



2023 CONCORDIA BULLDOGS



QUICK LOOK

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS



Concordia Athletic Communications

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2022-23 Schedule/Results 18-12 Overall, 11-9 GPAC (5th)

Date	Opponent	H/A	Score
Nov. 4	Tabor (Kan.)	H	W, 88-52
Nov. 5	Ottawa (Kan.)	H	W, 86-82
Nov. 12	*Briar Cliff	A	W, 78-58
Nov. 16	*Midland	H	W, 83-47
Nov. 19	*Dordt	A	W, 87-72
Nov. 22	*(5) Jamestown	H	L, 59-90
Nov. 26	Waldorf (Iowa)	A	W, 103-61
Nov. 30	*Morningside	A	L, 62-69
Dec. 3	*Northwestern	H	W, 81-55
Dec. 7	*Mount Marty	H	W, 86-64
Dec. 10	*Hastings	A	L, 68-70
Dec. 15	*Doane	H	W, 74-61
Dec. 20	(5) Oklahoma Wesleyan	N	L, 74-79
Dec. 28	Texas Wesleyan	A	W, 81-74
Dec. 30	Science & Arts of Okla.	A	L, 66-76
Jan. 5	*Mount Marty	A	L, 64-89
Jan. 7	*Dakota Wesleyan	H	W, 78-69
Jan. 14	*(14) Jamestown	A	L, 64-69
Jan. 19	*(20) Morningside	H	L, 71-76
Jan. 21	*Northwestern	A	L, 65-79
Jan. 25	*Hastings	H	W, 80-42
Jan. 27	Concordia Chicago	H	W, 89-70
Jan. 28	Concordia Wisconsin	H	W, 82-64
Feb. 1	*Midland	A	W, 91-63
Feb. 4	*Dordt	H	L, 71-74
Feb. 8	*Doane	A	W, 85-79
Feb. 15	*Briar Cliff	H	W, 85-56
Feb. 18	*Dakota Wesleyan	A	L, 72-75
GPAC Tournament			
Feb. 22	Northwestern	A	W, 90-77
Feb. 25	(11) Jamestown	A	L, 77-95

*Conference game

Coaching Staff



Head Coach
Ben Limback



Assistant Coach
Ryan Tegtmeier



Grad Asst. Coach
Byron Dean

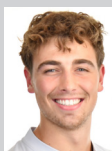
Concordia Starting Lineup



G • 5 • Jaxon Weyand
5-11 • Fr. • Crete, Neb.

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
4.9	2.1	40.6	38.7

- Has started 14 games as a true freshman.
- Totaled career high 16 points at Dakota Wesleyan on 2/18/23.
- Older brother Jonah was an All-GPAC running back at Concordia.
- Led Milford HS to a 26-1 record as a jr.



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

PTS	REB	APG	FG%
13.2	8.9	4.2	47.7

- Program career rankings of 2nd in rebounds (891), 12th in assists (276) & 15th in scoring (1,348).
- 3x All-GPAC (once 1st team; 2x 2nd team).
- Scored career high 32 points in win over Dakota Wesleyan on 2/6/21.



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

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
20.0	7.0	54.0	45.2

- Career totals of 1,134 points and 450 rebounds in 82 games.
- Posted career highs of 38 points, 18 rebounds and 9 3-point FGs at Northwestern on 2/22/23.
- More than 2,000 pts/1,000 rebs in HS.



G • 30 • Garrett Seagren
6-2 • Jr. • Oakland, Neb.

PTS	REB	SPG	FG%
6.7	2.4	1.1	47.6

- Has played two years at Concordia after transferring from Chaminade University.
- Scored career high 22 points at Midland on 2/1/23.
- Has started all 30 games after coming off the bench for 2021-22 GPAC title team.



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

PTS	REB	FG%	3-PT%
10.6	3.2	46.8	40.4

- Has started 18 games in first full varsity season (29 games played).
- Scored career high 25 points at Waldorf on 11/26/22.
- Made 8 3-pt FGs vs. Ottawa on 11/5/22.
- 2022-23 Honorable Mention All-GPAC.

Student Managers: Casey Stegeman, Braedon Thompson & Bradyn Whittington

Quick Facts

Concordia University, Nebraska

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

2022-23 Overall Record.....18-12
2022-23 GPAC Record.....11-9 (5th)
NAIA Tournament Appearances.....12
NAIA Tournament Record.....14-11
NAIA Fab Fours.....2

2022-23 Statistical Leaders

Points.....Noah Schutte (20.0)
Rebounds.....Noah Schutte (7.0)
Assists.....Gage Smith (4.2)
Steals.....Gage Smith (1.7)
Blocks.....Gage Smith (1.2)

Pronunciation Guide

4 – Koo-liss
 5 – Why-end
 10 – VUH-nahl-ICK
 12 – SHUT
 20 – GUH-less-pee
 21 – OOH-hair
 44 – woy-TUH
 50 – PELLs

Concordia MBB NAIA All-Americans

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



Limback Coaching Record

Concordia University, Nebraska (10 years)

2013-14 8-21, 3-17 GPAC
 2014-15 16-15, 9-11 GPAC
 2015-16 18-12, 10-10 GPAC
 2016-17 21-10, 10-8 GPAC
 2017-18 17-13, 8-10 GPAC
 2018-19 15-16, 7-13 GPAC
 2019-20 24-9, 12-8 GPAC
 2020-21 17-9, 14-6 GPAC
 2021-22 28-7, 15-5 GPAC
 2022-23 18-12, 11-9 GPAC

TOTAL: 182-125 | 99-97 GPAC

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

2022-23 Concordia Men's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Previous School
2	Trey Scheef	G	6-1	So.	Wahoo, Neb./Wahoo HS
3	Joel Baker	G	6-0	So.	Alliance, Neb./Alliance HS
4	Zac Kulus	G	6-0	Fr.	Bennington, Neb./Concordia Omaha HS
5	Jaxon Weyand	G	5-11	Fr.	Crete, Neb./Milford HS
10	Kelly Vyhnaek	F	6-7	Jr.	Seward, Neb./Seward HS
11	Gage Smith	F	6-6	Sr.	Elizabeth, Colo./Elizabeth HS
12	Noah Schutte	F	6-4	So.	Laurel, Neb./Laurel-Concord-Coleridge HS
20	Payson Gillespie	G	6-4	Fr.	Omaha, Neb./Westside HS
22	Tristan Smith	F	6-5	So.	Elizabeth, Colo./Elizabeth HS
24	Logan Wilson	F	6-7	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. Westside HS
30	Garrett Seagren	G	6-2	Jr.	Oakland, Neb./Chaminade
33	Bradley Bennett	G	6-1	So.	Elkhorn, Neb./Mt Michael Benedictine HS
34	Brayson Mueller	F	6-5	So.	Firth, Neb./Norris HS
44	Skyler Woita	F	6-7	Jr.	Wahoo, Neb./St. Gregory
50	Joshua Puelz	F	6-4	So.	Lincoln, Neb./Lincoln Lutheran HS

HEAD COACH BEN LIMBACK



Coaching Career

Concordia University, Nebraska | Head Coach
 2013 - present

Concordia University, Ann Arbor | Head Coach
 2003 - 2012

Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville | Assistant Coach
 2000 - 2003

Concordia University, Nebraska | Assistant Coach
 1999 - 2000

Playing Career

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



2022-23 SEASON STATISTICS

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

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RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	18-12	11-3	7-8	0-1
CONFERENCE	11-9	7-3	4-6	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	7-3	4-0	3-2	0-1

#	Player	gp-gs	min		Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds												pts		avg	
					fg-fga	pct	3fg-fga	pct	ft-fga	pct	off	def	tot	avg	pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl						
2	Trey Scheef	18-0	67	3.7	8-20	.400	8-18	.444	2-2	1.000	1	5	6	0.3	5	0	4	4	0	0	26	1.4				
3	Joel Baker	28-1	310	11.1	30-87	.345	13-62	.210	9-11	.818	2	31	33	1.2	27	0	20	15	0	11	82	2.9				
4	Zac Kulus	22-1	195	8.9	29-60	.483	22-45	.489	4-4	1.000	2	22	24	1.1	5	0	8	11	2	8	84	3.8				
5	Jaxon Weyand	14-10	266	19.0	26-64	.406	12-31	.387	4-14	.286	3	26	29	2.1	20	0	23	27	0	5	68	4.9				
10	Kelly Vyhnalek	28-1	283	10.1	32-64	.500	2-11	.182	8-22	.364	24	36	60	2.1	29	0	10	14	3	8	74	2.6				
11	Gage Smith	29-29	796	27.4	143-300	.477	27-91	.297	69-96	.719	64	193	257	8.9	85	4	121	51	34	48	382	13.2				
12	Noah Schutte	30-30	947	31.6	209-387	.540	47-104	.452	135-170	.794	66	145	211	7.0	37	0	63	52	6	17	600	20.0				
14	AJ Watson	12-12	347	28.9	37-109	.339	18-66	.273	16-19	.842	3	26	29	2.4	27	0	55	38	1	18	108	9.0				
20	Payson Gillespie	29-3	389	13.4	37-92	.402	22-71	.310	15-21	.714	11	38	49	1.7	42	1	20	23	3	15	111	3.8				
22	Tristan Smith	15-15	360	24.0	80-156	.513	8-29	.276	46-65	.708	21	73	94	6.3	36	3	27	36	15	13	214	14.3				
24	Logan Wilson	28-0	324	11.6	19-55	.345	15-47	.319	0-3	.000	8	52	60	2.1	34	0	15	12	6	7	53	1.9				
30	Garrett Seagren	30-30	794	26.5	81-170	.476	22-69	.319	17-23	.739	17	56	73	2.4	48	0	60	38	3	34	201	6.7				
33	Bradley Bennett	29-18	786	27.1	110-235	.468	55-136	.404	31-43	.721	13	79	92	3.2	48	0	46	33	7	19	306	10.6				
34	Brayson Mueller	7-0	53	7.6	5-18	.278	2-10	.200	4-6	.667	3	14	17	2.4	7	0	4	4	1	3	16	2.3				
44	Skyler Woita	15-0	54	3.6	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	5	14	19	1.3	6	0	2	1	1	2	4	0.3				
50	Josh Puelz	11-0	29	2.6	4-9	.444	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	2	7	9	0.8	1	0	1	2	3	0	11	1.0				
Total.....		30	6000		851-1830		.465	274-792	.346	364-503	.724	277	871	1148	38.3	457	8	479	368	85	208	2340	78.0			
Opponents.....		30	5997		778-1813		.429	223-758	.294	308-445	.692	225	753	978	32.6	480	-	378	351	95	189	2087	69.6			



THE 2022 RUN TO THE NATIONAL QUARTERFINALS



GPAC Champs make memorable run 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."





NAIA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Appearances: 12 | Record: 14-11 | Fab Fours: 2

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



2022

1ST RD: W, 96-78 vs. Indiana Northwest

2ND RD: W, 90-67 vs. Marian (Ind.)

RD of 16: W, 75-65 vs. Indiana Kokomo

QUARTERFINALS: L, 77-69 vs. Talladega (Ala.)

2020

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

2005

1ST RD: W, 74-69 vs. Trinity Christian (Ill.)

2ND RD: W, 70-63 vs. Flagler (Fla.)

QUARTERFINALS: W, 71-68 vs. Cornerstone (Mich.)

SEMIFINALS: W, 62-56 vs. Cedarville (Ohio)

CHAMPIONSHIP: L, 81-70 vs. Walsh (Ohio)

2003

1ST RD: W, 73-62 vs. Dominican (Calif.)

2ND RD: W, 68-54 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)

QUARTERFINALS: L, 77-72 (OT) vs. Bethany (Kan.)

2001

1ST RD: W, 88-70 vs. Cardinal Stritch (Wis.)

2ND RD: L, 85-77 vs. Cornerstone (Mich.)

1998

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

1997

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

1996

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

1995

1ST RD: W, 90-69 vs. Loyala (La.)

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

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

1992

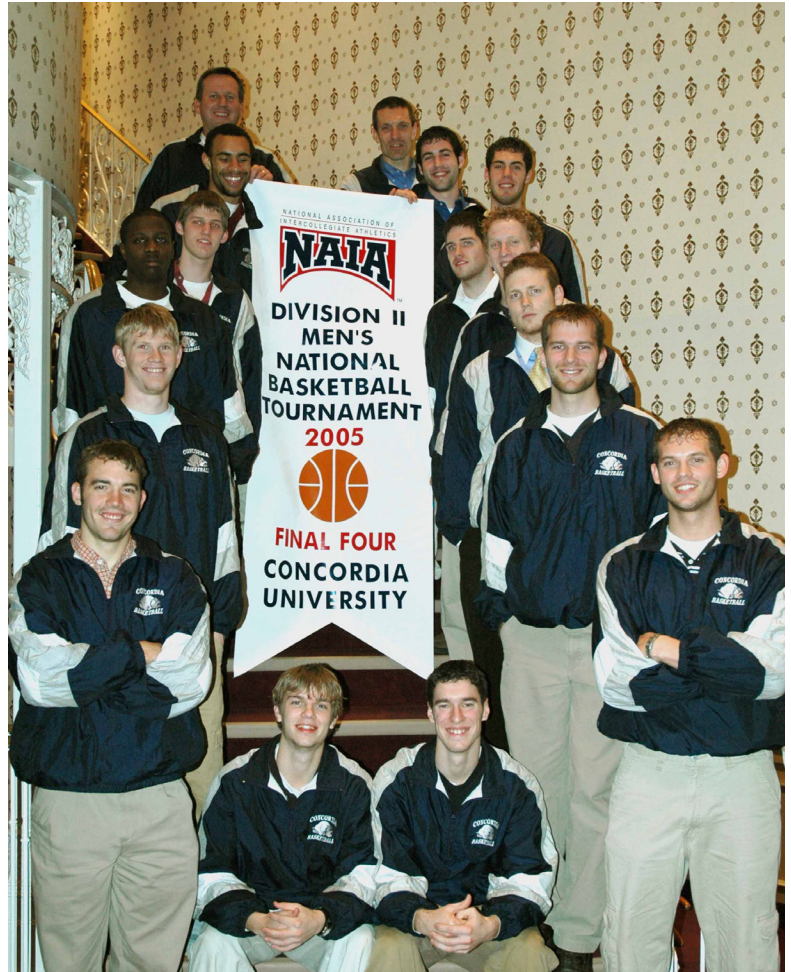
1ST RD: W, 75-63 vs. Northwest Nazarene (Idaho)

QUARTERFINALS: W, 102-90 vs. MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.)

SEMIFINALS: L, 95-89 vs. Grace (Ind.)

1991

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





SCORING (1,000-point scorers)

1. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	2,099
2. Tom Raabe (1967-71)	2,016
3. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	1,963
4. John Puelz (1989-92)	1,955
5. Carter Kent (2018-22)	1,699
6. Devin Smith (1989-92)	1,659
7. Rick Dietze (2001-04)	1,625
8. Matt List (1988-91)	1,608
9. Tanner Shuck (2016-20)	1,579
10. Ben Buhr (2005-08)	1,479
11. Scott Enrstmeyer (1993-96)	1,417
12. Scott Beck (2003-06)	1,406
13. Porter Birtell (2009-13)	1,390
14. Ryan Kness (1993-95)	1,354
15. Gage Smith (2018-23)	1,348
16. Tim Schroeder (1997, 99-01)	1,346
17. Darin Engelbart (1992-96)	1,335
17. Travis Wischmeier (1999-2002)	1,335
19. Justin Wiersema (2018-22)	1,276
20. Bret Walter (1993-96)	1,248
21. Brevin Sloup (2016-20)	1,246
22. Josh Dahlke (1995-99)	1,221
23. Brent Cumber (1986-89)	1,210
24. Eli Ziegler (2013-17)	1,194
25. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	1,170
26. Ben Limback (1995-99)	1,158
27. Scott Hannon (2005-08)	1,149
28. Noah Schutte (2020--)	1,134
29. Mark Cutler (1980-84)	1,126
30. Drew Olson (2000-03)	1,123
31. Jason Jisa (2003-05)	1,117
32. Tyler Byrd (2008-12)	1,113
33. Derek Engelbart (1998-2001)	1,105
34. Joel Haywood (2011-15)	1,091
35. Mike Works (1990-92)	1,039

Points, Single Game

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

REBOUNDS

1. Matt List (1988-91)	928
2. Gage Smith (2018-23)	891
3. Chandler Folkerts (2013-17)	868
4. Scott Beck (2003-06)	781
5. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	762
6. Scott Ernstmeyer (1993-96)	730
7. Devin Smith (1989-92)	729
8. Porter Birtell (2009-13)	712
9. Sam Huebner (2008-11)	684
10. Robby Thomas (2012-16)	645
11. Glen Snodgrass (1995-98)	607
12. Ryan Kness (1993-95)	599
13. Elliot Rea (1994-97)	584
14. Ben Limback (1996-99)	505
15. Rick Dietze (2001-04)	496

ASSISTS

1. Darin Engelbart (1992-96)	657
2. Mike Works (1990-92)	496
3. Scott Beck (2003-06)	446
4. Ben Limback (1996-99)	388
5. Travis Wischmeier (1999-02)	340
6. Joel Haywood (2011-15)	334
7. Carter Kent (2018-22)	324
8. Tyler Byrd (2008-12)	320
9. Justin Wiersema (2018-22)	300
10. Jon Ziegler (2004-07)	287
11. Jason Boyd (1996-98)	278
12. Gage Smith (2018-23)	276
13. Eli Ziegler (2013-17)	273
14. Matt List (1988-91)	272
15. Tanner Shuck (2016-20)	262

STEALS

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

BLOCKS

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



Chandler Folkerts



GPAC Standings

School	GPAC	%	Overall	%
Jamestown	15-5	.750	25-6	.806
Morningside	15-5	.750	22-7	.759
Dordt	14-6	.700	25-6	.806
Northwestern	13-7	.650	20-9	.690
Concordia	11-9	.550	18-12	.600
Dakota Wesleyan	9-11	.450	13-16	.448
Hastings	8-12	.400	15-14	.517
Briar Cliff	8-12	.400	14-14	.500
Doane	8-12	.400	11-17	.393
Mount Marty	5-15	.250	9-19	.321
Midland	4-16	.200	10-18	.357

GPAC All-Conference

FIRST TEAM

G - Dillon Carlson, Sr.	Northwestern
G - Bryce Coppock, Jr.	Dordt
C - Ely Doble, Jr.	Morningside
F - Koln Oppold, Sr.	Dakota Wesleyan
F - Noah Schutte, So.	Concordia
G - Joey Skoff, Jr.	Morningside
F - Craig Sterk, Jr.	Northwestern
G - Brady Timm, So.	Doane
F - Jacob Vis, Jr.	Dordt
F - Mason Walters, Sr.	Jamestown

SECOND TEAM

G - Will Cordes, Jr.	Jamestown
G - Jaden Kleinhesselink, Grad	Briar Cliff
F - Tash Lunday, Fr.	Mount Marty
F - Alec Oberhauser, Sr.	Doane
G - Jake Orr, Fr.	Midland
G - Luke Rankin, So.	Dordt
F - Gage Smith, Sr.	Concordia
G - Reggie Thomas, Fr.	Hastings
G - Aidan Vanderloo, Jr.	Morningside
G - Cole Woodford, Jr.	Jamestown

Player of the Year: Mason Walters, Jamestown
Defensive Player of the Year: Trey Powers, M'side
Freshman of the Year: Reggie Thomas, Hastings
Coach of the Year: Trent Miller, Morningside

GPAC Tournament Results

Quarterfinals - Feb. 21/22

- (1) Jamestown def. (8) Hastings, 76-62
- (5) Concordia def. (4) Northwestern, 90-77
- (2) Morningside def. (7) Briar Cliff, 101-95
- (3) Dordt def. (6) Dakota Wesleyan, 93-66

Semifinals - Feb. 25

- (1) Jamestown def. (5) Concordia, 95-77
- (3) Dordt def. (2) Morningside, 83-82

Championship - Feb. 28

- (3) Dordt def. (1) Jamestown, 86-81

National Tournament Facts

- The 2023 trip to nationals will mark the 12th all-time appearance on the national stage for the program. Head Coach Ben Limback has now led the Bulldogs to three national tournament appearances, including the national tourney trips in 2020 and 2022. 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 six times. Two teams in program history have reached at least the semifinals: the 1991-92 squad and the 2004-05 team (national runner up). The 1994-95, 2002-03 and 2021-22 squads advanced to the national quarterfinals. The 2021-22 team enjoyed a dream season while led by NAIA Second Team All-American Carter Kent. The Bulldogs dominated in the first two rounds held in Omaha, where they won by scores of 96-78 over Indiana University Northwest and 90-67 over Marian University (Ind.). Concordia then advanced to the round of 16 in Kansas City, Mo., where it knocked off Indiana University Kokomo, 75-65, before being eliminated in the quarterfinals by Talladega College (Ala.), 77-69.
- During the '22 run at the national tournament, Noah Schutte burst onto the scene and was named to the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship All-Tournament Team. During the four games, Schutte averaged 20.0 points and 9.8 rebounds while shooting 63.4 percent from the field. Of the 15 players on the postseason roster, seven have appeared in at least one national tournament game: Joel Baker, Schutte, Garrett Seagren, Gage Smith, Tristan Smith, Kelly Vyh-nalek and Skyler Woita.
- The 2004-05 team set a still-intact school record with 32 wins that season. On the way to reaching the national title game, the '04-5 group defeated Trinity Christian (Ill.), Flagler (Fla.), Cornerstone (Mich.) and Cedarville (Ohio) in Point Lookout, Mo. The Bulldogs then fell at the hands of Walsh (Ohio) in the program's lone national title game appearance.
- Concordia's Marcus Wernke was the NAIA Division II national tournament record holder for most blocked shots in a game (nine) and most blocked shots in a single tournament (23). Both of those feats were accomplished in 2005. Jason Jisa was also honored with the Hustle Award at the '05 tourney. NAIA Division II came to an end with a fusion of the two divisions following the 2019-20 season.
- Schmidt led the Bulldogs to their first-ever national tournament appearance in 1991. At that time, the NAIA was still just one division for basketball. Four members of the 1990-91 squad have been inducted into the Concordia Athletic Hall of Fame: Matt List, John Puelz, Devin Smith and Mike Works. The latter three were also members of the 1991-92 squad that broke through with the program's first-ever national tournament win.
- On March 12, 2020, the Bulldogs played in the final NAIA Division II men's basketball game ever. The remainder of the tournament following Concordia's 87-84 loss to Ottawa (Kan.) was shut down due to COVID-19. Just one Bulldog on the current roster saw action in that national tournament game: Gage Smith. The contest took place at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D.





#2 TREY SCHEEF



6-1 • Sophomore • Guard
Wahoo, Neb.
Wahoo HS

#3 JOEL BAKER



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



#4 | ZAC KULUS



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

#5 | JAXON WEYAND



5-11 • Freshman • Guard
Crete, Neb.
Milford HS





PLAYER PROFILES

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

#10 | KELLY VYHNALEK



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

#11 | GAGE SMITH



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



#12 | NOAH SCHUTTE



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

#20 | PAYSON GILLESPIE



6-4 • Freshman • Guard
Omaha, Neb.
Westside HS





#22 | TRISTAN SMITH



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

#24 | LOGAN WILSON



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



#30 | GARRETT SEAGREN



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

#33 | BRADLEY BENNETT



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





PLAYER PROFILES

CONCORDIA MEN'S BASKETBALL

WWW.CUNE.EDU/ATHLETICS

#34 BRAYSON MUELLER



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

#44 | SKYLER WOITA



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



#50 | JOSHUA PUELZ



6-4 • Sophomore • Forward
Lincoln, Neb.
Lincoln Lutheran HS





SEASON SUMMARY: BULLDOGS SQUEEZE INTO NATIONALS



The starting five the Concordia University Men's Basketball team trotted out at the beginning of the season has been reshaped over the course of 2022-23. Despite the adversity the Bulldogs faced, they persevered and wound up placing fifth in the GPAC regular season standings while reaching the semifinals of the conference tournament. The 90-77 win at Northwestern in the GPAC quarterfinals may have been what pushed Concordia onto the right side of the national tournament bubble. The Bulldogs have earned an at-large national tournament bid for the second time in program history (all other national qualifications came via the auto bid).

Limback's squad has been led all season by First Team All-GPAC honoree Noah Schutte, who should land himself All-America honors in the postseason. Schutte showed no fear in 2022 when he appeared at the national tournament for the first time in his career (all-tournament selection). The Laurel, Neb., native has ascended to even greater heights in his third college season. Schutte enters the tournament averaging 20.0 points and 7.0 rebounds per game. Among GPAC players this season, Schutte ranks fourth in scoring average (20.0), fourth in 3-point field goal percentage (.452), eighth in rebounding (7.0), ninth in free throw percentage (.794) and 10th in field goal percentage (.540). In his career as a Bulldog, Schutte has totaled 1,134 points and 450 rebounds in 82 games.

Down the stretch, Schutte was joined in the starting five by fellow star frontcourt star Gage Smith, as well as guards Brad Bennett, Garrett Seagren and Jaxon Weyand. Concordia had to recalibrate in the middle of the season without two starters. In late December/early January, the Bulldogs endured a stretch in which they lost five out of six games. They responded by going 6-1 after the next seven. During that time, CUNE dominated the Concordia Invitational Tournament at home and defeated in-state rivals Doane, Hastings and Midland. In perhaps the team's best performance of the season,

the Bulldogs drained 20 treys in the conference quarterfinal win at Northwestern.

The national tournament berth extends the career of Gage Smith, who sports current program all-time rankings of second in rebounds (891), 12th in assists (276) and 15th in scoring (1,348). The Elizabeth, Colo., native has played in 133 games since arriving with the start of the fall semester of 2018. Gage has played on two separate teams that won GPAC championships – the 2019-20 and 2021-22 editions. Gage's younger brother Tristan may even be available next week. Tristan averaged 14.3 points and 6.3 rebounds per game before suffering an injury on Dec. 30 that has kept him out ever since.

Limback owns an overall record of 182-125 in his 10 seasons at the helm of his alma mater. He needs three more victories to reach 300 for his entire 19-year collegiate head coaching career.

By the numbers

- The 2023 trip to nationals will mark the 12th all-time appearance on the national stage for the program. Head Coach Ben Limback has now led the Bulldogs to three national tournament appearances, including the national tourney trips in 2020 and 2022. 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. This is just the second time in program history that Concordia has earned an at-large bid (1996 was the other instance). The 2020 and 2022 appearances both came on the heels of GPAC tournament titles.

- Concordia has won its first-round game at the national tournament six times. Two teams in program history have reached at



least the semifinals: the 1991-92 squad and the 2004-05 team (national runner up). The 1994-95, 2002-03 and 2021-22 squads advanced to the national quarterfinals. The 2021-22 team enjoyed a dream season while led by NAIA Second Team All-American Carter Kent. The Bulldogs dominated in the first two rounds held in Omaha, where they won by scores of 96-78 over Indiana University Northwest and 90-67 over Marian University (Ind.). Concordia then advanced to the round of 16 in Kansas City, Mo., where it knocked off Indiana University Kokomo, 75-65, before being eliminated in the quarterfinals by Talladega College (Ala.), 77-69.

- The at-large bid gives fifth-year player Gage Smith, as well as the class of seniors, another opportunity to take the court as Bulldogs. The senior group includes Garrett Seagren, Kelly Vyhnalek and Skyler Woita. This will be Smith's third trip to the national tournament. While starting 29 games this season, Smith is averaging 13.2 points, 8.9 rebounds, 4.2 assists, 1.7 steals and 1.2 blocks per game. He's shooting 47.7 percent from the field, 29.7 percent from 3-point range and 71.9 percent from the foul line. On the program's all-time lists, Smith ranks second in rebounds (891), 12th in assists (276) and 15th in scoring (1,348). He's played in 133 career games as a Bulldog. The Elizabeth, Colo., native has been named all-conference three times. Gage sat out the GPAC semifinal loss at Jamestown due to being under the weather.

- First Team All-GPAC honoree Noah Schutte made a name for himself on the national scene a year ago when he was recognized as an NAIA National Championship All-Tournament Team selection. Schutte raised his game to new heights in his third collegiate season. He's averaging 20.0 points and 7.0 rebounds per game after an impressive flurry in the regular season finale and in two GPAC postseason contests. Schutte produced career highs of 38

points, 18 rebounds and nine 3-point field goals (school record) in the GPAC quarterfinal win at Northwestern. Among GPAC players this season, Schutte ranks fourth in scoring average (20.0), fourth in 3-point field goal percentage (.452), eighth in rebounding (7.0), ninth in free throw percentage (.794) and 10th in field goal percentage (.540). In his career as a Bulldog, Schutte has totaled 1,134 points and 450 rebounds in 82 games.

- Throughout the 2022-23 season, Concordia has stood out as one of the GPAC's top defensive teams. Among GPAC squads, the Bulldogs rank first in scoring defense (69.6), first in defensive efficiency (0.966) and second in field goal percentage (.429). Gage Smith's defense in the post has played a big role in that success. Offensively, Concordia has averaged 78.0 points per game while shooting 46.5 percent from the field, 34.6 percent from 3-point range and 72.4 percent from the foul line. The Bulldogs might get a boost on both ends of the floor if Tristan Smith is able to give it a go at the national tournament. He suited up for both GPAC tournament games but did not see action. Tristan has been sidelined since suffering an injury just before New Year's.

- While Schutte was named to the GPAC's first team and Gage Smith landed on the second team, both Brad Bennett and Tristan Smith were recognized as honorable mention all-conference recipients. Bennett has averaged 10.6 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game. The Elkhorn, Neb., native is shooting 46.8 percent from the floor, 40.4 percent from beyond the arc and 72.1 percent from the foul line. Tristan started the first 15 games of the season and averaged 14.3 points and 6.3 rebounds per game while shooting 51.3 percent from the field and 70.8 percent from the foul line. The Elizabeth, Colo., native recorded a career high 23 points in the season opening win over Tabor College (Kan.).





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