

Rugby Club moves on to conference championships



The CSS women's rugby team poses after their victory over Gustavus on Oct. 23. Script photo/Ashley Etter

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Last Saturday, Oct. 23, both the men's and women's rugby teams faced off against Gustavus Adolphus College and Bemidji University, respectively. Both teams were able to secure the victory, with the women winning 50-24 and the men winning 32-24.

This means that both will be advancing to conference championships, where the women will face Moorhead State University, and the men will face Macalester College. The Script interviewed captains from both the men's and women's teams.

Hailey Durand-Christianson, a senior nursing and psychology major is a captain of the women's rugby team. When asked how the season has been so far, she said, "The season has been going well; we remain undefeated."

Prior to their victory over Gustavus, Durand-Christianson said her hope

for the season was to "Beat Gustavus this weekend, and secure a spot in the final conference championship game. We could potentially go to nationals, but that is yet to be determined."

She closed out the interview by saying, "Please join rugby; there's great comradery, you'll learn to love the sport and you'll learn to love the people."

The women's rugby team was the only CSS team to secure a win during the week of Homecoming.

The Script also interviewed Dylan Schafer, a senior exercise physiology major and captain of the men's rugby team. When asked how the season was going, he said, "It's kind of been a weird season, especially with COVID. We've been trying to get more people out. But honestly together we've been growing as a team really well. Each game we get better and better and we actually have a lot of potential as a team."

When asked his hope for

the rest of the season, Schafer said, "The hope is always to get to nationals, but this season the biggest hope is to get more people out and keep the team growing. I think it's a great opportunity for people to come and join, and if we keep people out we have a better chance in years to come."

He encouraged students to join rugby. "Just give it a shot. A lot of people think they can't play because they haven't played any sports. Anyone can play and it's really a sport for everyone. Try it, come for practices and try one game, and it'll make a huge difference. I've heard from people who never thought they'd play, they tried one game, and then fell in love with it."

Overall, both teams have had great seasons, the women currently undefeated and the men with one loss in their season moving into the postseason, and will hopefully continue to do so as they look towards the conference championship.

Men's and women's hockey skate into MIAC

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It's getting colder and frostier in the Northland, and that means that hockey season is upon us.

Women's hockey begins their season on Tuesday, Nov. 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Mars Lakeview Arena in Duluth, Minn., when they'll challenge the University of Wisconsin-Superior Yellowjackets.

After that, it's off to Stevens Point, where the women will take on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Pointers on Friday, Nov. 5 and Saturday, Nov. 6, both at 7:00 p.m.

The team's approach won't change much as they enter the MIAC, said senior goaltender and mathematics, CIS and chemistry major Lori Huseby in email correspondence with The Script.

"We know from playing teams in the MIAC for non-conference games that they are a quicker conference, so we will have to adjust for that, but we have been playing with quick transitions and puck movement in practice and feel like our approach to those teams will be the same as it has been before," she said.

Huseby also said that she is "loo[king] forward to meeting new teams" her final season with the Saints. "Each game will be a new challenge, and we are all ready to get started and have a normal season compared to last year."

The St. Scholastica men's hockey team is set to begin their season on Friday, Oct. 29 at 7:00 p.m. at Mars Lakeview Arena. The Saints will take on the Concordia University Wisconsin Falcons. Oct. 29 will also be the

team's MIAC debut, but the transition from UMAC isn't set to pose many differences for the CSS men's hockey team, according to Jon Hansen, a senior defenseman and psychology major.

"Going in the MIAC is a change, but in my previous three years we've played a lot of MIAC teams and been competitive with them. I don't think that this year will be any different," he said. "They're good teams, but I think that we have a good team as well. We'll be able to have some good games with them."

One benefit of playing in the MIAC is that most games are close to home. "It's a lot less travel than we've had in the past three years," Hansen said.

"Our first four or five games are at the Mars Arena, so it's nice to get a few home games under our belt. And from there on out, usually in the MIAC anyway, there are only a couple of games that are far away."

This season is the first with Coach Dave Williams, who was the team's assistant coach before Coach Kevin Moore's departure last season. "We're in very good hands. We'll be able to battle for him."

Hansen and Huseby both encouraged students to attend games if they can. "If students can make it work with their schedules, it really helps us a lot having our classmates there in the stands. We always really appreciate it. It makes it a lot more fun," said Hansen.

Huseby said, "Support is really important to us, and we love seeing a huge student section at our games. It helps us be more excited and feel like we are part of the CSS community. Our games are fast paced and have really great music, so come watch!!"

Volleyball seniors speak about new MIAC season

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Ellie Greenwaldt, setter, and Haley Rohwer, middle blocker, discussed the current volleyball season in contrast to previous years. Greenwaldt opened with the duration of their season, one constant between last season and this season. "Usually, we start preseason in the middle of August and we are done the first week in November."

Rohwer explained the layout of their season a bit more in-depth, "Our season usually starts with a two-week preseason that begins the second week of August. Competition begins at the end of August or the beginning of September with a few tournaments and then conference matches begin at the end of September through till the end of October. The playoffs are the first week of November."

When asked about the major differences between prior years and this current

season, Rohwer said, "The biggest change would have to be the competition we are facing. The MIAC level of competition is one that is slightly above where we have been playing the past few years. This challenge only pushes us further and allows our sports to grow and become better. We are playing harder, faster and stronger than in previous years."

Additionally, Greenwaldt echoed this response with her own input. "The biggest change is the level of competition. In the UMAC, the only real hard competition we had in our conference was [University of Northwestern] UNW and [Minnesota] Morris. However, in the MIAC, every single team is excellent so we have to show up ready to play our hardest every point, every game."

In response to being asked how the team is getting along, Greenwaldt said, "Our team dynamic has been super well this



Photo provided by Saints Athletics, taken by Honoria Xiong

year! We all understand each other super well and there has been no dramatics, which is surprising for an all-girls team."

Rohwer said, "We have real chemistry and we can rely on each other on and off of the court. One of our team mottos is 'love thy teammate,' and this year our team dynamic is a great reflection of that."

The seniors were asked how their competition with "bridge battle rival" University of Wisconsin Superior (UWS) has changed in their new athletic conference. Greenwaldt said, "We scrimmaged UWS at the beginning of the season, so we had an

idea of how they were going to be. Beating UWS was definitely a big highlight of mine as it is the last time that I will play them due to it being my senior year. Furthermore, beating them on our own home floor was just an added bonus." Rohwer said, "Usually our bridge battle against UWS is a highlight of any season. Yet, nothing is set in stone and anyone is beatable. We just have to keep our energy high and errors low!"

Before heading into playoffs, the Saints will have to face off against two more MIAC competitors, Gustavus Adolphus away on Oct. 29 and Augsburg at their home court on Oct. 30.

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Early in the third the Knights scored once again, making it 23-7. However, a run from Bishop on fourth-and-goal at the one increased the Saints score to 14. Upon entering the fourth quarter, a strip sack by the Knights allowed them a short field. Due to this, they were able to score once again, leading to the final score of 30-14. While the Saints were not able to secure a win, they played well and did their best to ensure it was not an easy victory for Carleton. Schlender ran 65 yards, a season-high, and scored his first collegiate touchdown. Sean Diedrich had 43 yards on four carries, and Bishop threw for 151 yards.

Adrian matched his personal program record with 15 receptions for 86 yards, and Jamari Thompson ended the game with 16 tackles, leading the defense. The Saints are set to face off against St. John's on Oct. 30.