Cobber Volleyball 2005
MATCH 5 – CONCORDIA vs. UM-Morris – Sept. 6, 2005 – Memorial Auditorium

GAME TIME: 7:00 pm
SERIES: UM-Morris leads 9-8-1
SERIES STARTED: 1976
LAST TIME THEY MET: The last time these two teams met was back in 2003 in Morris, Minn. Like tonight, it was the fifth match of the season. Concordia had opened the year at the MSU Moorhead tournament and came into the match-up with the Cougars with a 2-2 record. The Cobbers dominated the match throughout, winning 3-1. For the Cobbers, Jessica Walden recorded 27 assists and Jacki Barten added 17 kills. Concordia won the first game 30-26. The last time Morris prevailed was in 1993 when they actually took both matches from the Cobbers that year...there have been five sweeps in the series and all five belong to the Cobbers.

Game Day Opening Serve
(What you need to know about today’s Concordia-UM-Morris match-up)
• Concordia enters tonight’s match having won their opening four outings of the season. That equals a program record for most consecutive wins to start a season. The last time a Cobber team started the season 4-0 was back in 1985. If the Cobbers can win tonight, they will set a program record for most wins to start the season.
• Concordia is off to a terrific start because of their tournament championship at the Haverford (Pa.) Invitational. The Cobbers swept all four matches in three games. A pair of Concordia players earned tournament honors in Haverford. Junior All-American Becca Shane was named to the All-Tournament Team and freshman Jill Hance was honored as the tournament MVP. Hance was one of three Concordia setters who recorded over 40 assists in the four-match tourney. She also led the team in service aces per game (0.63). Besides Hance, Alyssa Dahl and Anna Tinkham also quarterbacked the Cobber offense and did a tremendous job of setting the attack for the Cobber frontline.
• The Cobbers have won their last three home openers and are 9-7 in the previous 16 initial matches of the season at Concordia. The last time they lost a home opener was in 2001 when they were swept by MSU Moorhead. Head Coach Tim Mosser is 5-7 in his 12 home openers. The earliest Concordia has had a home match in the season is September 1 (1999) and the latest the Cobbers have opened their home slate was on October 9 (1992).
• UM-Morris has started their 2005 season on the other side of the rainbow as Concordia. The Cougars opened their year by dropping four straight at the UW-Eau Claire Invite. In that tourney they were swept by St. Ben’s and Hamline.

Concordia 2005 Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>Result/Series</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>vs. Susquehanna @ Haverford</td>
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<td>W 3-0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UMM 9-8-1</td>
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Concordia Quick Facts
School: Concordia College
Location: Moorhead, MN 56562
Founded: 1891
Enrollment: 2,826
Nickname: Cobbers
Colors: Maroon and Gold
Facility: Memorial Auditorium
Conference: Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC)
President: Dr. Pamela Jolicoeur
Athletics Director: Dr. Larry Papenfuss
Head Trainer: Stephanie Brandt
Compliance Coordinator: Kerry Norman
National Affiliation: NCAA III
Athletics Phone: 218-299-4434
Athletics Fax: 218-299-4189

Concordia Volleyball Coach
Tim Mosser

Tim Mosser became Concordia’s head volleyball coach in 1993. In the past two seasons he has guided Concordia to the MIAC playoff tournament championship and helped the Cobbers amass 50 wins. In both years the team advanced to the NCAA tournament and claimed first-round victories before losing in the regional semifinal.

Mosser became the first coach in the history of the program to win 200 matches. The milestone came in the second match of the season. Since that time he has pushed his win total to 223 and furthered his reputation as the program’s all-time winningest coach. Mosser was voted MIAC Coach of the Year in 1995.

A native of Fortuna, ND, Mosser earned a B.S. degree in Mathematics Education at North Dakota State University in 1986. He completed work on his M.S. degree in Physical Education and Athletic Administration in 1993 at NDSU.

Before coming to Concordia, Tim was the assistant coach at Division II power North Dakota State University from 1990-92. In his first year at Concordia, Mosser lead the Cobbers to a 7-4 conference record, good enough for a fourth place finish in the 12-team MIAC.

Tim has also coached at the high school and club levels. In addition, he directs summer volleyball camps at Concordia and throughout eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota. Mosser also serves as a faculty member at Concordia, teaching in the Physical Education and Mathematics departments at Concordia.

2005 Concordia Volleyball Roster

Coaching Staff:
Head Coach: Tim Mosser – (13th Season; 223-163 overall/87-46 MIAC)
Assistant Coaches: Bob Jones (7th Season), Allison Kluck (1st Year)

2005 Cobber Statistics (as of September 6, 2005)

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CONCORDIA: 12 157 13.08 45 387 .289 135 11.25 29 2.42 21
to be married this October.

Phelps is engaged to Julie Casey who is a Director in the Residential Life Office at UMM. They are to be married this October.

A licensed massage therapist, Phelps is engaged to Julie Casey who is a Director in the Residential Life Office at UMM. They are to be married this October.

The Licensed Massage Therapist, Phelps is engaged to Julie Casey who is a Director in the Residential Life Office at UMM. They are to be married this October.

U of Minn.-Morris Quick Facts
School: University of Minnesota-Morris
Location: Morris, MN
Founded: 1960
Enrollment: 1900
Nickname: Cougars
Colors: Maroon and gold
Facility: Conference: UMCAthletics Director: Mark Fohl National Affiliation: NCAA II Athletics Phone: 320-589-6423 Athletics Fax: 320-589-6428

UM-Morris Volleyball Coaching Staff
Head Coach: Heather Pennie
Heather Pennie begins her eighth season as Head Volleyball Coach at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Pennie received her Bachelors degree at UMM in 1994. She was a four-year letter winner in volleyball and softball. Pennie did her graduate work at NSIC rival Northern State University.

Coach Pennie took over as head volleyball coach in 1998. She is also the head softball coach at the University of Minnesota, Morris. A native of Villard, Minnesota, Pennie was a standout high school athlete at Villard Public School, which is now Minnewaska Area High School.

Entering the 2003 season Coach Pennie was 33-119.

Assistant Coach: Corey Phelps
Corey Phelps comes to UMM after spending six seasons as the assistant volleyball coach at Saint Mary’s University in Winona, Minnesota.

Phelps earned his B.A. degree in Physical Education and Health in 1995 at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, and a Masters in Human Development and Sports Psychology in 2004 from Saint Mary’s University.

Phelps is engaged to Julie Casey who is a Director in the Residential Life Office at UMM. They are to be married this October.

2005 Minn.-Morris Volleyball Roster
No. Name Yr. Pos HT Hometown/High School
1 Samantha Wahl So. M 5-8 Watertown, SD/Watertown HS
2 Brittany Kill So. S 5-9 Alberta, MN/Chokio-Alberta HS
3 Elizabeth Krueger Jr. M 5-10 Maple Plain, MN/Orono HS
4 Malinda Ridler Fr. M 5-7 Milbank, SD/Milbank HS
5 Sarah Nelson Jr. OH 5-10 Alexandria, MN/Jefferson HS
6 Rachel Hugley Fr. OH 5-5 St. Paul, MN/Humboldt HS
7 Tara Connolly So. M 6-0 Danvers, MN/Benson HS
8 Briana Czer Fr. OH 6-1 New Ulm, MN/MN Valley Lutheran HS
9 Ashley Janssen Jr. OH 5-7 Round Lake, MN/S.V.-R.L.-B. HS
10 Casie Wiebe Fr. OH 5-8 Hines, MN/Blackduck HS
11 Melissa Walter So. S 5-8 Belgrade, MN/BBE HS
12 Kirsten Neilson Jr. OH 6-2 White Bear Lake, MN/W.B.L. HS
13 Ashley Olson So. OH 5-8 St. Paul, MN/Highland Park HS
14 Megan Aschenbrenner So. OH 5-8 Forest Lake, MN/Forest Lake HS
15 Kirsten Reed Jr. OH 5-7 Mounds View, MN/Irondale HS
16 Kelly Whipple Jr. OH 5-6 St. Francis, SD/Todd County HS

2005 Cougar Schedule
Date Opponent Time/Result
Sept 2 vs. Hamline (Eau Claire, WI) L 0-3
Sept 2 vs. UW Eau Claire (Eau Claire, WI) L 0-3
Sept 3 vs. St. Benedict (Eau Claire, WI) L 0-3
Sept 3 vs. UW Stout (Eau Claire, WI) L 0-3
Sept 6 at Concordia College 7:00 pm
Sept 12 at University of Sioux Falls 7:30 pm
Sept 15-17 Concordia College Tournament TBD
Sept 23 vs. Martin Luther College* (New Ulm, MN) 3:00 pm
Sept 23 vs. Bethany Lutheran* (New Ulm, MN) 7:00 pm
Sept 24 vs. Crown College*(New Ulm, MN) 12:00 pm
Sept 24 vs. Northwestern College* (New Ulm, MN) 4:00 pm
Sept 30 ST. SCHOLASTICA* 5:00 pm
Oct 1 NORTHLAND COLLEGE* 10:00 am
Oct 1 PRESENTATION COLLEGE* 2:00 pm
Oct 4 MAYVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY 7:00 pm
Oct 7 CROWN COLLEGE* 7:00 pm
Oct 8 NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE* 1:00 pm
Oct 12 UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS 7:00 pm
Oct 14 at Martin Luther College*) 7:00 pm
Oct 15 at Bethany Lutheran* 1:00 pm
Oct 21 ST. SCHOLASTICA* 7:00 pm
Oct 22 NORTHLAND COLLEGE* 1:00 pm
Oct 26 at Presentation College* 7:00 pm
Oct 28-29 UW Superior Tournament - Superior, WI TBD
Nov 4-5 UMAC Championships TBD
The tendency in writing a preview of the 2005 Concordia volleyball team would be to use the over-used, rah-rah cliché “We don’t rebuild, we reload.” However, in 2005 that might be exactly the case for the Cobbers as they get set to embark on the first season without the crew of players who started all four years in a Concordia uniform. Lost to graduation were 2004 MIAC Most Valuable Player Jessica Walden, four-time All-MIAC performer Jacki Barten and perhaps the very lifeblood of the team in 1,000 kill and dig all-star Amy Fitzner. Despite this huge blow to the Cobber volleyball ship, head coach Tim Mosser remains optimistic for the prospects of the 2005 voyage. “We might make some mistakes early in the season but in the end, I think we’ll be right in the middle of the title race,” said Mosser.

The biggest reason for the exuberance of Mosser can be found in the 6-2 frame of All-American Becca Shane. Shane has matured into the most feared middle hitter in the conference. She led the team in kills last season with 376 and in her first two seasons of competition has amassed 736 winners. Joining Shane on the frontline will be sophomore two-sport athlete Michelle Honek. Honek progressed slowly in her freshman season in 2004 but finished with a flourish as she recorded double-digit kill totals in three of her last five matches against MIAC opponents. The Shane/Honek tandem will provide a strong hull for the Cobber ship in the beginning of the year. The ability of Concordia to cut through the treacherous waters of the MIAC will depend on how quickly the frontline newcomers figure out the speed of the college game.

Another potential iceberg in the waters could be finding a replacement for all-everything setter Jessica Walden. Walden finished her career as the school’s all-time assist leader and led the Cobbers in assists for four consecutive seasons. Mosser never had to worry about long stretches of sub-par offense because of Walden’s ability to control the tempo of a match and her leadership qualities on the court. Most likely, the job of running the Cobber offense will fall on the shoulders of a first-year player. A trio of would-be helmsmen have the high school credentials to assume the starting role. Alyssa Dahl was the MVP and captain of the Willmar High School team last year, Jill Hance was the captain and all-conference setter at Benilde-St. Margaret’s High School, while Anna Tinkham was a three-year all-conference performer at Fisher High School.

Those three will be joined by several other candidates as Mosser will try to find the best fit for the team before the first MIAC match against St. Thomas on September 14.

One of the most hotly contested positional races will be at the libero spot as the team’s defensive specialist. Junior captain Emily Gilbertson has the most playing time of all the returning players. Gilbertson led the Cobbers in digs per game in 2004 (4.34/game) and she had the highest dig total in 10 of the team’s matches. She is no stranger to big-match pressure as she led the Cobbers in digs in both matches against regular-season MIAC champion Carleton. Joining Gilbertson as a defensive specialist will be Anna Walden. Walden saw time as starting libero last year and had double-digit dig totals in nine matches. She recorded a season-high 23 digs against Macalester. The third member of the libero battle is sophomore Sarah Zerbe. She saw limited action in 2004, but a year of experience at the college level has helped the athletically-gifted Zerbe develop into a top-flight player.

If the lack of a seasoned setter doesn’t send the Cobbers adrift, then the lack of another power hitter on the frontline might. Lost to graduation were the 887 kills from the threesome of Barten, Fitzner and Kris Sather. Those three were able to take the pressure off of Shane as opposing teams were forced to defend everyone at the net for Concordia and not roll their defensive coverage to just one attacker.

Honek will be used in a more prominent role in the Cobber attack in 2005 as will sophomore right-side hitter Lindsay Sipma. Sipma spent the 2004 season learning from the crew of seniors and should rid of her match-experience sea legs in a hurry.

The second mate role will fall on the shoulders of several newcomers. The good news for captain Mosser is that he has one of the biggest and most physically imposing freshman classes ever. He will have the chance to pull from a trio of six-footers. To go along with the 6-2 Shane, Mosser could cast 6-3 Kristen Hokenstad or 6-1 Abby Scheel or 6-0 Jen Fodstad. The chance to play Hokenstad alongside Shane will give Mosser the opportunity to put a twin tower package on the court for the Cobbers.

Several other first-year Cobbers should see playing time. Mackenzie Close, a 5-11 transfer from MSU-Moorhead, brings the most collegiate experience to the team while freshmen Chelsea Evenstad, Tara Hall, Danielle Norby and Amy Thompson will have the chance to showcase their talents. Evenstad was an All-State player at Yellow Medicine East High School, and Norby earned All-State honors while competing at Windham High School.