

# Comic success on the big screen doesn't surprise



**Daniel McCrackin**  
Opinion Columnist

Cinema, the great silver screen, the hollywood lights: movies have always had their titles, and just as they have always had titles, so, too, have they always followed certain themes.

As time progresses, those themes change.

The world saw the rise of *film noir*: dark and gritty detective stories, with "shocking" twists at the end.

After that there were westerns and other gunslingers, the hay days of Clint Eastwood and The Duke.

The modern period has seen a rise of a new kind of popular film however, those based off of fictional literary works, such as *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games*.

A sub-theme of this is the rise of comic books as films, heralded by the successes of the Marvel cinematic universe and the DC Television universe.

So what is it that makes these

films so popular in the modern age?

To start, one can look at the long tradition of comic books themselves.

The golden-age and silver-age of comics may be long behind us, but comic books are still a largely popular storytelling medium, using colorful graphics and intriguing plot details in order to garner the interest of readers.

Comics have been a popular source of entertainment since WWII, when they hit a boom.

The stories of heroes such as Captain America and Superman were not only mass produced at home, but also sent overseas to the soldiers as a source of entertainment.

Comics became a common way for people to relate to one another, and the stories depicting American superheroes beating up very real enemies, such as Hitler or Stalin, helped give people hope in times of war and crisis.

In the modern age, the people of that era who loved comics as they did have passed down that love to many of their children, and their children's children.

Today, the Marvel and DC universes have near cult-like followings that stretch around the globe.

However, the popular media of the modern age is cinema, so in order to appeal to the younger generation, DC and Marvel have to translate their own stories into a new medium.

This does not mean cinema lacked popularity in the earlier days of comics, however the technology to show the special effects that are able to be seen in movies today did not yet exist.

This is a problem when the whole point of many superhe-



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McCrackin argues that one of the reasons why comics have been successful on the big screen because of their natural storytelling mediums.

roes is that they are fantastical, even beyond us in many respects.

In older films, the heroes are just too real, too human to make us really believe that they are able to do the things they do.

However, with the rise of the modern special effects team and digital cinematography, many doorways for depictions of the seemingly impossible are made: everything from Tony Stark's

Iron Man suit to Thor's Hammer Mjölfnir, and Superman's heat vision.

Comic book movies appeal to so many generations of people, from the old to the young, which is why it's not that surprising to see how popular they've become recently.

Who wouldn't want to live in a world with superheroes, even if it is just for a few hours?

The idea of an escape from

the hardships of reality is not a new concept, it is what draws so many people into reading fantasy and fiction novels, playing video games, or indeed going to the movies for an afternoon.

These movies also help teach people lessons, they teach social morality, what is right and what is wrong in the society in which we live.

*Comic book movies appeal to so many new generations of people, from the old to the young, which is why it's not that surprising to see how popular they've become in recent times.*

They give role models to the younger generation, and inspiration to those who might one day create heroes of their own.

The role of the comic book movie transcends the role of the comic book in many ways, because while a comic book does all these things, a movie can reach a wider audience faster, and be shared more easily between people.

Comic book movies are a theme of the modern age, and are hanging around with surprising persistence.

One can only hope that they keep getting better as cinema, acting, and special effects improve.

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Christmas in Christ Chapel is upon us. Thanks to all of you who work your butt off to make it possible.



Once we go below freezing there is no turning back. Let's all pray that we last until school's out. We believe in you, weather!



Who else is contemplating buying a second planner from the Bookmark because your current one is crammed?

# Feeding the troll will only make it stronger



**Oakley Clark**  
Opinion Columnist

Just this week, President-elect Donald J. Trump tweeted that millions voted illegally, contradicting his past statements—by that I mean tweets—declaring the election was valid while also railing against the Green Party’s recount efforts.

After all the garbage the Donald has spewed on the Internet, I have come to one conclusion: Our future president is an internet troll.

Now, if any of you knew me when I was twelve, I used to be pretty crafty on a keyboard myself.

With that experience, I’m qualified to attempt to figure out why the hell the President-elect is tweeting this garbage.

The media’s reaction to the tweet, and indeed, their reaction throughout the entire campaign, has demonstrated they will jump on any and all the bait that Donald Trump offers.

In response to Trump’s absurd tweet, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*—you name it—jumped on the claim.

Now the millions of ardent Trump supporters who blindly believe his claims just heard his opinion—as broadcasted through the media—and most likely believe it.

This is the so called “fake news epidemic” in action, except real and trusted news sources are the culprits of spreading the fake stories.

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The media can fact check all they want and even rant on air about how the tweet is false,

but many of Trump’s supporters already don’t trust the media—again based on Trump’s whining that they treated him unfairly by, it should be noted, basically just giving the guy air time.

Twitter isn’t that popular of a social media network anymore.

While I personally love my 140 character rants, I’m going to go out on a limb and say that many people who voted for Trump—specifically elder Americans and rural voters—might not even have a Twitter account or even know what the hell a Twitter is.

The social network nowadays is placed in the “News” category in most app stores.

I bet that many Trump supporters, however, are getting their news from traditional television networks or newspapers, the same ones that broadcast the Troll-in-Chief’s garbage tweets.

Now here’s the more concerning part: the media jumping on all this bait distracts from real issues.

When they could be covering the fact that Trump has surrounded himself with people who have contributed large sums of money against same-sex equality, or have allegedly said very racist and/or anti-Semitic things in the past, they instead rant about yet another 140-character lie.

The presidential candidate, now president-elect, and future president lies constantly on Twitter (and in real life).

Instead of broadening his audience, the media should perhaps focus on more concerning matters.

*The presidential candidate, now president elect, and future president lies constantly on Twitter (and in real life).*

One of those concerning matters is the sheer amount of conflicts of interest Trump faces.

While he will be ceding the position of chairman and president of The Trump Organization to his daughter Ivanka come 2017, he still owns the private company—and I also assume he has an interest in the financial success of his daughter.

It doesn’t take much to realize that this could go very, very badly.

What happens when he wants to build a hotel—a profitable venture for the president-elect—in a country with which we have not-so-good relations?

Would it be so hard for a for-

eign government to influence Trump by denying his company a permit to build a hotel, for example?

“Lessen the US’s sanctions (etc.) on us, and we’ll throw your company a bone.”

Oh, and all the more concerning, is that these tweets aren’t just Trump’s screws momentarily becoming loose.

No, Trump is meticulously saying these inflammatory and dumb things to get the attention off the concerning issues.

“The media is investigating my sketchy business practices?”

\*Tweet something demeaning about the next minority on the list\* and, suddenly, Trump is in the clear—while also spreading hate that some of his followers just eat up.

Again, what could possibly go wrong?

Of course we must always stay vigilant with such an unpredictable president-elect, but we need to stop overreacting, broadcasting, or ranting about his trolling—all it does is help him.

As we approach Doomsd—I mean inauguration day—take my twelve-year old self’s advice: don’t feed the troll.



Clark suggests the only way to get rid of a troll is to starve it.

# Your computer isn't as good as you think



**Cameron MacDonald**  
Entertainment Editor

**H**ere's the deal: businesses have stopped caring about customers when it comes to selling their products.

That sounds pessimistic and counter-intuitive, right?

However, it doesn't really matter in this day and age.

Most people are so viciously loyal to their brands, they'll buy the newest product even if it is objectively terrible, or simply no better than the previous iteration.

I'm going to bash indiscriminately, so don't worry, everyone's favorite brand sucks.

Let's focus on personal computers, since they have probably the most divisive demographics, and they're pretty commonplace now.

Let's talk Microsoft.

Now, Apple catches a lot of flak for being "elitist" and very protective of their intellectual property, but they get their own paragraph.

People also have failed to notice that Microsoft is starting to do just that, in their own sneaky ways.

Microsoft has been creating their own lines of devices now, the Surface models, to compete with MacBooks.

Along with these, Microsoft is quietly locking down a lot of applications and software to keep them exclusively to Windows, or at least as much as they can.

If you're a gamer, you've probably heard that Windows is the best for playing video games.

This is true, but not necessarily due to quality.

Microsoft owns DirectX, which is a collection of interfaces for handling tasks related to multimedia, especially gaming and video.

DirectX is used for most video games these days, and the latest versions aren't really compatible with other operating systems, such as Mac OS or Linux, so if a game is made with it, it's going to be exclusive to Windows.

Older DirectX games (version 9 and back) can run on other operating systems, but not as well.

Microsoft also has a history of cutthroat business decisions. They once bought out a competing company just to shut them down.

It's also not very widely



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*"The point is: your brand sucks, my brand sucks, everyone's brand sucks. That being said, we all also like our brands for some reason, so try to understand why your friend uses a Mac and hopefully your friend will try to understand why you use Windows," MacDonald said.*

known that the Graphical User Interface, which Windows was hailed for doing "correctly," was stolen from Apple.

However, Apple stole it from Xerox.

Speaking of Apple, where to start?

Some of the claims about Apple's "elitist" culture do hold some water.

They obviously appeal with aesthetic and flair (which they don't necessarily do poorly), but their price tags are atrocious.

A common argument, that many have proven to be true, is that you can build a Windows PC with the same performance as an iMac for significantly cheaper.

The only downside of Windows versus Mac is the security and efficiency.

Apple handles this in a way that is smart development-wise,

but selfish in terms of open markets.

*Most people are so viciously loyal to their brands, they'll buy the newest product even if it's objectively terrible, or just simply no better than the previous iteration.*

Apple's OS and framework are exclusive to the company, meaning they don't allow any other applications written without their tools to run natively.

You need to jerry-rig it to do that.

Due to this, the applications that are written with their tools and programming languages

run extremely well on Apple products.

Also, developers know exactly what kind of hardware will be used to run these applications since Apple has locked down their hardware ownership as well, since they technically sell the final product themselves, whereas Microsoft only makes the operating system.

However, due to this, Apple has grown to desire control over their "gated community" of software and hardware, resulting in some pretty strict terms of service that are violated as soon as you open a Mac computer. They can even be violated by installing certain software or bypassing certain restrictions to run or install other stuff.

It's sort of totalitarian, but it's almost necessary for the efficiency and consistency they want to maintain across their

systems.

Linux is out there, and I personally like it a lot, but it still doesn't have much support due to the difficulty in developing for it.

I won't talk about it much more since most average users use it or have even heard of it.

Someday someone will care about poor old Linux.

The point is: your brand sucks, my brand sucks, everyone's brand sucks.

That being said, we all also like our brands for some reason, so try to understand why your friend uses a Mac and hopefully your friend will try to understand why you use Windows.

Meanwhile, hug your Linux friends.

They get lonely.

# BENEATH THE CROWN



**What is a big passion of yours?**

"Music, definitely. My family has always been really connected to music. My dad gigged around Minneapolis as a drummer after he got out of school. I grew up watching my brother and sister play their respective instruments as well, with my brother being a drummer and my sister being a clarinet player. I went to a ton of concerts of theirs growing up and it had a really big impact on my life. I play drums as well now."

**Did that play any part in deciding your career path?**

"Oh, I would love to be a music major, but I'm honestly more interested in job security. Not to devalue music majors, I think it's an amazing talent and awesome to be a music major, and the world needs them, but I want to give my kids the opportunities I had growing up and I feel that that wouldn't be the best way for me to do that. I'm actually planning on graduating with an economics degree. I have a plan regarding this place called "Jazz Central" in Minneapolis where some gigs go down, but it's run kind of poorly, in my opinion. So I would like to eventually buy that and revamp it. I'd put a restaurant in there, a little coffee shop, a little bar, and make it a place to gig again, not just a place that used to be hopping."

**What is a big challenge you've faced and how did you deal with it?**

"I think my biggest challenge happened last year. I took calculus and a computer science course. What happened was that I had been talking to my brother and he suggested I check out computer science, since he's a computer science



**Ian Bachmayer**

Cameron MacDonald

guy himself. I said 'Okay, I'll try it out!' I really liked computer science, even if it was a little tough sometimes. However, I had never had any calculus classes before, plus I've never been the best at math. I just thought 'Maybe I wasn't putting enough effort in.' I decided to try it, and it did not work very well. For the first time in my life, no matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't do well at something, and it was the most failure I experienced in my life. I would spend as much time as I possibly could at the tutors, and I would think I finally got a

handle on the material, but then I'd go take a test and get a C, D, sometimes even an F. I talked to my parents about this which made me be truly vulnerable for the first time in front of them. I'm close to my parents and we care about each other, but I've never been that exposed with them so I kind of had to be like 'Hey, life sucks right now, I don't know what I'm doing and I could use some help,' and they were supportive as always. It felt nice to connect with them one-on-one and they told me about their struggles. I got to see them as normal people just doing their best to

raise a family. I ended up passing calculus in the end, with a C+. I've gotten plenty of A's, but that C+ is the best grade I ever got."

*Beneath The Crown was created by Nick Theisen ('15). It is inspired by Humans of New York (HONY) and aims to bring the community of Gustavus Adolphus College closer together by providing the perspectives of the many different people who live and work at the school.*

## Sudoku

	4		3					
	7	1	8			5		
2	6	8	5			7	3	
				5	3			
	5		4				8	
		2	1					
	2	9		6	8	7	3	
		7		8	1	4		
				3		2		

8	2		3			7		4
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9						3		
2	1		7			4	9	
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			1		4		7	
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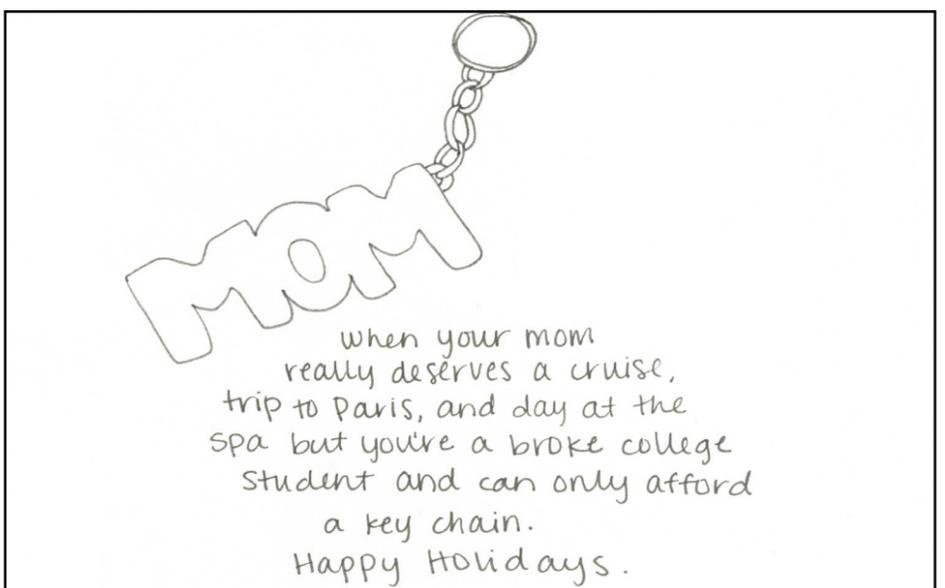
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F	E	8	1	6	Z	L	S	9
9	6	L	S	E	F	8	Z	1
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E	8	9	Z	S	1	6	L	F
1	Z	S	F	L	6	E	9	8
8	S	1	6	F	L	9	E	Z
L	9	E	8	Z	S	1	F	6
Z	F	6	E	1	9	S	8	L

Z	E	L	S	1	8	6	F	9
1	6	S	9	L	F	Z	8	E
8	F	9	6	Z	E	S	L	1
E	Z	8	F	6	S	9	1	L
6	L	F	Z	9	1	8	E	S
9	S	1	8	E	L	F	Z	6
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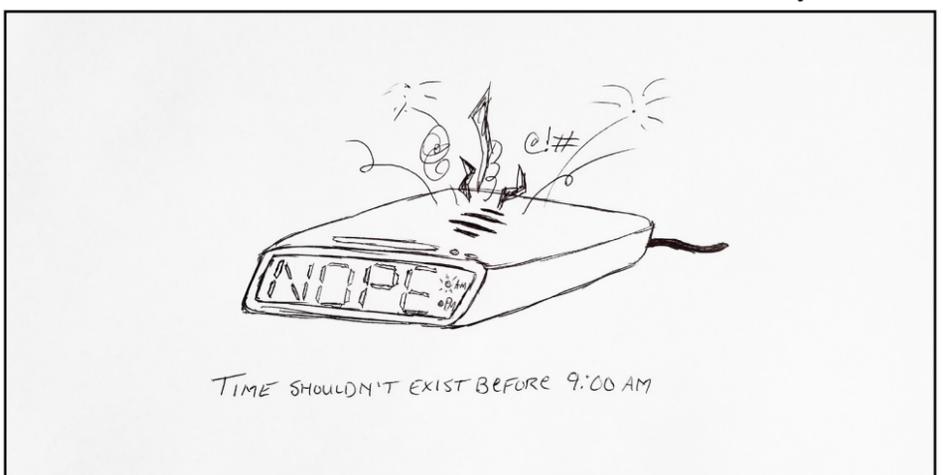
1	S	8	L	Z	6	F	9	E
L	6	F	9	E	1	Z	8	S
9	E	Z	F	S	8	L	6	1
8	9	1	6	F	Z	E	S	L
6	F	S	E	L	9	8	1	Z
Z	L	E	1	8	S	9	F	6
S	Z	9	8	6	L	1	E	F
E	8	6	Z	1	F	S	L	9
F	1	L	S	9	E	6	Z	8

6	Z	9	E	S	L	F	1	8
S	F	1	8	Z	6	L	E	9
E	L	8	9	1	F	6	Z	S
9	S	F	6	E	1	Z	8	L
Z	8	6	L	F	9	E	S	1
L	1	E	S	8	Z	9	6	F
1	E	L	F	6	S	8	9	Z
F	6	S	Z	9	8	1	L	E
8	9	Z	1	L	E	S	F	6

## Comic



Katelyn Holman



Cameron MacDonald

# A rally to remember

Women's hockey capitalizes on big third period to beat UW-Eau Claire



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Emily Gustafson (6) celebrates her game-winning goal over the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds with freshman Amelia Vosen (11) and the bench. The Gusties are playing with a chip on their shoulder after missing the MIAC Playoffs for the first time since 2000.

**Tanner Sparrow**  
Sports & Fitness Editor

Despite being down 1-2 to UW-Eau Claire late in the third period on Nov. 29, the Gustavus Womens' Hockey team skated off the ice with a win to improve to 4-3-1 on the season.

*"Our team definitely showed a lot of character by proving to ourselves that we are able to come back and win a game."*

—Allie Stanger

Junior Laura Johnson scored the first goal of the game for the Gusties, securing a 1-0 Black and Gold lead after one period of play. A big second period for

the Blugolds gave them a 2-1 lead after two.

*"We are trying to rededicate ourselves to the way we want to do things, and that is control what we can control, which is effort, desire, and passion."*

—Coach Mike Carroll

They held that lead until midway through the third period, when Sophomore Allie Stanger forced a turnover at the Blugold blue line and Junior Kaitlyn Klein scooped up the puck, made short work of the Eau Claire defenders, and scored the game-tying goal.

The Gusties were energized by the goal and turned on the burners, eventually outshoot-

ing the tired Blugolds 18-4 in the third period. Senior Emily Gustafson notched the game-winner one such shot with five minutes remaining.

Freshman Goalie Bailey Johnson recorded 13 saves in her first career victory.

"Our team definitely showed a lot of character by proving to ourselves that we are able to come back and win a game," Stanger said.

At 4-3-1, the Gusties are in a place where they can control their own destiny moving forward. Last season the Black and Gold battled injuries all season and finished 9-11-5, narrowly missing the MIAC Playoffs for the first time since their initiation in 2000. Maybe the residual bad taste in their mouths plays into them grinding out gritty third period wins.

"Looking back on last year, as with any year there are things you can control and can't control," Head Coach Mike Carroll

said. "Our team did not do a very good job with the things that we can control. That's been a focus of us in the offseason and also planning for this year.

We are trying to rededicate ourselves to the way we want to do things, and that is control what we can control which is effort, desire, and passion. Hopefully as time goes by, some of the life lessons we went through will benefit us this year.

Maybe we will have a little bit more sense of not taking anything for granted and digging a little deeper with our overall team effort and resiliency to failure."

The Gusties were picked to finish fourth in the MIAC Pre-season poll, behind St. Thomas, Bethel and Concordia, but are focused more on each individual game, rather than any long-term goals. But with strong depth and potential, the sky is the limit.

"Overall, the depth of our

team is good," Carroll mentioned. "We have upgraded in the hockey sense category, kids that have things you can't teach. I think the potential for growth there is something that excites me."

*"Overall, the depth of our team is good. We have upgraded in the hockey sense category, kids have things you can't teach. I think the potential for growth there is something that excites me."*

—Coach Mike Carroll

The Gusties return to action at home when they host the College of Saint Benedict on Friday, Dec. 2.

# Men's Basketball: young and hungry



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Peter Kruize fights to the rim in a game last year. The Gusties have to replace six seniors, so Kruize's leadership is at a premium this year as the young Gusties attempt to gain experience en route to a MIAC Championship.

**Jake Woodrich**  
Staff Writer

With just three regular season game under their belt, the Gustavus Men's basketball team finds themselves hungry for more competition. The team opened their regular season by traveling to Iowa last week to take on Buena Vista University. The Gusties lost 81-60.

"We weren't real pleased with our output. We played a bit anxious at times which isn't surprising given our inexperience. Hopefully we will learn from that and have a better outing on Saturday at Simpson," Head Coach Mark Hanson said. The players' comments mirrored those of Coach Hanson.

"We were a little over anxious offensively, leading to us shooting a much lower percentage

than we're capable of. We also have some little things we still need to work on defensively so that we can get to the level we want to be at," Sophomore Riley Sharbono said.

After graduating six players last year, the Gusties worked hard in the offseason to prepare for this season. The team had a competitive and successful preseason full of hard work as well. The team feels as if their work in both the offseason and preseason was beneficial.

"The preseason has gone well for us. We've been getting after it for about five weeks in practice in preparation for the regular season. We have a lot of guys that put in a lot of work in the offseason, and it has showed in our practices leading up to the regular season. After graduating six seniors last year, we have a lot of new faces on varsity and the preseason allowed us to

build a strong chemistry," Sharbono said. In the past month, the Gusties partook in two preseason scrimmages against Wartburg College and Central College.

"I think we have had a competitive preseason and, while disappointed in our first outing on Friday, I like how the team has worked together and look forward to further improvement," Coach Hanson said.

Even though Coach Hanson has been pleased with how the team has looked so far this season, he believes that the team still has a good bit of work ahead of them in order to achieve their goals for the season.

"Certainly our goals are to finish high in the MIAC and secure a playoff spot. The rest is wide open," Coach Hanson said. There is a lot of time between now and the end of the season,

so these goals are definitely within reach.

*"After graduating six seniors last year, we have a lot of new faces on varsity and the preseason allowed us to build strong chemistry."*

—Riley Sharbono

"At the start of any season we have high expectations to compete for the regular season conference championship, as well as win the MIAC tournament and make the national tournament. With the loss of six seniors, we have a lot of work to do, but we believe we can get to the level necessary to achieve these goals," Sharbono said.

In the second game of the season the Gusties faced another

Iowa foe, dropping a contest against Simpson College 90-78 on Saturday, Nov. 26. Senior Peter Kruize led the Black and Gold with a career-high 27 points, shooting 10-of-16 from the floor. He also delivered at the free throw line, shooting 7-of-9. The 11 rebounds he snatched were enough for his second career double-double.

Sophomore Riley Sharbono stepped up for the Gusties with an 18 point performance, shooting 7-of-12 from the field and going 4-for-7 on three-pointers in his team high 35 minutes of play.

At time of print, the Gusties were tipping off with MIAC foe Concordia College. The Gusties will return to action on Dec. 3 against Macalaster in Saint Paul. The men will then play at St. Olaf and Saint Mary's before returning home to host North Central on Dec. 13.

# Men's Hockey struggles to find their stride

## Gusties sit at 1-6-1 in their 75th season



Gustavus Sports Information

Freshman Forward Nick Greene works the boards against an Augsburg player in their contest on Nov. 19. The Gusties lost a close game to the No. 10 Auggies 1-2. The Gusties have only one win on the season, but are in every game. Sitting on a bank of 18 returning players, it is safe to say the rest of the MIAC is hoping things don't start to click for the Black and Gold.

### Michael O'Neil Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men's Hockey team took the ice at the Don Roberts Ice Arena in Lund Center for the eighth time of the season on November 19th. This game included a celebration of the landmark 75th season of the men's hockey program here at Gustavus.

Included in the festivities of the 75th anniversary game was a ceremony commemorating the life and contributions of legendary Gustavus coach Don Roberts, who passed away this past July at the age of 83.

Roberts led the Gusties from 1964-1997 and amassed 534 wins over his career.

At the time of his retirement, Roberts was the winningest coach in NCAA Division III hockey history. His mark on Gustavus Men's Hockey is unmatched and his contribu-

tions to the program, and on Division III hockey was recognized nationally as he earned the John MacInnes Award from the American Hockey Coaches Association in 1993 and the Hobey Baker Legends of College Hockey Award in 2009.

The 75th Gustavus Hockey team is certainly not short on experience, as 18 players are returning from last year, including three goalies. Sophomore Chris Amsden and Senior Erik Johnson led the charge in net last year with a combined 6-13-3 record.

"I'm excited for Chris because he played the whole season last year with a torn labrum in his hip, which he had fixed the week after our season ended. So now for the first time in a long time he's healthy. He hasn't been able to feel that way in a long time," Coach Brett Peterson said.

The main concern going into

the year for Peterson was how to create more offensive production. The Gusties are returning their top eight point-scorers from last season, but the numbers simply weren't there last year.

"Our strengths last year were in goal and on the blue line, but the root of our evil was lack of offensive production, so that of course becomes the number one question mark going into this year. We are hoping we can find someone or a group that can do it more consistently than we did last year," Peterson said.

The Gusties kicked off the season with the MIAC Showcase in Blaine, MN with two games against St. John's and St. Olaf. Although they fell in the season opener to St. John's by a score of 5-2, they bounced back against St. Olaf the next day 4-1. Amsden had 22 saves but recorded a loss against St. John's, and Johnson saved 23 of 24 shots in

the win over St. Olaf.

The Gusties returned to St. Peter for their home opener on November 4th against reigning national champion and then No. 1 ranked team in the nation U-W Steven's Point.

The game went back and forth, and Gustavus led 2-1 after the second period. After two early goals from the Pointers early in the third, the Gusties responded with a goal of their own to send the game into overtime. After neither team was able to score the game-winner, the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

The next night the Gusties traveled to Menomonie, WI to play U-W Stout, and lost in a close 1-2 contest.

The Gusties then took on two conference opponents in St. Thomas and No. 10 ranked Augsburg. After trailing 3-0 in the third period in their first contest with the Tommies, Gustavus scored once in the third

period and lost 3-1.

The next night, they fell to the high-powered St. Thomas attack 2-5 in St. Paul, MN.

The Gusties then traveled to Minneapolis to take on Augsburg but weren't able to get past goalie Nick Schmit, who currently has the highest save percentage in the MIAC, and fell by a score of 0-3.

In a rematch at the Don Roberts Ice Arena, the Auggies again proved too much and the Gusties fell in a tight 1-2 game.

The Gusties currently sit at 1-6-1 and will be taking on St. John's in St. Cloud on Dec. 1, and again at home on Dec. 3.

Despite the disappointing start, the Gusties still have the talent to do big things when they hit their stride. There's a lot of season left to shake things up.

Show up and cheer on the Gusties as they celebrate the tradition of 75 seasons.