4**

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
10	Jaden Kleinhesselink	*	5-9	1-1	0-0	0	4	4	2	11	6	2	0	32
20	Quinten Vasa	*	6-8	4-5	0-0	0	7	7	3	16	1	0	2	34
23	Kyle Boerhave	*	4-6	0-0	0-2	0	3	3	3	8	1	0	0	22
4	Quinn Vesey	*	6-14	3-6	0-0	0	3	3	2	15	2	1	0	38
5	Conner Groves	*	4-9	4-9	3-3	0	3	3	0	15	3	3	0	32
11	Sammy Green		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
24	Nick Hoyt		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	15
55	Matthew Stilwill		2-6	0-1	4-6	1	3	4	2	8	0	3	0	24
Team						3	1	4			1			
Totals			27-53	12-23	7-11	4	25	29	14	73	14	10	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 15-30 50.0% 2nd half: 12-23 52.2% Game: 27-53 50.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-11 54.5% 2nd half: 6-12 50.0% Game: 12-23 52.2%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 4-5 80.0% Game: 7-11 63.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,1

Concordia University 74 • 21-6, 16-3

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot						
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-7	2-3	1-1	0	4	4	1	11	4	1	1	32
11	Smith, Gage	*	9-12	1-2	4-6	5	12	17	5	23	1	2	0	25
12	Schutte, Noah	*	1-4	0-0	1-1	0	4	4	0	3	2	1	0	25
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-8	2-6	2-2	0	0	0	2	10	3	1	0	31
5	Kent, Carter	*	7-16	1-7	3-4	0	1	1	3	18	1	1	2	36
2	Scarpelli, Sam		3-5	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	11
21	Uher, Klay		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
32	Holt, Ryan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	9
41	Smith, Tristan		1-2	0-0	0-2	1	2	3	0	2	1	1	3	18
Team						1	1	2						
Totals			28-56	7-21	11-16	7	25	32	14	74	14	7	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 14-26 53.8% 2nd half: 14-30 46.7% Game: 28-56 50.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-11 54.5% 2nd half: 1-10 10.0% Game: 7-21 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 8-13 61.5% 2nd half: 3-3 100.0% Game: 11-16 68.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
0,1

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Briar Cliff-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 800

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Briar Cliff	39	34	73
Concordia University	42	32	74

“It was a special moment for our team and to be able to share that with Concordia fans and everybody here – it was truly amazing.”

-Head Coach Ben Limback

made a buzzer beating game-winner at Friedrich Arena two years ago. The Chargers nearly pulled off a similar outcome while getting 16 points from Quinten Vasa and 15 apiece from Conner Groves and Quinn Vesey. That group showed its own toughness by holding the Bulldogs without a point for nearly six whole minutes during the 11-0 run that tied the game down the stretch.

Somehow, Concordia found a way. Said Kent, “That’s this group in a nutshell. We always keep working. We’ve faced adversity throughout our entire careers. I think it showed to-night 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.”

Added Limback, “It was a special moment for our team and to be able to share that with Concordia fans and everybody here – it was truly amazing.”

The senior group that was recognized on Wednesday includes Nick Cito, Kent, Gage Smith, Klay Uher, Wiersema and Tanner Wubbels. The program also gave a shoutout to fifth-year members of the program in Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli. The latter contributed seven points off the bench.

The regular season will conclude on Saturday when the Bulldogs will be at the Corn Palace for a 5:45 p.m. CT matchup with Dakota Wesleyan (12-14, 9-10 GPAC). Concordia has clinched at least the No. 2 seed in the GPAC tournament and could still pull even with Briar Cliff for first place in the final standings. For that to happen, the Bulldogs need a win on Saturday and a Charger loss at Doane on Friday.



2022 GPAC CHAMPIONS

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS



WILD FINISH CATCHES THE ATTENTION OF SPORTSCENTER



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 Thursday (Feb. 17) evening. 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 Wednesday over Briar Cliff (a matchup of the top two teams in the GPAC standings) has 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 on 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, in Thursday's 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 potentially sharing the GPAC regular season title. Entering the weekend, Briar Cliff (15-4 GPAC) holds a one-game lead over the Bulldogs (14-5 GPAC). The Chargers will play at Doane on Friday while Concordia will be at Dakota Wesleyan on Saturday to finish of the regular season.

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. He totaled 23 points and 17 rebounds. Kent finished with 18 points while Justin Wiersema added 11 and AJ Watson scored 10 points.

On Wednesday, Kent pushed his career point total to 1,595, surpassing former teammate Tanner Shuck for eighth place on the program's all-time list. Next to pass on that list is Matt List with 1,608 points. If Kent get produced 65 or more points yet this season, he would jump all the way to No. 5 in school history.

Kent's scoring total became a sidebar after the hectic finish that bumped Concordia's home record to 13-0. Most of those victories came without late game theater – but not on Wednesday.

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 where 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."



FOCUSED BULLDOGS SEIZE SHARE OF GPAC REGULAR SEASON TITLE



MITCHELL, S.D. – At the same location where the Concordia University Men's Basketball program celebrated a GPAC tournament title two years ago, the Bulldogs returned on a mission to check off another box. Focused and determined, Concordia controlled the entire 40 minutes on Saturday (Feb. 19) while earning an 86-70 win over Dakota Wesleyan at the Corn Palace. It marked the completion of a wild week that ended with the Bulldogs claiming a share of the GPAC regular season title.

They showed on Saturday what a mature bunch they are. Over the past few days, Head Coach Ben Limback's squad had been mentioned on TV shows such as SportsCenter, Around The Horn and College GameDay and online by Barstool Sports. Concordia (22-6, 15-5 GPAC) did not get lost in the hoopla of Wednesday's zany 74-73 win over Briar Cliff.

"It's a great feeling," Limback said. "I'm so proud of our guys. We had a big win on Wednesday and you want to make sure you come out and have some fire today. It was one of those things where guys were hungry. After last night we knew we had a chance to at least share with a great Briar Cliff team. You could see the senior leadership today with the way we started the game and the way we finished. There were times where momentum would shift a little bit and we'd get a big three by Gage (Smith) or a free throw by Justin (Wiersema) or Carter (Kent) or a big dunk by Noah (Schutte). I thought AJ Watson was really good tonight, both ends. The ball was moving really well."

"I'm so proud of this team. God gives us opportunities and so many blessings in life. These guys just took advantage of those opportunities tonight. I'm just really, really proud of these guys."

Behind Watson, the Bulldogs raced out to a 13-2 lead on Saturday and owned a double-digit lead for the entirety of the game's final 32 minutes. It was fitting that Concordia used such balance on the evening that it earned the program's first conference regular season title since the 1995-96 season. Watson posted 14 of his 17 points in the first half

while Schutte got going in a big way after halftime. Schutte notched a double-double (20 points and 10 rebounds), Wiersema poured in 15 points and Gage Smith totaled 13 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

This was one of the those nights where the Bulldogs did all of the little things well. They committed only four turnovers and won the rebound battle, 35-27, while shooting 46.0 percent (29-for-63) from the floor. The lead reached its peak (84-62) after an emphatic dunk by Schutte in the final minutes. The starters were left out there until the last couple minutes – just to make sure Concordia left no doubt.

The Bulldogs are exceptionally tough to beat when Watson plays this well. He added two steals while playing at his usual high level defensively. But who gets the credit isn't a concern for members of this team. Together, they accomplished one of their lofty goals.

Said Limback, "AJ's got some emotion to him, which we need. You saw that tonight. I love this team. I hope we get to play for a long, long time now. We're going to enjoy this tonight and we're going to have a tough conference tournament no matter who we're playing. We'll be ready for next week's matchup."

Dakota Wesleyan (12-15, 9-11 GPAC) will be the No. 8 seed in the GPAC tournament. The Tigers celebrated their senior day on Saturday. Their top scorer was Mason Larson with 19 points. He was backed by Koln Oppold's 15 points and nine rebounds.

There will be a time to move on, but right now it's about soaking up another monumental moment. Said Limback, "We're going to celebrate tonight and have a good time, and hopefully Bulldog Nation does too."

The Bulldogs will be at home for the quarterfinals of the GPAC tournament on Wednesday. As the No. 2 seed, Concordia will draw seventh-seeded Morningside (14-11, 11-9 GPAC) as postseason play gets underway.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Dakota Wesleyan
2/19/22 5:45 PM at Corn Palace

Concordia University 86 • 22-6, 15-5

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-10	3-5	4-4	1	1	2	3	15	3	0	0	31
11	Smith, Gage	*	4-7	2-2	3-4	3	6	9	3	13	5	0	2	23
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-14	2-2	4-5	4	6	10	3	20	0	1	0	32
14	Watson, AJ	*	6-12	2-4	3-3	1	0	1	0	17	1	1	0	28
5	Kent, Carter	*	4-11	0-4	4-4	0	3	3	0	12	1	0	1	34
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	4	1	0	0	10
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
3	Baker, Joel		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	10
32	Holt, Ryan		1-2	0-1	0-0	0	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	13
4	Cito, Nick		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
41	Smith, Tristan		0-1	0-0	0-1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
44	Woita, Skyler		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
55	Vyhnaelek, Kelly		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team						0	0	0						
Totals			29-63	9-18	19-23	11	24	35	12	86	13	4	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-32 50.0% 2nd half: 13-31 41.9% Game: 29-63 46.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 9-18 50.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 9-10 90.0% 2nd half: 10-13 76.9% Game: 19-23 82.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
2,1

Dakota Wesleyan 70 • 12-15, 9-11

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
1	Koln Oppold	*	6-13	1-4	2-2	2	7	9	3	15	4	0	2	37
13	Jeffrey Schuch	*	4-11	2-3	0-0	1	2	3	4	10	7	1	0	32
15	Mason Larson	*	7-13	5-8	0-0	0	6	6	2	19	2	3	4	38
20	Gary White III	*	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
23	Ace Zorr	*	1-4	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	2	3	0	1	0	8
10	Alan Kikwaki		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	3	3	1	2	0	0	1	10
11	Tyus Arends		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
12	Samuel Aslesen		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	Teegan Evers		1-1	1-1	2-2	1	0	1	2	5	0	1	0	12
21	Kallan Herman		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
3	Sawyer Schultz		3-7	1-4	4-5	0	2	2	2	11	3	3	1	36
34	Blaze Lubbers		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2
4	Nick Wittler		1-4	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	13
40	Drew Van Regenmorter		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2
44	Brady Fritz		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team						0	0	0						
Totals			25-57	11-22	9-11	5	22	27	18	70	18	11	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-31 38.7% 2nd half: 13-26 50.0% Game: 25-57 43.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-11 54.5% 2nd half: 5-11 45.5% Game: 11-22 50.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-2 100.0 2nd half: 7-9 77.8% Game: 9-11 81.8%

Deadball
Rebounds
4,3

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-Watson, AJ. Dakota Wesleyan-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	44	42	86
Dakota Wesleyan	32	38	70

BULLDOGS BURN MORNINGSID WITH THREE-BALL, MOTOR TO GPAC SEMIS



SEWARD, Neb. – Not satisfied with sharing the GPAC regular season title, the Concordia University Men's Basketball team looked the part of a championship team on Wednesday (Feb. 23). In front of a raucous Friedrich Arena crowd, the 23rd-ranked Bulldogs drained 15 treys and ran away from arch nemesis Morningside, 83-70, in the quarterfinals of the GPAC tournament. It really wasn't even that close. Concordia pushed its lead all the way to 22 in the final two minutes.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad has moved to 23-6 overall. As the No. 2 seed in the bracket, the Bulldogs will be at home for as long as they remain alive in the conference tournament. Top-seeded Briar Cliff was upset by eighth-seeded Dakota Wesleyan on the other side of the bracket.

"They're a veteran team with guys who are used to winning," Limback said of Morningside. "You saw that in Zach Imig tonight. You knew they weren't going to just roll over. I thought our guys were locked in. Defensively we struggled in the first half allowing too many paint touches, but we adjusted better in the second half. Our bench tonight was outstanding. Garrett Seagren – what a night he had. Ryan Holt did some great things and Sam Scarpelli's been really good throughout. I'm so proud of our team."

Reigning GPAC Player of the Week Gage Smith dominated the opening minutes as Concordia raced out to a 13-2 lead. The Bulldogs never lost control the rest of the way, although the battle-tested Mustangs did manage to chip away and get within seven (46-39) early in the second half. The ensuing 9-2 run that featured a trey apiece from AJ Watson, Carter Kent and Noah Schutte pushed the lead back to 14 (55-41)

and Morningside never recovered.

On his layup just seconds into the game, Kent passed Matt List (1,608 points) for seventh on the program's all-time scoring list. Kent filled the stat sheet with 17 points, six rebounds and six assists. He had plenty of help in what was truly a team win. Seagren got the crowd rocking with three first-half 3-point field goals as he wound up with 11 points off the bench. The Oakland, Neb., native was one of seven Bulldogs to make at least one 3-point field goal on the night.

Said Seagren, "They were trying to switch it up on us and they were playing zone on us. Coach said, just let it fly – anyone who's open, just shoot. We all just shoot with confidence, and we hit them tonight."

Gage Smith finished with 15 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Holt, Watson and Tristan Smith contributed eight points apiece. The hero of last Wednesday's epic win over Briar Cliff, Tristan Smith also collected eight rebounds. Holt made one of the highlight reel plays of the night when he poked the ball away and then flushed it emphatically with one hand.

Considering Morningside's recent run atop the GPAC, it had to be taken serious. Imig led all players with 20 points and nine rebounds in a fine all-around effort. Aidan Vanderloo pitched in with 13 points. The Mustangs (14-12) slipped into a tie for sixth place in the GPAC standings while playing a large portion of the season without star big man Trey Brown.

Statistically the perimeter shooting was the major difference. Concordia went 15-for-33 (.455) from long distance while Morningside went 7-for-17 (.412). The Bulldogs also had the advantage on the boards, 35-28, while getting an assist from the most spirited home crowd of the 2021-22 season.

Added Limback, "We made the reads tonight and the right kicks and extra passes. It helps when you have a rowdy crowd. The student section was really good tonight again. That helps – that's why you have home court advantage. Guys get the juices flowing."

Concordia is now 14-0 at home this season while owning an overall program home win streak of 18. That string will be put to the test in the GPAC semifinals when Doane (19-12) will visit Seward for a 3 p.m. CT tipoff on Saturday. The Bulldogs and Tigers split their two regular season matchups with the home team winning in both instances. Concordia will be aiming to get back to the GPAC tournament title game for the second time in three seasons.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Morningside vs Concordia University
2/23/22 07:00 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Morningside 70 • 14-12, 11-9

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
03	Trey Powers	*	5-9	2-4	0-0	1	4	5	2	12	2	1	0	0	31
12	Zach Imig	*	8-13	1-3	3-5	3	6	9	3	20	3	4	0	2	36
22	Aidan Vanderloo	*	6-13	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	13	0	1	0	0	25
24	Collin Hill	*	3-4	0-0	1-1	1	1	2	0	7	1	0	1	3	25
33	Ely Doble	*	2-5	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	3	4	2	0	0	1	17
00	Creighton Morisch		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
02	Jack Dotzler		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	8
04	Brendan Buckley		2-3	2-2	0-0	0	3	3	0	6	1	0	0	0	16
05	Tyler Vavrina		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Trey Knudsen		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
14	Will Pottebaum		0-2	0-0	1-4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	14
20	Joey Skoff		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	8
23	Justin Sitti		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
30	Owen Coburn		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
44	Dylan Johnson		1-4	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	8
Team						0	4	4							
Totals			29-58	7-17	5-10	6	22	28	14	70	12	9	2	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-29 58.6% 2nd half: 12-29 41.4% Game: 29-58 50.0%
 3FG % 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd half: 5-13 38.5% Game: 7-17 41.2%
 FT % 1st Half: 0-2 0.0% 2nd half: 5-8 62.5% Game: 5-10 50.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Concordia University 83 • 23-6, 15-5

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	1-3	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	29
11	Smith, Gage	*	5-8	2-3	3-4	3	6	9	3	15	5	2	1	1	27
12	Schutte, Noah	*	2-4	1-1	1-1	0	3	3	1	6	1	1	1	1	15
14	Watson, AJ	*	3-7	2-6	0-0	1	2	3	0	8	2	2	0	0	23
5	Kent, Carter	*	5-13	3-7	4-4	1	5	6	1	17	6	0	0	0	35
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-6	2-5	0-0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	16
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3	Baker, Joel		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30	Seagren, Garrett		4-7	3-6	0-0	1	0	1	2	11	0	0	0	1	15
32	Holt, Ryan		3-4	2-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	1	10
4	Cito, Nick		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
41	Smith, Tristan		4-5	0-0	0-1	2	6	8	2	8	1	4	0	0	18
44	Woita, Skyler		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
55	Vyhnalek, Kelly		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team						1	0	1							
Totals			29-60	15-33	10-12	10	25	35	13	83	19	11	3	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-32 53.1% 2nd half: 12-28 42.9% Game: 29-60 48.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 9-17 52.9% 2nd half: 6-16 37.5% Game: 15-33 45.5%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-3 100.0 2nd half: 7-9 77.8% Game: 10-12 83.3%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Morningside-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 855

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Morningside	36	34	70
Concordia University	46	37	83

KENT SINKS GAME WINNER, PUSHES BULLDOGS TO GPAC TITLE GAME

SEWARD, Neb. – With a spot in the GPAC championship game on the line, Friedrich Arena rocked and rolled as the Concordia University Men's Basketball team continued a magical ride. Carter Kent's mid-range jumper with 3.3 seconds left lifted the 23rd-ranked Bulldogs to a 67-65 win over Doane on Saturday (Feb. 26) afternoon. Concordia is headed to the GPAC final for the second time in three seasons after fending off a late 8-0 run by the Tigers.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad improved to 15-0 at home and experienced another on-court celebration along with a raucous student section. The Bulldogs are now 24-6 overall.

"It was two good teams that had a lot to play for," Limback said. "I'm so proud of our guys – Carter hits that big shot at the end and Sam Scarpelli had that layup for us that was really important. Tristan (Smith) was really good off the bench too. Hats off to Doane. I thought they proved again that they're one of the better defensive teams in the league."

No full-court alley-oop was necessary, but this contest was more reminiscent of the wild win over Briar Cliff on Feb. 16 than it was the comfortable 83-70 victory over Morningside in the GPAC quarterfinals. In Saturday's nail-biter, Doane star guard Anthony Laravie evened the score, 65-65, with an offensive rebound and putback in the final 30 seconds. On the ensuing possession, Kent let the clock run under five seconds before pulling the trigger on a difficult fade-away jumper from 15 feet over the reach of the Tigers' Alec Oberhauser.

Doane still had one more chance, but the in-bounds pass was dropped and picked up by Kent, setting off another court rush by Concordia students. The Bulldogs had led nearly the entire way, but the Tigers made it uneasy for all 40 minutes.

Said Justin Wiersema, "This means the world to us. We knew we could get here. We've been practicing hard and we know what to do. We're back in the championship game – it's huge. We got it here next Tuesday, so that's even bigger. We're all super excited."

Wiersema also gave a nod to the fans. Each of the past three home games have featured electric atmospheres. Tristan Smith helped power up the voltage to another level when he thunderously slammed down a put-back dunk in the first half. The human highlight reel Smith finished with nine points and six rebounds off the bench. Three Bulldogs reached double figures: Gage Smith (14), Kent (10) and Wiersema (10) while Noah Schutte (eight points and four rebounds) was within range. AJ Watson chipped in six points and two steals and Scarpelli collected five points.

Not since the 1994-95 season has the program won both conference regular season and postseason championships. The 2021-22 team will have the opportunity for a sweep.



"They're excited," Limback said. "That was a big goal for this team to try to get the regular season title and win the conference tournament. To be able to do it at home is great. This crowd was incredible. It's going to be a big-time battle. We had a fun matchup with Jamestown here the first time at home. We're going to have to bring our top game and be ready to play."

Doane (19-13) certainly played at a national tournament level down the stretch having beaten Concordia recently as well as Briar Cliff and Northwestern. Laravie did his part in piling up 23 points on 9-for-18 shooting. Josiah Gardiner added 15 points and five rebounds and Oberhauser (11 points, 10 rebounds) notched a double-double. The Bulldogs won two of three meetings over the Tigers with both wins coming in Seward.

Doane slightly outshot Concordia (47.3 to 46.3 percent) and had an edge on the boards, 32-30. Turnovers were also nearly even (13-12) in a contest that fittingly went down to the wire.

As the highest remaining seed, the Bulldogs now have the honor of hosting the GPAC tournament championship game. The opponent will be Jamestown (24-8), who will be in Seward on Tuesday for a 7 p.m. CT tipoff. Concordia won both regular season meetings with victories coming by scores of 92-76 in Seward and 82-79 in Jamestown. The Bulldogs will seek their second GPAC tournament title in three seasons and fourth in program history. This will be the first time the program has hosted the GPAC championship game since 2005.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Doane vs Concordia University
2/26/22 03:00 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Doane 65 • 19-13, 11-9

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds										Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	
02	Brady Timm	*	3-5	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	1	7	3	3	0	2	29
03	Anthony Laravie	*	9-18	1-6	4-5	1	4	5	3	23	1	2	0	2	40
04	Alec Oberhauser	*	4-13	1-5	2-2	1	9	10	3	11	0	5	0	0	36
21	Joe Burt	*	0-4	0-2	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	17
41	Josiah Gardiner	*	6-8	1-1	2-4	2	3	5	3	15	3	0	0	1	34
01	Tyler Sullivan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
20	Max Masin		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
22	Jaxon Harre		3-4	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	1	6	0	0	0	1	17
24	Trey Winkler		1-3	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	18
	Team					0	3	3							
	Totals		26-55	5-20	8-11	6	24	30	13	65	7	12	0	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-28 42.9% 2nd half: 14-27 51.9% Game: 26-55 47.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd half: 2-10 20.0% Game: 5-20 25.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 5-7 71.4% 2nd half: 3-4 75.0% Game: 8-11 72.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Concordia University 67 • 24-6, 15-5

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds									Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk		Stl
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-6	2-4	2-2	0	3	3	1	10	0	2	1	2	35
11	Smith, Gage	*	6-12	1-3	1-2	0	3	3	4	14	3	3	1	0	25
12	Schutte, Noah	*	2-3	0-1	4-5	1	3	4	0	8	0	2	0	0	19
14	Watson, AJ	*	2-5	2-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	6	1	3	0	2	19
5	Kent, Carter	*	4-10	0-2	2-3	1	3	4	2	10	7	1	0	1	34
2	Scarpelli, Sam		2-4	1-3	0-0	0	2	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	19
21	Uher, Klay		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-2	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	13
32	Holt, Ryan		1-4	1-4	0-0	0	1	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	12
41	Smith, Tristan		4-7	0-0	1-1	2	4	6	1	9	0	1	1	1	21
	Team					1	2	3							
	Totals		25-54	7-21	10-13	7	25	32	14	67	14	13	3	7	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-28 46.4% 2nd half: 12-26 46.2% Game: 25-54 46.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 4-13 30.8% 2nd half: 3-8 37.5% Game: 7-21 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 8-9 88.9% 2nd half: 2-4 50.0% Game: 10-13 76.9%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Doane-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 1200

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Doane	32	33	65
Concordia University	38	29	67

BEST ON THE PLAINS!



SEWARD, Neb. – The 2021-22 Concordia University Men's Basketball team had already reserved its place in program folklore, but it wasn't going to settle until securing another trophy. Just after the buzzer sounded on Tuesday (March 1) night, Carter Kent fired the ball high into the air and quickly disappeared amongst a throng of jubilant CUNE students. Court storms have been a theme down the stretch for the 23rd-ranked Bulldogs, who celebrated the program's second GPAC tournament title in three seasons. They defeated Jamestown in the 2022 GPAC tournament final, 77-70, in front of perhaps the wildest atmosphere in Friedrich Arena history.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad achieved something that had not been done by the program since the 1994-95 season – sweep conference regular season and postseason titles. Concordia will enter the national tournament at 25-6 overall and with a shot at earning one of 16 No. 1 seeds in the opening round.

"It's awesome – I'm so proud of our guys," Limback said. "This is why you play. The seniors set some lofty goals at the beginning of the year. GPAC regular season champs. Undefeated at home. And a GPAC tournament championship. There have been so many blessings in this season. I'm just so thankful for the talent of this team, the character and the hard work they've put in ... How incredible were the students? Just an awesome environment."

It took gritty defensive play down the stretch for the Bulldogs to finally put away a Jimmie squad that had pulverized its opponents in the GPAC quarterfinal and semifinal rounds.

After Will Cordes' layup with 4:42 left got Jamestown within two (70-68), Concordia went into lockdown mode. In one of the game's most critical sequences, Justin Wiersema blocked a shot on one end and AJ Watson blew right past a defender for two on the other end with the shot clock running down. The Bulldogs led 74-68 and proceeded to hold the Jimmies scoreless on their next six possessions.

Fittingly, there were many contributors for Concordia, which beat Jamestown for the third time this season. Noah Schutte enjoyed a phenomenal performance that saw him post 22 points (15 in the first half) while Gage Smith put up 20 tough points in a physical contest (Schutte's career high of 27 points came earlier this season versus Jamestown). Watson's quickness was a problem all night for the Jimmies. He totaled 15 points and four assists. Defensively, Wiersema was a pest and notched 10 points, five rebounds and two steals.

Kent finished with four points, but his presence and his meaning to this team and program cannot be understated. In his final game inside Friedrich Arena, Kent helped the Bulldogs polish off the program's first undefeated home season (16-0) during the GPAC era. It would have been difficult to script it any better.

Said Kent, "It's so awesome. It's been three times now in like two weeks (that the fans have rushed the court). I never get bored of it. That's what college basketball's all about.

"We work all year for this. I'm so proud of these guys. We've gone through so much adversity throughout the season. It's definitely been a rollercoaster ride. It feels good to see it

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Jamestown vs Concordia University
3/1/22 7:00 PM at Friedrich Arena/Seward, Neb.

Jamestown 70 • 24-9

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds										Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	
0	Marc Kjos	*	4-6	2-3	0-0	0	3	3	2	10	4	0	0	1	40
1	Will Cordes	*	6-12	1-4	1-1	1	0	1	2	14	0	3	0	1	31
24	John Argue	*	0-4	0-1	0-0	2	2	4	3	0	0	2	2	1	12
33	Mason Walters	*	11-20	1-4	1-2	1	9	10	2	24	4	1	0	1	38
5	Cole Woodford	*	3-12	2-6	0-0	2	0	2	2	8	2	2	0	0	40
14	Camron Ketchum		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	9
43	Devon Schultz		4-6	0-0	1-4	2	6	8	3	9	1	1	1	0	22
50	Brady Birch		1-4	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	4	3	1	1	0	0	8
Team						1	2	3							
Totals			30-65	6-18	4-9	12	24	36	18	70	13	10	3	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 19-36 52.8% 2nd half: 11-29 37.9% Game: 30-65 46.2%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-13 38.5% 2nd half: 1-5 20.0% Game: 6-18 33.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 2-3 66.7% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 4-9 44.4%

Deadball
Rebounds
3

Concordia University 77 • 25-6

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds									Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk		Stl
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-4	0-0	4-5	0	5	5	2	10	3	1	1	2	34
11	Smith, Gage	*	8-12	1-2	3-4	1	4	5	1	20	1	2	0	1	32
12	Schutte, Noah	*	8-12	2-3	4-4	0	3	3	2	22	1	1	0	1	30
14	Watson, AJ	*	7-10	1-1	0-2	1	3	4	3	15	4	0	0	1	27
5	Kent, Carter	*	2-6	0-2	0-0	0	3	3	1	4	1	3	0	2	36
2	Scarpelli, Sam		0-1	0-0	1-2	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	13
21	Uher, Klay		1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
32	Holt, Ryan		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
41	Smith, Tristan		1-4	0-1	1-2	0	2	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	10
Team						0	4	4							
Totals			30-52	4-10	13-19	2	25	27	14	77	12	9	1	8	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-29 58.6% 2nd half: 13-23 56.5% Game: 30-52 57.7%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-5 60.0% 2nd half: 1-5 20.0% Game: 4-10 40.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-3 100.0 2nd half: 10-16 62.5% Game: 13-19 68.4%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Officials: ,,
 Technical fouls: Jamestown-None. Concordia University-None.
 Attendance: 1800

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Jamestown	45	25	70
Concordia University	40	37	77

through.”

This was a more up-tempo clash than Concordia’s GPAC semifinal nail-biting win over Doane. On Tuesday, the Bulldogs shot 57.7 percent from the floor and managed to limit Jamestown (24-9) to six made 3-point field goals. Not surprisingly, the taller, longer Jimmies had the rebound advantage (36-27). Jamestown star Mason Walters collected 24 points and 10 rebounds and Cordes added 14 points. While the Jimmies had some advantages in the post, Concordia definitely won out on the perimeter.

It may be sometime in the offseason before members of the team are able to fully process the scope of the accomplishments of this 2021-22 season. Said Limback afterwards, “To see it go from these seniors’ freshmen year to now is special. I just got emotional after the game seeing what they accomplished. I don’t think they realize what a season they’ve had.”

In what was the program’s fifth GPAC tournament champi-

onship appearance, the Bulldogs claimed the fourth GPAC postseason title in school history. It had been exactly 17 years to the day since Concordia last won the conference tournament crown at home. The program has hoisted the GPAC postseason trophy in 2003, 2005, 2020 and again in 2022. Many members of the current roster were part of the 2019-20 squad that went to the Corn Palace and edged Dakota Wesleyan, 68-66, for the GPAC tournament title. Fifth-year seniors Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli came back to feel that glory once again.

The Bulldogs now await their national tournament draw. Pairings and site assignments for the opening round will be announced during the NAIA’s live selection show scheduled for 7 p.m. CT on Thursday. The show will be streamed via the NAIA Facebook page. Concordia will be headed to the national tournament for the second time in three seasons and for the 11th time in program history.



2022 GPAC CHAMPIONS



WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS





February 16, 2022 - Senior Night

Concordia def. Briar Cliff, 74-73, on Carter Kent's length-of-the-court alley-oop to Tristan Smith at the buzzer. The wild finish wound up making the rounds on a collection of ESPN shows.



February 26, 2022 - GPAC Semifinals

Concordia def. Doane, 67-65, in the GPAC tournament semifinals. Students rushed the court after Carter Kent sealed the game with a mid-range jumper and then a steal in the final seconds.



March 1, 2022 - GPAC Championship Game

Concordia def. Jamestown, 77-70, in the GPAC tournament championship game. A near capacity crowd emptied onto the floor as the Bulldogs celebrated a sweep of GPAC regular season and tournament titles.



“It’s so awesome. It’s been three times now in like two weeks (that the fans have rushed the court). I never get bored of it. That’s what college basketball’s all about.”
-Carter Kent

GPAC CHAMPS READYING FOR ACTION IN OMAHA



SEWARD, Neb. – A historic season for Concordia University Men's Basketball will make a stop in Omaha for the opening round of the 2022 NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship. The fifth-seeded Bulldogs are in the process of preparing to take on 12th-seeded Indiana University Northwest at 7:15 p.m. CT on Friday. Head Coach Ben Limback will lead the program into its second national tournament appearance in three seasons. The other two teams that will join Concordia in the four-team pod at DJ Sokol Arena are fourth-seeded Marian University (Ind.) and 13th-seeded Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.).

By the Numbers

- This will mark the first year of a 64-team, one-division bracket in NAIA men's basketball. From the 1991-92 through 2019-20 seasons, the NAIA was separated into two divisions. That changed last season when the divisions were dissolved. Due to consequences related to COVID-19, the field for the 2021 tournament was limited to 48 teams. Had the bracket included 64 squads as originally planned, the Bulldogs would likely be making a third-straight national tournament appearance. Concordia qualified for the 2020 NAIA Division II tournament after winning the GPAC postseason title.
- 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 accomplishments of the 2021-22 Bulldogs will be long remembered no matter the results at the national tournament. Coach Limback's squad became the program's first conference regular season champion since 1995-96 and the first Concordia edition since 1994-95 to claim both conference regular season and postseason championships in the same year. During the GPAC era (2000-present), the Bull-

dogs had not produced an undefeated home record since the '21-22 team recently polished off a 16-0 home mark. That perfect record was put to the test in buzzer-beating wins over Peru State College and Briar Cliff. Nothing was more memorable than the Carter Kent-to-Tristan Smith full-court alley-oop at the buzzer to beat Briar Cliff, 74-73. In addition, this team has broken a program record for conference wins in a season with 15.

- Concordia's No. 5 seed in the national tournament and No. 11 RPI in the NAIA show just how underrated it has been all season. The Bulldogs were ranked No. 23 in the final NAIA coaches' poll that was released on Feb. 23. The selection committee helped make the correction by rewarding Concordia with a trip to nearby Omaha. In another official metric, the Bulldogs were calculated to have played the 47th most challenging schedule in the NAIA. Concordia has defeated fellow national qualifiers in Briar Cliff, Dordt (twice), Jamestown (three times) and Northwestern and played a tight game with nonconference foe William Jessup University (Calif.), another qualifier.

- All five Concordia starters were named to the 2021-22 all-conference team. Carter Kent and Gage Smith were recognized as first teamers, Justin Wiersema landed on the second team and Noah Schutte and AJ Watson garnered honorable mention accolades. Kent is a four-time all-conference award winner having also been second team twice and honorable mention once. He was chosen by league coaches as the 2018-19 GPAC Freshman of the Year. On the season, Kent leads the Bulldogs in scoring at 15.9 points per game on the strength of 43.8 percent shooting from the floor, 34.1 percent shooting from 3-point range and 85.3 percent shooting from the free throw line. He is also averaging 3.4 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.2 steals per game. Also a CoSIDA Academic All-American, Kent has posted career totals of 1,638 points, 421 rebounds, 311 assists, 238 3-point field goals and 113 steals.

- Kent, Smith and Wiersema have been moving up the program's all-time lists. With 1,638 career points, Kent is 21 shy of Director of Athletics Devin Smith (1,659) for fifth on the program's all-time scoring chart. Kent also sports school career rankings of sixth in 3-point field goals and eighth in assists. Wiersema has moved to ninth in assists (294), 19th in rebounds (471) and 20th in scoring (1,241). Gage Smith has pushed his career point total to 922. He ranks 12th in program history with 598 career rebounds. For reference, the top four scorers in program history, above Devin Smith and Kent, are Jon Ziegler (2,099), Tom Raabe (2,016), Chandler Folkerts (1,963) and John Puelz (1,955).

- 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.

Opponent breakdown

(12) Indiana University Northwest

Overall Record: 23-7

Location: Gary, Indiana

Conference: Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference

Head Coach: Javier Heridia

RPI: T-37th

SOS: T-137th

O-PPG: 75.8

D-PPG: 69.6

All-Conference: Jared Johnson (first team); Marshaud Watkins (honorable mention).

(4) Marian University

Overall Record: 25-5

Location: Indianapolis, Indiana

Conference: Crossroads League

Head Coach: Scott Heady

RPI: T-12th

SOS: T-76th

O-PPG: 80.4

D-PPG: 63.0

All-Conference: Christian Stewart (first team); Malek Edmonds (first team); Jacob Wiley (second team); Christian Harvey (honorable mention); Tyrie Johnson (all-defensive team).

(13) Freed-Hardeman University

Overall Record: 19-12

Location: Henderson, Tennessee

Conference: Mid-South Conference

Head Coach: Drew Stutts

RPI: 36th

SOS: 13th

O-PPG: 78.9

D-PPG: 75.9

All-Conference: Kortland Martin (first team); Geraldo Lane (freshman of the year).

Final site

Whichever team wins twice in Omaha will advance to play at the national tournament final site, Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo., March 17-22.

HE'S 'THAT GUY': HUMILITY, STANDOUT CHARACTER DEFINE CLUTCH KENT



Story published on March 10, 2022

No, he's not Clark Kent, but at times this season you would swear that Carter Kent must be of some relation to Superman. By day, he's a straight 'A' biology student and as unassuming as they come. When primetime comes, he trades the civilian clothes in for Concordia threads and proceeds to make plays – big ones. You want Carter Kent on your side in the clutch.

Entering the national tournament, Kent is knocking on the door of the top five on the program's all-time scoring list. His first three seasons as a Bulldog were really good. His senior season has been elite.

Said Head Coach Ben Limback in mid-January, "He's special. We knew that. He's a very talented young man. We run stuff to get him open looks and he's able to create on his own and find ways to get to the free throw line and score points. He's been on a special run. He's that guy that comes to the gym early and does all the little things beyond practice. He's playing with a lot of confidence and he continues to be a great leader for us. He'll be the first to tell you that all he cares about are the victories. He's a large part of why we're getting all these victories."

While donning the net he had just cut down in celebration of the GPAC tournament title on March 1, Kent basked in the afterglow of another postgame Friedrich Arena celebration. He beamed when talking about the three court stormings

in a span of three weeks. Kent was at the center of it all. The Crete High School product heaved the game-winning alley-oop that sank Briar Cliff, drained the game-winning shot to beat Doane in the GPAC semifinals and, as the buzzer sounded on the GPAC championship game, fired the ball into the rafters before being engulfed by a throng of jubilant Concordia students.

It seems fair to call it a dream season, one in which Kent has piloted the Bulldogs to a 25-6 record, GPAC regular season and tournament titles, a perfect home record (16-0) and a national tournament opening round appearance close to home. Kent himself has earned First Team All-GPAC accolades while averaging 15.9 points per game and while running his career scoring total to 1,638 points. That puts him No. 6 all-time in school history. He's also played in every one of the program's 122 games over the past four seasons.

Really though, he could care less about that. When asked about elevating his own game this 2021-22 season, Kent focused on the team's accomplishments. Said Kent, "Seeing all five starters get All-GPAC honors really says something about the team. All five guys can do whatever is needed at any given time. It's hard to plan against us because we have so many weapons. I know my teammates have a lot of confidence in me – and I have a lot of confidence in them as well."

That type of modesty is what makes Kent who he is – an exemplary Bulldog. Kent typifies why it has been so easy to gravitate towards this Concordia Men's Basketball team. Not

only are they successful on the court, but they are fine young Christian men off the court with bright futures ahead of them. Limback knows he's going to look back years from now and feel even more pride in this 2021-22 squad.

As for Kent, Limback referred to No. 5 as the "complete package." Wrote Limback in his senior tribute, "Carter's a tremendous basketball talent, a top-notch student in the classroom and is someone with extremely high character. Despite his success, he remains as humble as they come and continues to be a servant leader on this team. A true champion on and off the court."

Tweeted former assistant coach Lance Korell, "Carter is a guy you want your daughter to marry. Incredible person and the definition of a student-athlete."

When it comes to the way he carries himself and his impeccable grade-point average, Kent reminds one of former All-American Chandler Folkerts. Rarely does Kent show a ton of emotion or ever get too high or too low. His competitive fire burns differently than some others. It's easy to see the impact he's had on those who know him. Every Kent accolade or milestone achieved comes with an outpouring of congratulatory social media posts and responses.

It's fitting when good things happen for good people. It's been a storybook final collegiate season for Kent, who may need some time yet to process the zaniness of the 2021-22 campaign. Said Kent, "It's been a crazy few weeks with a lot of highs and lows. Having three court stormings has been crazy. We've had some fun environments. I'm just really proud of how the team has stayed together and worked through so much to get to where we are. Winning the regular season is tough, but winning the regular season and winning the tournament is really tough. It shows how we've worked as a team throughout the years."

So which of those moments stands above the rest for Kent? As you can probably guess, Kent isn't going to talk up a game simply because he scored a ton of points. It's hard to beat the feeling of going out with a championship in your final home game ever.

"Winning the conference championship at home was probably the coolest feeling," Kent said. "Cutting down the nets in Walz was pretty special. We've been around for a while now and seeing all that work put in in that arena and seeing us be able to celebrate in that arena was really cool. It was awesome cutting down the nets and seeing all the people there to support the team. That was really special. When we won at Dakota Wesleyan (in 2020), it was a crazy environment but doing it at home was really awesome."

The season became even more special when the team



learned it was assigned to Omaha for the opening round of the national tournament. No doubt there will be a large contingent of family on hand to root for Carter.

Said Kent, "I think it's great being that close and having family and friends come to the game. I'm excited for that and happy it gets to happen in Nebraska. Hopefully we can enjoy the moment with our team and all the people there to support us."

Along the journey, the number of supporters for Kent keeps growing. His character won people over within the Crete community where he left as the Crete High School all-time leading scorer with 1,215 points. After Kent made the game winner against Doane, Crete and Concordia teammate Klay Uher tweeted, "He really is that guy."

'That guy' is more than just a big-time scorer who may soon pass Director of Athletics Devin Smith for fifth place on the school's all-time scoring list. Kent will never be the type to brag about something like that. Said Kent, "I'll let him try to poke fun at me. If it happens, it happens. It's all right. He worked so hard during his time here. It's just cool to be where we're at as a team. That's the biggest thing."

Kent can deflect the praise all he wants, but he's earned his share of it. There's a reason why Kent has even caught the admiration of youngsters within the community. They will have a lot to live up to if they want to be the next Carter Kent, a future veterinarian. Along with his teammates, Kent has found a way to captivate Bulldog fans, who have collectively wrapped their arms around Concordia Men's Basketball in 2021-22. This season has made the curly-haired Kent about as recognizable as anyone on campus.

Said Kent, "There have been a lot of great memories that I know a lot of us are never going to forget."

BULLDOGS TREAT PARTISAN OMAHA CROWD TO NATIONAL TOURNEY WIN

OMAHA, Neb. – It felt like a home game on Friday (March 11) evening as the Concordia University Men's Basketball program showcased an offensive clinic in the opening round of the 2022 NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship. Five Bulldogs tallied 13 or more points and the fifth-seeded Bulldogs rolled to a 96-78 win over 12th-seeded Indiana University Northwest inside DJ Sokol Arena in Omaha. Led by 21 points from Noah Schutte, Concordia shot 49.3 percent from the floor and led by as many as 22 points.

The win marked another new accomplishment for members of Head Coach Ben Limback's squad. The program has earned its first national tournament win since 2005. The Bulldogs have moved to 26-6 overall.

"You walk out and you're at the national tournament and to have a home atmosphere, I thought it was amazing," Limback said. "I got a little emotional in the beginning hearing the fans cheering. When we share the ball like we did offensively we're a really hard team to stop. Noah was outstanding in the first and second half and the team fed off each other offensively. Congrats to Indiana Northwest on a great season. We were fortunate today to be able to score a lot."

The Red Hawks of Gary, Ind., had just enough length and athleticism to make it a challenge for Concordia. The game seemed to turn late in the first half when the Bulldogs turned a one-point lead (33-32) into a 13-point advantage (54-41) at the break. During the surge, Carter Kent and Justin Wiersema got loose from the perimeter and AJ Watson beat the halftime buzzer with a driving layup.

IU Northwest (23-8) never got closer than 10 the rest of the way. Though the Red Hawks got 17 points from Marshaud Watkins, they never figured out how to contain Schutte, who put up 11 points in the first half and then 10 more in the second half while making 8-of-9 attempts from the floor. Watson, who finished with 17 points and three assists, left no doubt with two late dagger triples.

Schutte and company looked like seasoned vets on the national stage. Said Schutte, "We were collected – we weren't nervous at all. We came out and Coach told us, we control the court and we're going to win this game. We were grabbing rebounds and getting out in transition and getting whatever we want on offense."

Schutte and Watson were at the top of the pack in terms of scoring. They were followed in that category by Kent (14), Tristan Smith (14) and Wiersema (13). Gage Smith and Sam



Scarpelli contributed seven points apiece. Schutte hauled in nine rebounds and Tristan Smith pulled in eight. Despite a size disadvantage, the Bulldogs had their way on the boards, 47-38. Gage Smith became the 11th player in program history with at least 600 career rebounds.

This part I of II for a Concordia team with aspirations of being one of the final 16 left standing. Said Limback, "It's important to bounce back. The guys even said as they checked out of the game at the end, 'that's one.' Tomorrow we play Marian, who is very, very good. They play in a great league. At this point you have to keep elevating your game and play your best."

Jared Johnson (first team all-conference) was limited to 5-for-19 shooting for IU Northwest, a member of the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Red Hawks shot 40.5 percent (32-for-79) from the floor in their first ever national tournament appearance.

A win on Saturday would send the Bulldogs to Kansas City, Mo., the final site of national tournament. In the national round of 32, Concordia will meet fourth-seeded Marian University (Ind.) at 7:30 p.m. CT on Saturday. Sokol Arena will again serve as the venue. Earlier on Friday, the Knights edged No. 13 seed Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.), 66-64.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Indiana Northwest vs Concordia University
3/11/22 7:15 PM at DJ Sokol Arena

Indiana Northwest 78 • 23-8

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds									Min	
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk		Stl
00	VaShawn Sims	*	0-6	0-1	1-2	2	1	3	1	1	4	0	0	1	32
04	Brian Hernandez	*	5-13	1-2	0-0	1	4	5	0	11	1	1	0	2	27
13	Marshaud Watkins	*	7-12	3-5	0-0	0	2	2	3	17	2	1	2	1	25
23	Jared Johnson	*	5-19	1-7	2-2	4	8	12	4	13	3	2	3	0	30
35	Tromon Weston	*	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	16
01	Tyler Houston		1-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	5
03	Jerron Tatum		5-10	2-5	0-0	1	3	4	1	12	2	0	0	1	24
10	Alex Constandars		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
11	Damond Crosby		4-8	1-3	0-0	0	3	3	5	9	1	0	1	0	19
20	Ryan LaFollette		1-1	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	2
25	Jason Peace		3-6	1-1	0-0	2	1	3	3	7	1	0	0	0	18
	Team					2	1	3							
Totals			32-79	10-25	4-6	12	26	38	19	78	14	6	7	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 18-35 51.4% 2nd half: 14-44 31.8% Game: 32-79 40.5%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-12 41.7% 2nd half: 5-13 38.5% Game: 10-25 40.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 0-0 0.0% 2nd half: 4-6 66.7% Game: 4-6 66.7%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Concordia University 96 • 26-6

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds										Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def	Tot	PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	
05	Carter Kent	*	5-12	3-6	1-2	1	2	3	1	14	2	2	0	0	32
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	5-9	2-4	1-1	1	3	4	1	13	1	1	1	0	30
11	Smith, Gage	*	2-7	1-3	2-2	1	4	5	1	7	5	1	0	1	26
12	Schutte, Noah	*	8-9	1-1	4-6	0	9	9	1	21	1	1	2	0	26
14	Watson, AJ	*	5-9	3-5	4-4	0	4	4	1	17	3	1	1	1	26
02	Sam Scarpelli		3-7	1-4	0-0	0	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	1	11
03	Joel Baker		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
04	Nick Cito		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	2-2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-3	0-3	1-2	2	1	3	3	1	2	1	0	1	14
32	Holt, Ryan		0-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	12
41	Smith, Tristan		6-6	0-0	2-2	3	5	8	0	14	0	0	1	0	12
44	Woita, Skyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
55	Vyhnalek, Kelly		0-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Team					2	3	5				2			
	Totals		34-69	11-29	17-21	12	35	47	11	96	16	10	5	5	200

FG % 1st Half: 21-36 58.3% 2nd half: 13-33 39.4% Game: 34-69 49.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 8-15 53.3% 2nd half: 3-14 21.4% Game: 11-29 37.9%
 FT % 1st Half: 4-5 80.0% 2nd half: 13-16 81.3% Game: 17-21 81.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
1

Officials: , ,

Technical fouls: Indiana Northwest-None. Concordia University-None.

Attendance: 560

NAIA Opening Round

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Indiana Northwest	41	37	78
Concordia University	54	42	96

BULLDOGS THROTTLE MARIAN, LOCK UP TRIP TO KC

OMAHA, Neb. – It's not supposed to look that easy on the national stage. This Concordia University Men's Basketball team is just playing that well. The fifth-seeded Bulldogs shell-shocked fourth-seeded Marian University (Ind.) on Saturday (March 12) behind an offensive attack that operated like a well-oiled machine. Six Concordia players tallied nine or more points while throttling the Knights, 90-67, inside DJ Sokol Arena in Omaha, Neb., where Bulldog fans made it feel like Friedrich Arena East at the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship round of 32.

Head Coach Ben Limback has his squad playing beautiful basketball at the perfect time. Concordia (27-6) breezed through the Omaha pod and will be headed to the national round of 16 in Kansas City, Mo.

"Out of the gates, it looked like the guys were on a mission," Limback said. "Collectively as a group, they came out strong offensively and defensively. That was a really good Marian team, defensively especially. I thought we would struggle to score today. Noah (Schutte) got us off to a great start and it just kind of snowballed from there. They went zone and then Carter (Kent) started to get into a rhythm.

"I don't even have words for it. We thought we were going to have a fight today. I know they had a couple injuries but man, that was a really good win."

Ranked 12th in the NAIA in the most recent coaches' poll, Marian (26-6) got blindsided on Saturday. Concordia had all of its pieces working in near perfect harmony. While Schutte and Gage Smith had their way in the paint, Kent got loose for five 3-point field goals and the Bulldogs drained 13-of-26 shots from long range overall. Behind another strong crowd of supporters, Concordia bolted out to a 15-2 lead and never looked back. The Knights failed to cut the deficit any smaller than 17 points over the entire second half.

Schutte wound up pacing the team with 20 points while Kent finished with 19, Gage Smith added 16, Justin Wiersema notched 11 and Sam Scarpelli and AJ Watson produced nine apiece. Smith was a beast inside with 16 rebounds and a pair of steals. Schutte emerged with perhaps the game's biggest highlight reel play when he threw down a two-handed dunk over two defenders. In the backcourt, Watson set the tone and Scarpelli made the Knights pay by drilling three treys. Tristan Smith came off the bench and rejected three shots and had a sterling tip slam.

It all added up to a surprisingly lopsided win. Up 20 (46-26) at halftime, the Bulldogs already seemingly had the game in hand. They played another strong 20 minutes and added to a suddenly crowded trophy case with a piece of opening round

championship hardware.

"It was awesome seeing all those fans out there and to see all of our hard work come to fruition," Kent said. "To see it pay off is just awesome. It's fun to enjoy that with your teammates. Marian is a great team so it was fun to go out and enjoy that moment."

This will be one to marvel at for years to come. Concordia shot 51.9 percent (28-for-54) from the floor and held Marian to 37.9 percent (25-for-56) shooting. The Bulldogs also made 21-of-28 free throw attempts and owned a 41-32 advantage on the boards. It was Concordia Basketball at its finest.

Said Kent, "We shot the ball really well and I think we made those little plays and got the loose balls. We really focused on playing as a team and playing as a unit. We've been doing that all year. I think we're clicking at the right time."

Somewhat lost in the celebration was the fact that Kent moved up to No. 5 on the program's all-time scoring list. The Crete High School product closed the night with 1,671 career points, which pushed him past Director of Athletics Devin Smith, who was on the call for 104.9 Max Country radio.

The Knights scraped by 13th-seeded Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.), 66-64 on Friday. They got a team high 13 points from Christian Harvey on Saturday, but not nearly enough collective production to keep pace. Star guard Christian Stewart was held to 3-for-11 shooting.

Not since 1991 has the Concordia Men's Basketball program played a national tournament game in Kansas City. The Bulldogs will be in the City of Fountains as part of the national round of 16 that begins next Thursday (March 17). The round of 16 game for Concordia will tip off at 7 p.m. CT on Friday, March 18 versus Indiana University Kokomo.



Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Marian
3/12/22 07:30 PM at DJ Sokol Arena

Concordia University 90 • 27-6

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
05	Carter Kent	*	7-9	5-6	0-3	1	3	4	1	19	4	2	1	35
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	4-8	1-3	2-2	0	2	2	1	11	4	1	0	25
11	Smith, Gage	*	4-7	2-3	6-7	2	14	16	3	16	2	1	1	27
12	Schutte, Noah	*	6-11	1-1	7-8	1	6	7	3	20	2	2	1	29
14	Watson, AJ	*	2-8	1-6	4-4	0	1	1	2	9	3	1	0	25
02	Sam Scarpelli		3-6	3-4	0-0	0	1	1	0	9	1	0	0	12
03	Joel Baker		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
04	Nick Cito		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
20	Wubbels, Tanner		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	14
32	Holt, Ryan		0-1	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
41	Smith, Tristan		2-2	0-0	1-2	1	2	3	4	5	0	3	3	10
44	Woita, Skyler		0-0	0-0	0-0	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	2
55	Vyhnaelek, Kelly		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Team						1	1	2			1			
Totals			28-54	13-26	21-28	8	33	41	20	90	19	12	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 17-31 54.8% 2nd half: 11-23 47.8% Game: 28-54 51.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 9-14 64.3% 2nd half: 4-12 33.3% Game: 13-26 50.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 3-6 50.0% 2nd half: 18-22 81.8% Game: 21-28 75.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
4,2

Marian 67 • 26-6

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	Off	Def							
02	Christian Harvey	*	6-10	0-1	1-2	2	2	4	4	13	2	3	0	22
03	Jacob Wiley	*	5-14	0-3	1-5	1	4	5	5	11	1	2	3	27
05	Tyrie Johnson	*	4-11	0-1	0-2	4	3	7	1	8	1	0	0	29
23	Luke Gohmann	*	2-5	2-4	2-2	0	2	2	2	8	2	1	0	25
30	Christian Stewart	*	3-11	1-4	4-4	0	4	4	1	11	2	2	0	30
01	Maximus Gizzi		1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	13
04	Rowen Farrell		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
11	Luke Heady		1-3	0-2	0-0	1	2	3	2	2	1	0	0	17
12	Brody Whitaker		0-1	0-0	4-6	1	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	10
25	Hayden Langkabel		3-10	2-3	0-0	0	2	2	2	8	0	0	0	25
Team						2	2	4						
Totals			25-66	5-18	12-21	11	21	32	20	67	9	9	3	200

FG % 1st Half: 11-31 35.5% 2nd half: 14-35 40.0% Game: 25-66 37.9%
 3FG % 1st Half: 3-12 25.0% 2nd half: 2-6 33.3% Game: 5-18 27.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 1-4 25.0% 2nd half: 11-17 64.7% Game: 12-21 57.1%

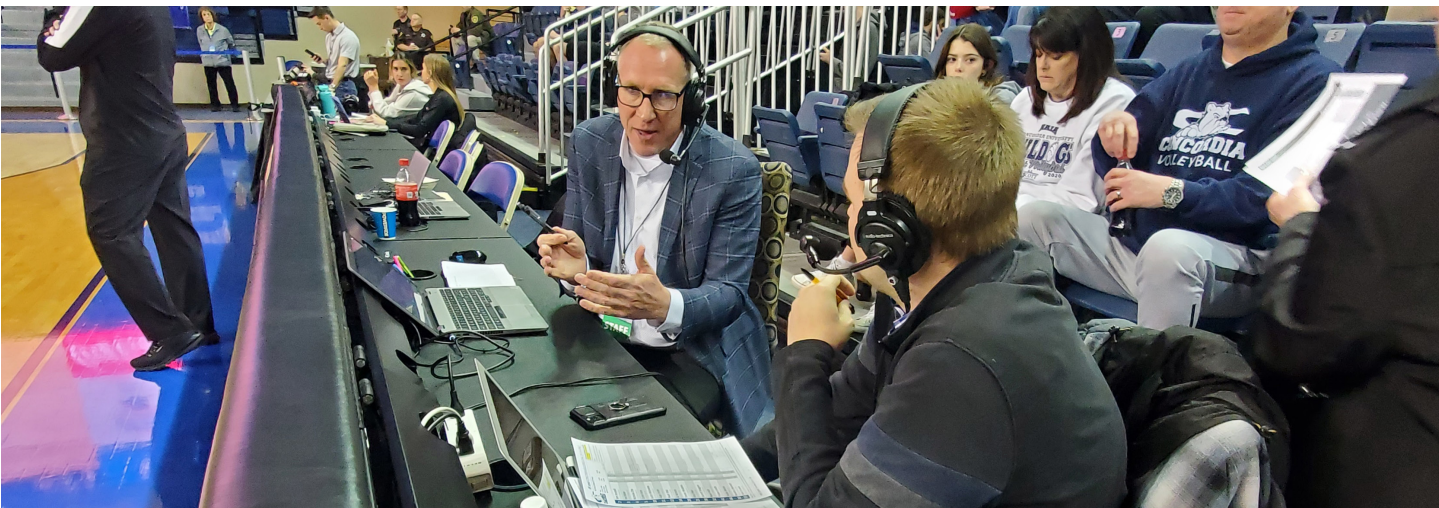
Deadball
Rebounds
4

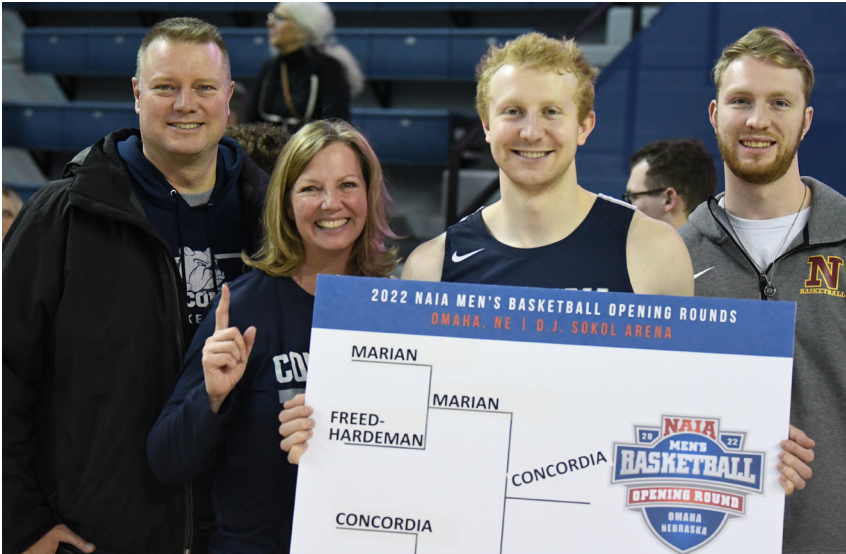
Officials: ,,

Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Marian-None.

Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	46	44	90
Marian	26	41	67





AJ WATSON EXCITED FOR HOMECOMING AS CONCORDIA'S MEMORABLE BASKETBALL SEASON SHIFTS TO KANSAS CITY



Story by Clark Grell, Lincoln Journal Star (March 17, 2022)

AJ Watson and his Concordia teammates felt right at home this season, going 16-0 at Friedrich Arena. So when the Bulldogs saw they'd open the NAIA Tournament in nearby Omaha, Watson was quick to point out the home feel to a national championship chase.

"I tell my teammates and coaches this all the time," Watson said. "From here on out, it's home games ... whether we're in Omaha or whether we're in KC."

A week after winning two tournament games in front of a pro-Concordia crowd at Sokol Arena at Creighton, the Bulldogs' men's basketball team will finish its season at Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium, the site of the final four rounds of the NAIA Tournament.

It's also home for Watson, a sophomore point guard who grew up in Kansas City, Kansas. And, yes, the Watson faithful will be out in full force, much like it was when Concordia played Division II Rockhurst in an exhibition game in KC earlier this season.

"A bunch of Nebraska parents still showed up, but I think my family and friends stole the show," said Watson, who attended Bonner Springs High School. "They were so loud. It's always fun playing in front of people that you're with."

Fifth-seeded Concordia (27-6) will play eighth-seeded Indiana Kokomo (31-3) in the Round of 16 at 7 p.m. Friday. Though Watson has never played at Municipal Auditorium, he's hoping the Bulldogs will play like they're at Friedrich Arena.

The Bulldogs, riding a tidal wave of momentum, have won 10 of 11 games, including impressive victories — 96-78 over Indiana Northwest and 90-67 over Marian (Indiana) — in the opening rounds of the 64-team NAIA Tournament.

Home or away, the Concordia offense has been cooking, and Watson is at the controls. The 5-foot-8 guard came off the bench as a freshman before working his way into the starting lineup as a sophomore.

It took a lot of hard work to get here for Watson. Coach Ben Limback told the guard that he had the talent to be an all-conference player. Watson took those words to heart and began working on being more consistent as a scorer, ball-handler and defender. He worked on his reads.

Watson is averaging 9.9 points per game, and his 46 three-point makes rank second on the team. He's also an 84% free-throw shooter, and dishing assists to a slew of scorers led by all-Great Plains Athletic Conference players Carter Kent, Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema.

For Watson, though, it will always go back to speed and defense.

"Part of me being a competitor is I don't want to get scored on," Watson said. "Defense has always been something that I've taken pride in."

Athletic ability? Ask Watson's high school football coach.

Watson grew up only playing basketball but went out for football as a prep senior after his friends convinced him to give it a try. He ended up as an all-state slot receiver.

These days, it's basketball all the time, and Watson wants to help extend a memorable season for the Bulldogs. If Concordia wins Friday, it will play in the quarterfinal round Saturday.

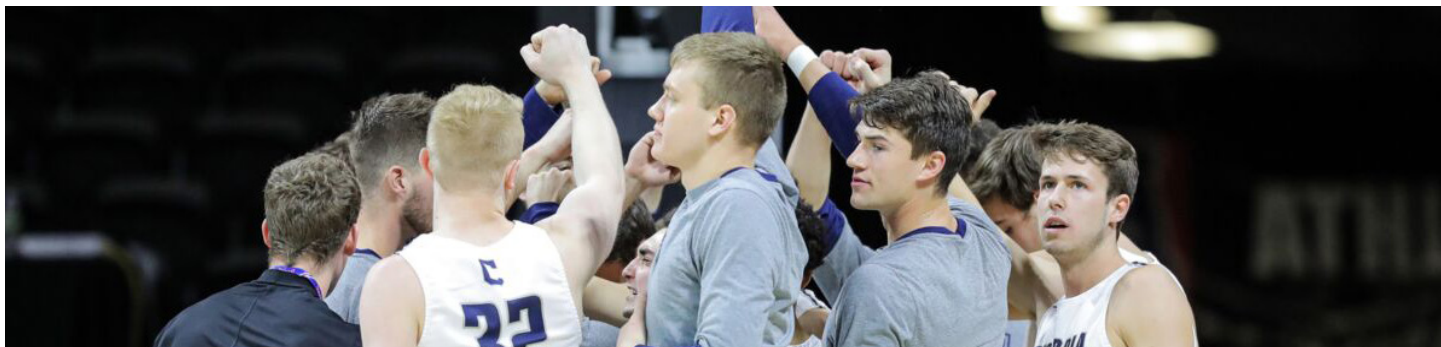
Though this is new territory for Concordia — the Bulldogs haven't won two games in an NAIA Tournament since 2005 and they're in Kansas City for the first time since 1991 — this isn't a just-happy-to-be-here trip.

Fueled by last weekend's wins in Omaha, the Bulldogs feel like they're not done yet, Watson said.

"When you think about it, we're fighting to win a national championship," he said. "We've put in so much work this season and we don't want it to go to waste. Win or lose, we're not failures, but just the motivation that we know that the national championship is in our sight and it's in our grasp, we can obtain that, our motivation is through the roof."



SCHUTTE STARS AS SPECIAL SEASON CARRIES INTO NATIONAL QUARTERS



KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Through three rounds of national tournament play, no moment has felt too big for this Concordia University Men's Basketball team. Under the brightest of spotlights the NAIA has to offer, the fifth-seeded Bulldogs grinded out a 75-65 win over eighth-seeded Indiana University Kokomo in the round of 16 at the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship on Friday (March 18). Noah Schutte delighted the Bulldog faithful on hand inside Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City by rattling off a game high 24 points.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad has won each of its three national tournament games by double digits and has moved to 28-6 overall. Just about everything Concordia is accomplishing right now is a first for the program since the 2004-05 season when it made a run to the NAIA Division II national title game.

"A lot of us hadn't been to this venue before," Limback said. "Yesterday gave us a chance to soak it all in and see some teams play. There are really good teams here. Something we wanted to do is just represent our league and do our best. We had a little nerves at times, but overall it was a gritty, tough effort. The second half was really a slugfest. Noah Schutte had an outstanding game again providing a lot of tough buckets for us.

"Survive and move on. That's what this team is about right now. I'm just so proud of the guys."

IU Kokomo (31-4) had upset the NAIA's top-ranked team, William Penn University (Iowa), in the preceding round and made it a physical battle on Friday night. This was far from easy for the Bulldogs, who committed 20 turnovers and had three players foul out. However, Concordia got it done by following Schutte's lead, by owning a 45-29 advantage on the boards and by limiting the Cougars to 39.3 percent (24-for-61) shooting.

With less than five minutes remaining, the Bulldogs clung to a 62-58 lead. They finally found some breathing room with the help of Schutte's second three-point play of the second half. IU Kokomo remained a challenge to put away. With the lead at 71-65 in the closing 30 seconds, Carter Kent and

Gage Smith both went 2-for-2 from the foul line to seal the victory. Defense and rebounding were the key parts of the formula.

Said Schutte, "We're taking a one-game mentality like we have been the whole year – no nerves. We came out here and we were ready for a fight. Kokomo is a great team and it was just a great team win. It was gritty by us for sure."

Schutte pulled in 12 rebounds as part of his double-double and a continuation of a monster national tournament run. Kent added 16 points, five assists and four rebounds while Gage Smith supplied 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Sam Scarpelli also chipped in with seven points off the bench while draining a pair of first-half threes. Tristan Smith posted five points and six rebounds.

The bulk of the Cougar scoring came from three players: Tayson Parker (16), Trequan Spivey (14) and Desean Hampton (13). Hampton was the player of the year in the River States Conference. IU Kokomo came into the game holding foes to an average of 65.6 points per game.

The Bulldogs did not get loose for the type of offensive flurry they showcased in Omaha last week, but they have proven they can win in more ways than one. Said Limback, "It's a different team right now. There's a lot of confidence, but they're also aware of the challenges at hand. We have to be better. I thought we made a lot of careless mistakes tonight and kind of beat ourselves at times. When you walk in the locker room and there's not this huge celebration – they know what they want to accomplish. That was just one game and we've got a tough team again tomorrow."

Saturday's national quarterfinal matchup with second-seeded Talladega College (Ala.) will tip off at 7 p.m. CT from Municipal Auditorium. A member of the Southern States Athletic Conference, the Tornados (30-5) knocked off Jamestown, 67-56, in the round of 16 on Friday. For Concordia, this will be its fifth all-time appearance in a national quarterfinal game. The Bulldogs have reached the semifinals twice in program history.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
IU Kokomo vs Concordia University
3/18/22 07:15 PM at Municipal Aud., Kansas City, MO

IU Kokomo 65 • 31-4

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
02	Desean Hampton	*	5-10	0-0	3-6	1	4	5	4	13	0	2	2	3	36
03	Trequan Spivey	*	4-10	0-2	6-10	1	3	4	1	14	1	1	0	2	35
10	Allante Harper	*	3-11	1-5	0-0	1	0	1	2	7	1	0	0	4	34
13	Hunter White	*	3-11	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	3	6	2	2	0	0	27
15	Darian Porch	*	2-4	1-3	0-2	1	2	3	3	5	1	1	0	1	23
04	Noah Harris		0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
05	Tayson Parker		6-11	0-3	4-6	1	7	8	4	16	0	1	0	0	20
20	Hunter Jackson		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
22	Chris Chin		0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
33	Julien Hunter		1-1	0-0	2-4	1	2	3	2	4	0	0	1	0	12
34	Zach Rinehart		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Team						1	0	1							
Totals			24-61	2-14	15-28	9	20	29	20	65	5	8	3	10	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-31 38.7% 2nd half: 12-30 40.0% Game: 24-61 39.3%
 3FG % 1st Half: 1-8 12.5% 2nd half: 1-6 16.7% Game: 2-14 14.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd half: 9-16 56.3% Game: 15-28 53.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
5

Concordia University 75 • 28-6

##	Player		Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
05	Carter Kent	*	5-15	1-8	5-6	0	4	4	1	16	5	0	0	0	38
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	2-3	1-1	0-0	1	3	4	0	5	0	2	0	1	25
11	Smith, Gage	*	3-6	0-1	7-7	1	6	7	5	13	4	5	2	1	21
12	Schutte, Noah	*	7-12	2-2	8-9	2	10	12	2	24	0	2	1	0	31
14	Watson, AJ	*	0-3	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	5	0	0	4	0	0	11
02	Sam Scarpelli		2-5	2-4	1-2	0	1	1	0	7	1	3	0	0	24
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
30	Seagren, Garrett		1-2	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	21
32	Holt, Ryan		1-3	1-3	0-0	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	0	0	8
41	Smith, Tristan		2-4	0-1	1-2	2	4	6	5	5	0	1	1	0	13
Team						3	1	4							
Totals			23-53	7-22	22-26	11	34	45	22	75	11	20	4	2	200

FG % 1st Half: 12-26 46.2% 2nd half: 11-27 40.7% Game: 23-53 43.4%
 3FG % 1st Half: 5-14 35.7% 2nd half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 7-22 31.8%
 FT % 1st Half: 8-10 80.0% 2nd half: 14-16 87.5% Game: 22-26 84.6%

Deadball
Rebounds
3,2

Officials: Derek Anganes, Brian Jerrel, Darren Drake
 Technical fouls: IU Kokomo-None. Concordia University-None.
 Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
IU Kokomo	31	34	65
Concordia University	37	38	75

SEASON OF INCREDIBLE JOY ENDS IN NAIA NATIONAL QUARTERFINALS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Just as anyone who followed the team throughout the 2021-22 season would have expected, Concordia University Men's Basketball did not go down without a fight. A storybook season concluded on Saturday (March 19) as the Bulldogs were taken out by second-seeded Talladega College (Ala.), 77-69, in the quarterfinals of the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship held in Kansas City, Mo. The size and length of the Tornadoes presented Concordia with matchup challenges and the GPAC champions shot only 3-for-20 from 3-point range.

In the immediate aftermath, the result stings. With time, members of the Bulldogs will come to appreciate what they accomplished even more. Head Coach Ben Limback's squad wrapped up the campaign at 28-7 overall for the third most wins in program history.

"We knew their size was going to be an issue and they shot it really, really well," Limback said. "When they're doing that, they're a tough team to stop. We just couldn't get it going offensively. I thought we had really good looks in the first half. We missed some front ends of one-and-ones in the first half. We miss a three and they hit a three – that was a big momentum shift heading into the locker room at halftime. I thought we'd regroup and we would come out fighting. We just couldn't get that easy bucket to go ... I'm proud of how we finished the game. There was some fight in them."

With a spot in the national semifinals on the line, Concordia played Talladega to a near stalemate through the first 11 minutes. That's about the time when things went awry for the Bulldogs. A long 3-point shot at the first-half buzzer by Markel Williams staked the Tornadoes to a 45-34 lead at the break. Talladega, ranked sixth in the most recent NAIA coaches' poll, then went on a 9-0 run to begin the second half. It was an extreme uphill battle the rest of the way. The Tornadoes built a lead as large as 22 (70-48) while netting 11 treys.

The Bulldogs switched things up and turned on the press, went to zone looks and made things just a bit interesting down the stretch. Turnovers and missed free throws by Talladega provided a sliver of hope that was eventually stamped out. It just wasn't in Concordia's DNA to stop playing. It simply fell victim to a talented squad led by a trio of double-figure scorers: Kamron Brice (20), Cam Potts (15) and Darryl Baker (10).

Noah Schutte continued an incredible tournament by totaling 15 points and 11 rebounds on Saturday. If NAIA basketball observers nationally were unaware of Schutte before, they shouldn't be anymore. The Laurel, Neb., native went for 24 points and 12 rebounds in Friday's win over Indiana University Kokomo. Meanwhile, AJ Watson sliced and diced his way to a career high 21 points in his hometown of Kansas City and Carter Kent notched 12 points and six rebounds in his final game as a Bulldog.



It wasn't just the trophies, the championships or the national tournament run that made this team special. There was a special bond shared between a group that never wavered in its commitment to each other, its maturity and its Christian principles. There was a reason why Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli came back for a fifth season and why it was going to be impossible to hold back the tears when the run eventually did come to a halt.

Said Limback, "I think everybody's going to remember the SportsCenter moment and some of the trophies and the elite eight run. I think what they're going to remember most is the brotherhood. That's what the people saw when they watched them play. That's what I saw when I got to coach them and enjoy it with them. God truly blessed this team with a lot of fun memories, but I think what they're going to take away is the brotherhood and the love they share. That's what made them special."

This was also the end of the line for Holt and Scarpelli and four-year players such as Justin Wiersema and Klay Uher and possibly Gage Smith as well. Gage Smith tallied eight points and eight rebounds on Saturday while Wiersema notched six points and three rebounds. Tristan Smith chipped in with six points off the bench. As for Kent, he departs as the fifth leading scorer in program history with 1,699 career points.

For so many reasons, the 2021-22 squad has etched its place in Concordia Bulldog Basketball lore. Said Limback, "What a joy it was to be a part of it. It was a season I don't think any of us will ever forget. It will be fun to reflect on that. I told my wife that this last game was going to be one of the hardest for me as a coach just because of who they are as people. It's truly an amazing group of guys."

The run this season marked the program's fifth all-time national quarterfinal appearance (and first since 2005). The 2021-22 Bulldogs had hoped to become the program's third semifinalist (semifinal appearances were achieved in 1992 and 2005). One thing it will always be able to claim – the first team in program history to win the GPAC regular season title.

Official Basketball Box Score -- Game Totals -- Final Statistics
Concordia University vs Talladega
3/19/22 07:15 PM at Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, MO

Concordia University 69 • 28-7

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
05	Carter Kent	*	1-7	1-6	9-9	2	4	6	1	12	2	0	0	1	35
10	Wiersema, Justin	*	3-7	0-2	0-2	1	2	3	2	6	1	2	0	1	31
11	Smith, Gage	*	3-10	1-3	1-3	2	6	8	4	8	1	1	0	0	26
12	Schutte, Noah	*	5-9	1-3	4-6	2	9	11	1	15	0	2	0	0	33
14	Watson, AJ	*	9-15	0-4	3-4	1	5	6	2	21	0	3	0	1	31
02	Sam Scarpelli		0-2	0-2	1-2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	10
21	Uher, Klay		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
30	Seagren, Garrett		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	13
32	Holt, Ryan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
41	Smith, Tristan		3-5	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	3	6	0	1	1	0	16
Team						0	0	0							
Totals			24-55	3-20	18-26	9	30	39	17	69	5	12	1	4	200

FG % 1st Half: 13-29 44.8% 2nd half: 11-26 42.3% Game: 24-55 43.6%
 3FG % 1st Half: 1-9 11.1% 2nd half: 2-11 18.2% Game: 3-20 15.0%
 FT % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 11-15 73.3% Game: 18-26 69.2%

Deadball
Rebounds
2

Talladega 77 • 31-5

##	Player	*	Total	3-Ptr	FT-FTA	Rebounds			PF	TP	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min
			FG-FGA	FG-FGA		Off	Def	Tot							
00	Cam Potts	*	5-11	0-0	5-8	2	4	6	1	15	11	1	1	1	31
14	Darryl Baker	*	2-10	0-4	6-6	0	6	6	2	10	3	3	1	1	30
23	Jervay Green	*	3-7	2-4	0-0	0	4	4	4	8	1	1	0	3	28
34	Amir Yusuf	*	3-5	0-0	0-2	2	3	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	16
35	Davion Thomas	*	1-4	1-2	0-0	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	13
01	Jordan Crumbley		0-0	0-0	0-2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Edwin Louis		0-2	0-1	3-4	0	2	2	4	3	1	2	0	1	20
11	Kamron Brice		7-12	6-11	0-0	2	2	4	2	20	0	0	2	0	25
13	Markel Williams		2-4	2-4	0-2	0	1	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	16
21	Richard Boggan		1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	5
33	Camron Reese		2-3	0-0	0-1	1	4	5	4	4	0	2	0	0	14
Team						0	0	0							
Totals			26-59	11-26	14-25	10	27	37	23	77	16	10	4	6	200

FG % 1st Half: 16-33 48.5% 2nd half: 10-26 38.5% Game: 26-59 44.1%
 3FG % 1st Half: 6-14 42.9% 2nd half: 5-12 41.7% Game: 11-26 42.3%
 FT % 1st Half: 7-11 63.6% 2nd half: 7-14 50.0% Game: 14-25 56.0%

Deadball
Rebounds
4,1

Officials: Troy Mathis Jr., Evan Berg, Jeffery Shane Land
 Technical fouls: Concordia University-None. Talladega-None.
 Attendance:

Score by periods	1st	2nd	Total
Concordia University	34	35	69
Talladega	45	32	77



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SMALL SCHOOL SCHUTTE'S BIG-TIME GAME WORTHY OF NATIONAL ATTENTION



Story published on March 31, 2022

Things came pretty easy for Noah Schutte. Bigger, stronger and more athletic than most of his competition at the Nebraska High School Class D1 level, Schutte dominated his way to eye-popping numbers. The Laurel-Concord-Coleridge High School star piled up more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in his prep career on the hardwood and moved past 1,000 receiving yards in two separate seasons on the gridiron. He graduated as his high school's all-time leading scorer and all-time leading receiver.

Such exploits that included a basketball state championship run his senior year made Schutte a well-known figure within the small community of Laurel, Neb., and the surrounding small towns.

Says Concordia Men's Basketball Head Coach Ben Limback, "His athleticism and his skill level stood out at that point. He was able to score effortlessly when we saw him, whether it was inside or shooting threes. You could tell he was scratching the surface. At that level, he could rely on his athleticism. I'm really impressed with how he's adjusted to the speed and intensity of the college game. He loves basketball and you could see that in high school. Even now, he's always in the gym. He loves to get extra reps. In high school, you could see that he was a gym rat and he loved basketball and he had all

this potential."

With at least two collegiate seasons still left (three remaining seasons of eligibility), the 6-foot-4 Schutte is starting to realize his vast potential. Schutte's profile exploded on a national level as part of the Bulldogs' run to the NAIA National Quarterfinals. So impressive he was on the national stage, it was almost as if Schutte was back inside the gym at 502 Wakefield Street in Laurel. He averaged 20.0 points and 9.8 rebounds and shot 63.4 percent from the floor over four national tourney outings and was chosen to the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship All-Tournament Team.

If you only knew Schutte from his rookie season as a Bulldog in 2020-21, you may have been taken by surprise by those accomplishments. During that first campaign, Schutte averaged 5.8 minutes played per game in 17 contests. He scored a grand total of 49 points. Humble and soft spoken, Schutte himself will tell you that he wasn't a ready-made college basketball star. There was some adjustment taking place for someone who came out of a graduating class of 25.

"I think the biggest adjustments were being more physical, knowing I would be playing against bigger guys, and a faster pace of play," Schutte said. "Even Coach told me in the pre-season before my freshman year that I was going to have to adjust to the game coming from a small school and that the

game was going to be a lot different.”

As Limback confirms, Schutte was on the bubble as to whether or not he would make the varsity roster a year ago. But even in the preseason of 2020, Schutte’s talents were obvious. As part of his periphery role his first season with the Bulldogs, Schutte would sometimes emerge with a thunderous dunk or strong take inside that would hint at what was to come.

“He came in and had all this potential,” Limback said. “He just didn’t understand the intensity level. I was joking with him last week. I pulled him in for a meeting like a week into practice his freshman year. I asked Noah, ‘What’s your goal?’ He talked about making varsity. We talked then about being more competitive. At that time, he was on the fringe as far as making varsity, believe it or not. From that day on, he turned it up. He just needed to understand how hard he needed to compete. I told him that day: ‘You’re going to be an All-American if you figure this thing out because you have all the tools.’ I think he’s on that path.”

What’s happening now may not be so surprising to those who watched Schutte in high school. As a senior for the Bears, he averaged 24.6 points and 13.1 rebounds per game and was named by the Omaha World-Herald as a finalist for the High School Boy’s Athlete of the Year award. Even the pandemic couldn’t ‘Schutte’ down the LCC state championship run that Noah and his teammates celebrated just before COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill in March 2020.

Noah came to Concordia with rave reviews from his high school head coach Todd Erwin, who told the Cedar County News, “With his hard work, dedication and some God-given talent, Noah can do it all. He can play every position and does it calmly and quietly, needing no recognition. He just does it for the team.”

Noah likely got his work ethic and humility, at least in part, from his upbringing. He carries himself with some of those stereotypical Nebraska farm tough qualities. One day after his basketball days are behind him, Noah expects that he will take over the farm (located 15 miles northeast of Laurel) that has been in his family for generations. Farming is a way of life passed down to Noah’s father John, also a 1,000-point scorer for what was then Laurel-Concord High School. Along with farming, there’s always been time for sports in the Schutte family. Take for example, Noah’s Great Uncle Jim, who played at Concordia and has been a faithful supporter.

Comparatively speaking, Concordia and the Seward community are like a sprawling, urban metropolis. No matter how small the high school, Schutte’s game was too big to ignore. Several GPAC schools came calling, but Concordia was the one that felt right.

Said Schutte, “Throughout high school when I started getting

coaches talking to me and offering me, I realized that’s what I wanted to do. I got a few offers here and there and just looked around. I’m just so glad I chose Concordia. The facilities are amazing and just getting to know my teammates here, they were amazing. I couldn’t imagine getting on the court with anybody else.”

Just go ahead and try to heap praise upon Schutte and he’ll do his best to frame his response in the context of team success. There was plenty of that for Concordia Men’s Basketball during a wild 2021-22 ride that included GPAC regular season and tournament titles. Coming into this season, outsiders knew about the likes of Carter Kent, Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema, but did anyone have any idea about Schutte’s impending breakout stardom?

Quietly, and in his own way, Schutte was growing in confidence. Schutte really burst onto the scene back on Nov. 23 when he went off for 27 points in the 92-76 win over then 10th-ranked Jamestown. Towards the end of the game, Schutte even played with tissue in his nostril to keep from bleeding on the court (we told you he was farm tough). He was beginning to prove that he could compete with anyone. Said Schutte, “My freshman year was a learning experience for me in adjusting to the college game. My teammates were always there telling me the potential I had. I just kind of took that and put in the work. You can see the success we had this year.”

Schutte’s monster national tournament won’t change him one bit. He’ll still be the mild-mannered farm boy who gains an edge with his ability to outwork others – and sometimes dunk on top of them. Explained Schutte of his production on the national stage, “My teammates just found me in mismatches. Coach does a great job before the games of telling me things to give me confidence. I think we were playing our best basketball at the end of the season. You could see it in Omaha especially.”

It makes sense that the community that surrounds Laurel-Concord-Coleridge would beam with pride in claiming Schutte as one of its own. He’s no longer merely regionally known or simply a smalltown hero, Schutte has popped on a national level. He won’t fly under the radar anymore.

“He’s probably the most humble kid on the team, which makes him a joy to be around and a joy to coach,” Limback said. “The message for him in our end-of-the-year meeting was, this is great, now let’s take it to another level with how you’re going to influence other guys and be more consistent. I think he’s hungry. I’m really excited for the work he’s going to put in.”

Somewhere in a gym, an unsatisfied Schutte is getting shots up. He won’t rest on his laurels.

CARTER KENT, CONCORDIA'S NEWEST 1,500-POINT CLUB MEMBER, AN ELITE SCORER, BUT A BETTER LEADER

Story by Clark Grell, Lincoln Journal Star (Feb. 15, 2022)

Carter Kent wasn't keeping track. No one was updating him where he stood on the all-time scoring charts at Concordia, either.

His climb to 1,500 career points, the ninth player to accomplish such a feat at the school, came quietly in a Jan. 19 contest against Morningside.

"People (after the game) were just telling me congrats, and I'm like, 'For what?'" Kent said.

Even though Kent's rise up the school's scoring chart has sped up during his best season as a Bulldog — the senior guard has had games of 35, 32, 26, 25 (twice) — his perspective on the game he has played since the third grade hasn't changed.

Kent is an elite scorer, a player coach Ben Limback is very comfortable drawing up a play for when the team needs a key bucket. He can swing a baseball bat pretty well, too. But it's Kent's team-first mentality that stands out to those around him.

"He certainly has been having a great senior year," Limback said. "He'd be the first guy to tell you, all he really wants and cares about is trying to help us win as many games as we can." That's evident in listening to Kent talk about surpassing 1,500 career points.

It's a neat milestone, the Crete graduate says, but it's not going to define his college career.

"It's definitely a blessing, but that doesn't happen without other guys on the team, all of the work they put in," Kent said. "I'm thankful for that."

Still, it's a lot of fun. And Kent and the Bulldogs are having fun with life near the top of conference standings.

Fueled by balanced scoring — four players average more than 12 points a game — and an emphasis on moving and sharing the ball, Concordia is 20-6 overall and 13-5 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.

A big game awaits the Bulldogs. They host GPAC-leading Briar Cliff (19-8, 15-3) on Wednesday. Concordia can still win the league's regular-season title, but it will need to beat Briar Cliff and hope for a little help to do so.

A 54-50 loss at Doane last week damaged the Bulldogs'



hopes of catching Briar Cliff with two games to go. The fact remains, though, that Concordia still has a chance to make some noise in February and March, and Kent is playing a big part.

He leads the team in scoring (17.2 points per game), three-point makes (53), free-throw shooting (85%), assists (83) and steals (33).

"He does so much more than score for us," Limback said. "I think that's the part that I don't think people always realize."

Kent made an immediate impact in college. He started 30 of 31 games his first season, averaged 10.4 points per contest and was named GPAC freshman of the year. Not bad for a player who contemplated playing college baseball instead.

He averaged 12.6 points as a sophomore and 15.2 as a junior. Kent has found ways to get better each year, and Limback said the 6-foot-2 guard is much stronger this year.

Though Kent continues to work on his shot or other parts of his game, his improvement plan through college has focused on leading.

"It's really not anything physical that I try to improve," Kent said. "It's just being a good person and really investing in others, kind of being that guy that others can come talk to."

The season is winding down and so are the careers of Concordia's six seniors. For Kent, who will graduate in May before going to veterinary school, it will be his final chance to make an impact on the court and on his teammates.

"Really, I'm just trying to enjoy time with the guys and everything, just being around the team, because I know that's the biggest thing I'm going to miss when I'm done with it all," Kent said. "It's definitely been a ton of fun, though. I think we're seeing a lot of our hard work over the years pay off but definitely, we have a long ways to go."

A FAKE TOOTH AND WINNING BALLGAMES TWO OF MANY CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CONCORDIA'S LIMBACK, OLSON

Story by Clark Grell, Lincoln Journal Star (March 10, 2022)

Drew Olson's introduction to Ben Limback started with an elbow to the face.

At the time, Olson was a freshman basketball player at Hastings College and Limback a senior at rival Concordia.

Olson got caught in a trap, tried to squeeze between a couple of defenders, one of them being Limback, and took an elbow to the face that left a lasting impression.

"I broke my tooth," Olson recalls. "I have a fake tooth because of Ben."

Limback says Olson probably can tell the story better. After all, it was the freshman who was on the painful end of that first meeting.

"He was just kind of this freshman that played for a rival and I was probably trying to win and do whatever it took, and I hope I wasn't too cheap and dirty," Limback said.

Call it friendly fire.

More than 20 years later, Limback and Olson are rubbing elbows as head basketball coaches at Concordia, and both have teams playing in the NAIA Tournament this weekend.

Olson's women's team is the No. 9 seed in the Bowling Green, Kentucky, pod. The Concordia men, under Limback's watch, are the No. 5 seed in the Omaha pod. Both teams play Friday.

"We love it," Olson said on the Bulldogs doubling up on success. "I love seeing how awesome they (men) are. They're a really, really good basketball team."

As former Bulldogs, Olson and Limback take great pride in coaching their alma mater.

After spending his freshman season at Hastings, Olson transferred to Concordia in 2000. At the time, Limback had graduated but remained at Concordia to assist then-head coach Grant Schmidt.

Olson, who also played tennis in college, was a coach on the floor, Limback recalls.

Indeed, Olson wanted to be a coach, and after serving as an assistant at Bellevue, he landed the women's job at Concordia in 2006 and turned the Bulldogs into an NAIA power.

Limback, who was hired by Concordia in 2013 to coach the men, wanted to follow a similar blueprint.

"When I took over, we wanted to get the program to the point just like where the women's were," said Limback, who has led Concordia to two NAIA Tournament appearances in three seasons. "Competing for not only a conference title, but competing at the national level. We're not there yet, but we're excited to be in the national tournament again."

After working through some major roster turnover and an 8-21 campaign in 2013-14, Limback has led the Bulldogs to seven winning seasons in eight years, including 25-6 this season.

"To be honest, I think that more should be written about him and what he did," Olson said of Limback's rebuilding project. Though they coach different teams, Limback and Olson talk basketball all the time together. Limback says he'll pick Olson's brain, but it doesn't stop in the basketball offices.

"It's such a true blessing to have coaches in our own department that I can just walk down the hall and say, 'Hey, how did you guys prepare for nationals?'" said Limback, noting Concordia's success in other sports such as volleyball and baseball. "It's a really cool brotherhood that we have, a Bulldog brotherhood, not only within our student-athletes, but within our coaching staff, too."

The Concordia men will play 12th-seeded Indiana Northwest (23-7) at 7:15 p.m. Friday at Sokol Arena in Omaha. The other two teams in the pod are fourth-seeded Marian (25-5) and 13th-seeded Freed-Hardeman (19-12). The opening round final is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, and the winner of that game will advance to the 16-team finals site.

The Concordia women (16-13), who have played the toughest schedule in the country, will play eighth-seeded Benedictine (21-10) at 4:30 p.m. Friday. The host school in the regional is Campbellsville (29-4).

The Concordia women are in the NAIA Tournament for the 11th straight year.

CONCORDIA RIDES MOMENTUM FROM VIRAL PLAY INTO GPAC TOURNAMENT

Story by Gene Schinzel, Omaha World-Herald (Feb. 22, 2022)

The last-second, game-winning basket was the talk around Concordia's campus last Thursday. Hours later, the attention spiked as the play went viral.

"I was at a daddy-daughter dance (Thursday) night and somebody runs up to me and says, 'Hey, you see you made "SportsCenter"?' " basketball coach Ben Limback said. "It was really hard to get away from."

With Concordia trailing 73-72 after Briar Cliff hit a double-pump 3-pointer with one second left, the Bulldogs' Carter Kent threw an inbounds pass the length of the court, where freshman Tristan Smith caught the ball in the air near the rim and in one motion banked home the improbable winner. That set off a wild celebration on Concordia's home court.

Limback said the Bulldogs hadn't practiced the play, but he had Kent, who was an all-state baseball pitcher in high school, throw the ball as far as he could for Smith, who was in the game because his brother, Gage, had fouled out.

"I don't think you could practice that 10 times and get it that perfect," Limback said. "Unbelievable execution. It wasn't a set play as much as the players who ran the set."

Executing that play also set off a series of circumstances that allowed Concordia to win its first regular-season men's

league title since 1996.

Concordia went into last Wednesday's game trailing Briar Cliff by two games with two to play. After the Concordia heartbreaker, Briar Cliff lost to Doane on Friday and Concordia won at Dakota Wesleyan on Saturday night to share the title with Briar Cliff.

Limback said the Briar Cliff win would have lost some of its luster if the Bulldogs weren't able to finish with a share of the title.

"I was really impressed with the character of the guys to come off the high of that big win Wednesday and put together a great effort on Saturday," Limback said.

Playing at the Corn Palace, Concordia bolted to a 13-2 lead and never trailed in an 86-70 win. Five Bulldogs finished in double figures. For the season, four average between 12 and 16.5 points per game.

"That's kind of our M.O. When we're at our best, we have five guys in double figures," Limback said.

Next up for Concordia (22-6) is the GPAC tournament, which begins Wednesday and wraps up next Tuesday. Concordia hosts Morningside in the quarterfinals at 7 p.m.

"There's a lot of belief in the locker room," Limback said. "I think we're playing good right now, but I still don't think our best basketball has been played yet."



ALL-MIDLANDS MEN'S BASKETBALL: CONCORDIA'S CARTER KENT CAPTAINS NAIA/NCAA D-III TEAM

Story by Gene Schinzel, Omaha World-Herald (April 17, 2022)

Carter Kent is leaving Concordia as one of the program's top 10 scorers. But he'll also be remembered for The Pass.

A defining moment in the Bulldogs' historic season was triggered by the senior guard.

In a game between conference leaders in the final week of the regular season, Briar Cliff hit an off-balance 3-pointer with one second left to take a 73-72 lead. After a timeout, Kent — a former high school pitcher at Crete — threw an inbound pass the length of the court to Tristan Smith, who caught the ball at the rim in traffic and in one motion banked in the buzzer-beater for a 74-73 win.

"He just threw a bullet that was on target," said Concordia coach Ben Limbach of the play, which found its way onto ESPN's "SportsCenter."

That victory was the start of an eight-game winning streak that ended in the NAIA quarterfinal. During that stretch, the Bulldogs won the GPAC regular-season and tournament titles for the first time and advanced to the final eight at nationals for the first time since 2005.



Kent, who also hit the winning jumper against Doane in the GPAC semifinal, led the way, and he is this year's World-Herald Midlands NAIA/NCAA D-III men's team captain.

"There's certain kids that want the ball in those closing moments," Limbach said. "He's someone who craved that throughout his career. I was never afraid to put him in those situations because he's got that moxie about him."

Kent also is an academic All-American. The biology major has a 4.0 GPA and plans to enter veterinarian school at Nebraska after graduating from Concordia in May.

On the court, Kent averaged a team-best 15.8 points and 3.2 assists. He made 125 starts and finished fifth in scoring (1,699 points), fifth in 3-pointers (248) and seventh in assists (324) on the program's career lists.

"Statistics show he had a great year, but I think what people don't realize is the standard he had for himself throughout his career," Limbach said. "He put in the work that allowed him to have that kind of senior season. That's what we'll miss, his leadership and his commitment to be the best."

Also on the NAIA Midlands first team is Concordia teammate Gage Smith, another fourth-year player who scored 13.7 points, shot 54.1% from the field and averaged a team-best 7.9 rebounds.

They're joined by Doane's Josiah Gardiner, who had a breakout season by averaging 15.3 points and 5.9 rebounds; Nebraska Wesleyan freshman Peter Lash, who averaged 16.5 points and 8.2 rebounds; and Peru State's Jibril Harris, who averaged 14.5 points and 7.8 rebounds and hit 54 3s.

2022 NAIA/D-III Midlands Team

G, Carter Kent, Sr., Concordia
 F, Josiah Gardiner, So., Doane
 F, Jibril Harris, Jr., Peru State
 F, Peter Lash, Fr., Neb. Wesleyan
 F, Gage Smith, Sr., Concordia

Honorable mention: Bellevue: Paulo Araujo, Vinny Belcaster, Eric Pierce. Concordia: Noah Schutte, AJ Watson, Justin Wiersema. Doane: Anthony Laravie, Alec Oberhauser, Brady Timm. Hastings: Karson Ganseboom, Dashawn Walker. Midland: Ryan Larsen, Laurence Merritt, Jake Rueschhoff, Bo Sandquist. Nebraska Wesleyan: Landon Torneten. Peru State: Troy Houghton, Henry Tanksley. York: Brent Clark, Keyaun Hoskin, Erik Talton.

THE ROAD TO KANSAS CITY



There likely has never been a more incredible month-long story in the history of Concordia University Men's Basketball than the one the 2021-22 Bulldogs authored from Feb. 16 through the end of the season. That stretch featured perhaps the most unbelievable buzzer beater in Friedrich Arena history, three home court stormings, celebrations of GPAC regular season and postseason championships and a run to the quarterfinals of the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship. Talk about a whirlwind.

Only now can Head Coach Ben Limback's squad take a step back and begin to comprehend all that happened throughout the course of one of the greatest Concordia Men's Basketball seasons ever.

"It was a surreal run," Limback said. "The goals this team set before the season included all of these things, but I'll remember the way this team went about it and how we accomplished it. It was a whirlwind. That Briar Cliff ending where we had to win that game to stay alive in the regular season title race – and to win it in such amazing fashion – gave us a jolt that I think we needed. I don't think any of us were surprised with what this team accomplished this year. It was more about how we accomplished the things we did. That made it even more special. We set goals to go undefeated at

home, be the regular season champion, be the tournament champion and at least make the Sweet 16 of the national tournament. They can walk away and check those boxes."

Check. Check. Check. It was a season characterized by reaching heights no one currently inside the program had ever experienced. After feeling the disappointment in how the 2020-21 campaign ended too soon, an experienced and together group came back with a vengeance this winter. Four-year standouts Carter Kent, Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema led the way for a team that also got a major boost from the growth of Noah Schutte. In addition, AJ Watson took to the point guard role and was an X-factor for the Bulldogs, who finished with 28 wins – third most in school history. This is why Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli returned for fifth seasons of college hoops.

An eight-game win streak that spilled into the national tournament began with the aforementioned buzzer beater. With Concordia down 73-72 and one second remaining versus Briar Cliff, Kent rifled a full-court alley-oop pass to Tristan Smith for the game winner. The no-way-that-just-happened moment made its way onto ESPN shows such as SportsCenter, College GameDay and Around The Horn and was spotlighted by Barstool Sports. Thanks to the virility of social

media, people all over the country shared in the zaniness.

The best basketball was yet to come. While playing each round of the GPAC tournament at home, the Bulldogs cut through Morningside in the quarterfinals, Doane in the semifinals and Jamestown amidst a raucous GPAC championship atmosphere inside Friedrich Arena. At the national tournament, Concordia rolled through the first two rounds in Omaha, defeating Indiana University Northwest, 96-78, and Marian University (Ind.), 90-67.

Under the brightest of lights the NAIA has to offer, the Bulldogs knocked off Indiana University Kokomo, 75-65, in the national round of 16 at historic Municipal Auditorium in downtown Kansas City. Ultimately, the season came to a close with a 77-69 loss coming at the hands of eventual national runner up Talladega College (Ala.) in the quarterfinals. Almost everything Concordia achieved this past winter was a first for the program since the 2004-05 journey to the NAIA Division II national championship game.

Another aspect of the run that made it so special was the connection felt by Bulldog Basketball alums, who felt the memories of their own national tournament experiences rush back to them. Concordia Women's Basketball Head

Coach Drew Olson felt that same pride. Olson had played for two national tournament teams under former Head Coach Grant Schmidt.

Said Olson, "I was so pumped and so proud of what the team did. They are role models to my boys. They inspired everyone in this community. I'm so impressed with Coach Limback. What Ben has done over the last five years in turning the program around, I'm impressed and so proud as an alum. I love what he's doing. I love being a part of it and being close to it. It's so fun and I'm so happy for them."

Not since 1991 had Concordia played a national tournament game in Kansas City. At that time, Director of Athletics Devin Smith starred for a squad that made the program's first ever national tournament appearance. The 2021-22 Bulldogs were impressed by Municipal Auditorium and the whole national tournament experience.

"It was awesome," Limback said. "That's what you live for – to be amongst the best of the best at your level. Municipal Auditorium is a beautiful venue. I had never been there before – none of our team had ever been there before. It's just a great sight and a great place to host a national tournament. We were all like kids in a candy store where you just take it all in."



Then you get to play basketball again with your team. That's what made it special."

Individually, Kent drew the most attention while putting together an elite senior season that saw him average 15.8 points per game and become the fifth highest scorer (1,699 career points) in program history. Kent was named an NAIA Second Team All-American and a First Team All-GPAC selection. He was joined on the league's first team by teammate Gage Smith while Wiersema landed on the second team. Both Schutte and Watson garnered honorable mention recognition. At the national tournament, Schutte elevated his game to new heights and was named to the National Championship All-Tournament Team.

Saying goodbye to the senior class was an emotional thing for Limback. Said Limback, "This senior class will always have a special place in my heart. They came in their freshman year and they built it from the ground up. We were all able to enjoy it together this year. We couldn't have done it without them. I think they have a lot of pride in that. Whether it was a guy like Carter Kent who was a 1,500-point scorer or a guy like Tanner Wubbels who came in as a freshman, and had major surgeries, it was a special group."

In addition to Kent, Smith and Wiersema, the class of four-year student-athletes included Nick Cito, Klay Uher and Tanner Wubbels. In his fifth season in the program, Holt provided veteran leadership and came away with a lasting memory when he drained a buzzer-beating 3-point shot to edge Peru State College early in the season. Off the bench,

Scarpelli always brought energy and the ability to knock down perimeter shots.

With so many seniors and super seniors set to move on, there will be opportunities for others to emerge in 2022-23. Schutte and Watson will surely take on even larger roles while Bulldog fans should also expect to see more of Cham-inade University transfer Garrett Seagren and the high-flying Tristan Smith. Limback and his staff, which added Ryan Tegtmeier this past season, believe they have a recruiting class coming in that will help fortify the roster.

Another national tournament appearance will be the goal, but all future teams will be hard-pressed to duplicate the Christian character, togetherness and thrilling moments that are now synonymous with the 2021-22 Bulldogs.

Said Limback, "We're going to remember more than the trophies and the banners or individual accomplishments. More than that, it was about the relationships, the brotherhood and the memories we're going to have forever. It's not about the destination. It's about the journey you go on during these seasons. It's the people you're on the journey with that you're going to forever remember. All of us are exhausted, but just so blessed and thankful for everything we've been able to be a part of. I'm going to miss these guys who are moving on. I think we all sense that now – is this really done? We had a bonus month of basketball and were able to play in front of amazing crowds. I'm just so humbled. There's a surreal feeling to the end of the season. We're just so grateful for it."



SCHUTTE TAKES NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BY STORM



Noah Schutte

CONCORDIA

20.0 PPG

9.8 RPG

63.4 FG%

NAIA
2022
MEN'S
BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP
KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI

ALL-TOURNAMENT

"He's probably the most humble kid on the team, which makes him a joy to be around and a joy to coach. The message for him in our end-of-the-year meeting was, this is great, now let's take it to another level with how you're going to influence other guys and be more consistent. I think he's hungry. I'm really excited for the work he's going to put in."

-Head Coach Ben Limback

EXHILARATING SEASON HAD BULLDOGS EVERYWHERE 'ALL IN'



While the dust settled on the final home game of the 2021-22 Concordia Men's Basketball season, Carter Kent couldn't hide a wide grin as he fashioned the Friedrich Arena net around his neck. Kent had just emerged from yet another celebratory mob of court-storming fans in a scene fitting for a team that, moments earlier, captured the GPAC tournament championship with a victory over Jamestown. Every time you thought the season could not possibly get any better or wild, it did.

As Kent told a Lincoln TV reporter at that moment, "It's so awesome. It's been three times now in like two weeks (that the fans have rushed the court). I never get bored of it. That's what college basketball's all about. We work all year for this. I'm so proud of these guys. We've gone through so much adversity throughout the season. It's definitely been a roller-coaster ride. It feels good to see it through."

Court stormings became the norm during a zany stretch that included Kent's length-of-the-court alley-ooop to Tristan Smith for a game-winning layup that edged Briar Cliff, 74-73, on Feb. 16. That play began an exhilarating eight-game win streak that carried the Bulldogs all way to the quarterfinals of the 2022 NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship. Head Coach Ben Limback's squad became the talk of campus, alums and national sports shows like SportsCenter and

Around the Horn. The 2021-22 team became the first in program history to win the GPAC regular season title while capturing the hearts and minds of those who were drawn to Friedrich Arena.

It wasn't just the winning that made this group stand out. Limback and his staff had put together a team of mature young men who exhibited strong Christian character and knew how to complement one another on and off the court. Fourth-year seniors Kent, Justin Wiersema, Gage Smith, Klay Uher, Nick Cito and Tanner Wubbels and fifth-year super seniors Ryan Holt and Sam Scarpelli went 'All In,' just as the team's motto stated. Limback dreaded the end, simply because he knew he would dearly miss the seniors – not as players, but as people.

Said Limback, "We're going to remember more than the trophies and the banners or individual accomplishments. More than that, it was about the relationships, the brotherhood and the memories we're going to have forever. It's not about the destination. It's about the journey you go on during these seasons. It's the people you're on the journey with that you're going to forever remember. All of us are exhausted, but just so blessed and thankful for everything we've been able to be a part of. I'm going to miss these guys who are moving on. Is this really done? We had a bonus month of

basketball and were able to play in front of amazing crowds. I'm just so humbled. There's a surreal feeling to the end of the season. We're just so grateful for it."

Said Kent back in January, before the championships were won, "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."

The joy that Kent and his teammates shared filtered down to the alums. An alum and former standout Concordia player himself, Limback often celebrated this season's momentous postseason wins by exchanging handshakes and hugs with his former teammates. This team even caught the attention of unbiased observers at the national tournament. The Bulldogs were rewarded with the Dr. James Naismith-Emil S. Liston Team Sportsmanship Award.

At home games this past season, it was typical for there to be 10 or more past 1,000-point scorers in attendance. The numbers grew as the fairytale blew up to proportions that put Disney to shame.

An alum who played for the program's very first national tournament qualifier, Director of Athletics Devin Smith beamed with pride. Said Smith, "They were really connected and engaged – you could see it. They loved each other. They didn't let anything stop them from making a run at the national tournament. We saw Friedrich Arena filling up



Derek Engelbart
@DerekEngelbart

...

Casually checking my ESPN push notification only to find my alma mater highlighted. 🐾 Hats off to my former @CUNEmbb teammate @CoachLimback & his squad for pulling that one off! #justliketheydwitup #CUNE 🐾 #SCTop10 espn.com/video/clip/_/i...

6:20

Thursday, February 17

► **Must-see ending!**

Concordia Nebraska breaks out a full-court alley-oop at the buzzer to shock Briar Cliff University

now



"That's the best team I've ever seen play here."

-Devin Smith, Director of Athletics

"I was so pumped and so proud of what the team did."

-Drew Olson, Head Women's Basketball Coach



throughout the second semester. More and more people were coming to watch to see this team. It was a team made up of players who wanted to share the basketball. From game-to-game, you never knew who was going to be the top scorer."

Tweeted another program alum Derek Engelbart after the Bulldogs had advanced to the national round of 16, "Lots to be proud of! Hard working team with a tremendous leader who has them peaking at the right time. Keep writing your story!" Derek and his brother Darin made a point of traveling to Kansas City for the final site of the national tournament. The City of Fountains was flooded with Bulldog Blue.

Furthermore, Head Women's Basketball Coach Drew Olson weighed in by saying, "I was so pumped and so proud of what the team did. They are role models to my boys. They inspired everyone in this community. I'm so impressed with Coach Limback. What Ben has done over the last five years in turning the program around, I'm impressed and so proud as an alum. I love what he's doing. I love being a part of it and being close to it. It's so fun and I'm so happy for them."

Devin Smith summed it up with quite a statement: "I've been around Bulldog Men's Basketball on and off for four decades. That's the best team I've ever seen play here. It was a collection of class acts."

CARTER KENT: HE'S THAT GUY

2021-22 game-by-game statistics

Opponent	Date	gs	min	Total		3-Pointers		Free throws		Rebounds				pf	a	t/o	blk	stl	pts	avg
				fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fa	pct	off	def	tot	avg							
vs Friends	10/29/21	*	32	7-15	.467	1-5	.200	0-1	.000	1	2	3	3.0	0	0	2	0	2	3	15
vs Presentation	10/30/21	*	32	6-14	.429	3-7	.429	6-7	.857	1	3	4	3.5	1	0	7	2	0	1	21
WALDORF	11/5/21	*	36	7-14	.500	2-6	.333	6-6	1.000	1	4	5	4.0	3	0	6	0	0	3	22
BENEDICTINE (KS)	11/6/21	*	36	3-8	.375	0-4	.000	2-2	1.000	0	4	4	4.0	1	0	6	2	0	0	8
PERU STATE	11/9/21	*	32	7-15	.467	3-7	.429	2-4	.500	0	4	4	4.0	2	0	3	1	0	1	19
at Briar Cliff	11/13/21	*	38	4-11	.364	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	4	4	4.0	3	0	3	2	2	2	8
MIDLAND	11/17/21	*	35	6-9	.667	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	0	9	9	4.7	1	0	3	3	0	2	16
at Dordt	11/20/21	*	34	4-11	.364	2-5	.400	0-0	.000	0	2	2	4.4	2	0	2	3	0	0	10
JAMESTOWN	11/23/21	*	33	5-11	.455	1-4	.250	4-4	1.000	0	2	2	4.1	0	0	4	0	1	3	15
at Morningside	12/1/21	*	37	7-14	.500	4-10	.400	2-2	1.000	0	2	2	3.9	1	0	0	2	0	2	20
NORTHWESTERN	12/4/21	*	33	11-19	.579	3-7	.429	7-8	.875	0	5	5	4.0	2	0	3	0	1	2	32
MOUNT MARTY	12/8/21	*	38	6-11	.545	3-5	.600	4-4	1.000	1	1	2	3.8	2	0	3	1	0	1	19
at Hastings	12/11/21	*	36	10-20	.500	5-12	.417	0-0	.000	1	5	6	4.0	1	0	4	1	1	0	25
vs William Jessup	12/19/21	*	34	1-10	.100	0-5	.000	4-4	1.000	1	1	2	3.9	2	0	3	1	0	0	6
vs Rochester	12/21/21	*	36	3-11	.273	1-5	.200	6-9	.667	0	6	6	4.0	1	0	2	3	1	3	13
at Ottawa University	12/29/21	*	37	6-13	.462	5-8	.625	2-2	1.000	0	4	4	4.0	1	0	5	4	0	0	19
DOANE	1/1/22	*	35	2-6	.333	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.9	0	0	1	3	0	1	4
at Mount Marty	1/5/22	*	42	10-20	.500	4-7	.571	11-12	.917	0	3	3	3.9	0	0	4	1	3	0	35
DAKOTA WESLEYAN	1/8/22	*	32	7-11	.636	2-4	.500	3-3	1.000	0	5	5	3.9	0	0	6	0	0	1	19
at Jamestown	01/15/22	*	36	8-15	.533	2-2	1.000	8-8	1.000	0	3	3	3.9	0	0	3	1	0	1	26
MORNINGSIDE	1/19/22	*	36	7-15	.467	3-4	.750	8-10	.800	0	2	2	3.8	2	0	4	2	1	0	25
at Northwestern	1/22/22	*	35	5-12	.417	1-5	.200	8-8	1.000	0	1	1	3.7	1	0	0	1	1	3	19
HASTINGS	1/26/22	*	30	3-12	.250	2-4	.500	0-1	.000	0	1	1	3.6	2	0	4	1	0	1	8
at Midland	2/2/22	*	35	7-13	.538	0-4	.000	3-6	.500	1	2	3	3.5	2	0	2	2	0	3	17
DORDT	2/5/22	*	25	3-9	.333	2-7	.286	0-0	.000	0	0	0	3.4	3	0	3	2	0	0	8
at Doane	2/9/22	*	33	1-9	.111	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	0	4	4	3.4	1	0	1	3	1	1	3
BRIAR CLIFF	2/16/22	*	36	7-16	.438	1-7	.143	3-4	.750	0	1	1	3.3	3	0	1	1	2	0	18
at Dakota Wesleyan	2/19/22	*	34	4-11	.364	0-4	.000	4-4	1.000	0	3	3	3.3	0	0	1	0	1	0	12
MORNINGSIDE	2/23/22	*	35	5-13	.385	3-7	.429	4-4	1.000	1	5	6	3.4	1	0	6	0	0	0	17
DOANE	2/26/22	*	34	4-10	.400	0-2	.000	2-3	.667	1	3	4	3.4	2	0	7	1	0	1	10
JAMESTOWN	3/1/22	*	36	2-6	.333	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	3	3	3.4	1	0	1	3	0	2	4
vs Indiana Northwest	3/11/22	*	32	5-12	.417	3-6	.500	1-2	.500	1	2	3	3.4	1	0	2	2	0	0	14
vs Marian	3/12/22	*	35	7-9	.778	5-6	.833	0-3	.000	1	3	4	3.4	1	0	4	2	1	1	19
vs IU Kokomo	3/18/22	*	38	5-15	.333	1-8	.125	5-6	.833	0	4	4	3.4	1	0	5	0	0	0	16
vs Talladega	3/19/22	*	35	1-7	.143	1-6	.167	9-9	1.000	2	4	6	3.5	1	0	2	0	0	1	12
Totals			35	1213	.436	68-196	.347	114-136	.838	13	110	123	3.5	45	0	113	50	18	39	554

Games played: 35
Minutes/game: 34.7
Points/game: 15.8
FG Pct: 43.6
3FG Pct: 34.7
FT Pct: 83.8

Rebounds/game: 3.5
Assists/game: 3.2
Turnovers/game: 1.4
Assist/turnover ratio: 2.3
Steals/game: 1.1
Blocks/game: 0.5



ALL-AMERICAN



Carter Kent
Second Team



ALL-CONFERENCE

FIRST TEAM

Carter Kent
Gage Smith

SECOND TEAM

Justin Wiersema

HONORABLE MENTION

Noah Schutte
AJ Watson









Justin Wiersema surpassed 1,000 career points on Nov. 20, 2021, as part of an 84-82 win at Dordt. Wiersema finished his career with 1,276 points while playing at Concordia from 2018-22.



Carter Kent eclipsed 1,500 career points on Jan. 19, 2022, as the Bulldogs defeated Morningside, 83-68. Kent concluded his Concordia career with 1,699 career points and ranks No. 5 in program history.



Concordia had never won a conference regular season championship during the GPAC era. That changed on Feb. 19, 2022, as the Bulldogs won at Dakota Wesleyan, 86-70, and claimed a share of the GPAC regular season title.



In conjunction with the special awards announced after the NAIA national championship game, Head Coach Ben Limback and the Concordia Men's Basketball team were recognized with the Dr. James Naismith-Emil S. Liston Team Sportsmanship Award. The honor is selected by the national tournament committee and rewarded to the team that best exemplifies the NAIA Champions of Character core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. Below is a photo of the seniors, along with the coaching staff, on graduation day 2022 at Concordia.







