

Violence, Voyeurism, and NBC



Amy Leininger
Opinion Editor



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The news media needs to change the way it covers mass shootings and violence. Journalism must evolve to account for rapidly changing online interactions.

This past Sunday night, NBC Evening News opened their program: "Good evening, we begin tonight with a story we would rather not be telling." Earlier that day, at approximately 11 am, a man uploaded a series of videos to Facebook, utilizing the social media platform's live-streaming function.

In the first video, the Cleveland man announced his intention to commit murder. In the second video, uploaded minutes later, the man shot an elderly man, 74 year old Robert Godwin Sr.

In the third and final video, the man recorded his confession and manifesto. This horrific violence was live-streamed and shared on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for two hours before Facebook disabled the man's account. The video continues to circulate on social media and has been viewed by millions.

This live-streamed murder is the latest incident in a series of violent events that have been uploaded to Facebook. In the last year alone, Facebook responded to live-streamed rape, torture, suicide, and now mur-

der. While this latest violent incident has prompted important conversations about Facebook's role as gatekeeper of graphic content, I am more disturbed by the gratuitous pleasure the media took in reporting this live-streamed murder.

On Sunday, the day of the Cleveland murder, the evening news programs barely concealed their glee about covering the gruesome killing. NBC News opened with the story, anchor Kate Snow breathlessly saying, "Good evening, we begin tonight with a story we would rather not be telling, a horrific and brutal crime tailored to the reality that we all live in now, a world where social media allows people to broadcast their every move in

real time."

With no warning, the Facebook Live footage fills the screen and a reporter's voiceover explains the event. The viewer sees the live-streamed face of the killer, and then the report cuts to the footage of Godwin as the killer approaches in his car.

The killer states his intention to kill, and raises a gun to Godwin's head, which has been intentionally blurred by NBC. The footage then cuts to the elderly man lying dead on the sidewalk. This all occurs within the first minute and 16 seconds of the news program.

Again, there was no warning by NBC News that they were going to broadcast this gratuitous display of violence into millions of homes. NBC and

all other news programs that shared this footage jumped at the chance to exploit the extreme shock value of the footage, while claiming they are merely fulfilling their duty to report the "news".

I am disgusted by the way that NBC and others exploited the murder of Godwin in pursuit of ratings. NBC News and other programs that distributed this footage participated in the sadistic display of brutalized black bodies. White America is so desensitized to the abuse of black people that NBC News and others calculated that viewers would not turn off their televisions in disgust. Instead, viewers became complicit in the voyeurism of violence.

Some have compared the Facebook Live murder to the live-streamed shooting of Philando Castile, which was also broadcast by the news. However, these events could not be more different. In the case of Castile, his murder was streamed on Facebook Live by his girlfriend after he was pulled over and shot by a St. Anthony police officer. Diamond Reynolds, Castile's girlfriend, began streaming the traffic stop in order to document police brutality. Because the police sometimes destroy video evidence recorded by citizens, Reynolds utilized Facebook live-streaming feature to ensure that the video would not be erased.

The Facebook Live video of Castile dying in his car quickly spread across social media. It became another in a series of video recordings of black people dying as a result of police brutality. The video of Castile was recorded to document state violence. The Cleveland murder

was recorded to terrorize. It is a serious mistake to conflate the two videos.

It is reprehensible that the media would share this video. Furthermore, in a stunning display of recklessness, after broadcasting numerous photographs of the killer, NBC News played footage of his live-streamed "manifesto". During an epidemic of mass shootings in this country, the media directly contributes to the growing threat of copycats.

Experts contend that the way the media covers mass shootings increases the chances of another shooting. In an interview with Mother Jones, FBI Special Agent Andre Simons said that shooters post online manifestos "to claim credit and to articulate the grievance behind the attack... We believe they do it to heighten the media attention that will be given to them, the infamy and notoriety they believe they'll derive from the event," Simons said.

To combat the copycat effect, experts say that the media should change the way it covers shootings. Responsible coverage would feature minimal use of attackers' names, and their images even less so. NBC News and others failed to uphold these principles.

In an age of viral mass shootings, journalism must evolve to provide ethical coverage. The voyeuristic broadcasting of violence against black people is unacceptable. The exploitative coverage of mass shootings for ratings is unsustainable and reprehensible. We can and must do better.

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Health Care: It's Complicated

George Roderick
Opinion Columnist

A month ago, our president, in his infinite wisdom, said "Nobody knew health care could be so complicated." On the contrary, Donald—everybody knew. It seems it took 70 years for the star of the infamous Access Hollywood tapes to learn what the rest of us realize at a young age: the health care system in the United States is seriously messed up.

I realized this in grade school when one of my concussions cost my parents, who had relatively good health insurance, over a thousand dollars. Maybe being born into a family with a personal physician and unlimited funds shielded the president from this basic reality. Of course, you could claim his touch with reality is tenuous at best; he did falsely claim he was a target of an unconstitutional wire "tapp" [sic].

Now, he has tried to fulfill his campaign promise of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), something he said would be done on day one. Remember though, that day was spent lying about crowd sizes at his inauguration, so logically it took about 60 more.

Over these two months, the president, so proud of his historically mediocre Electoral College victory, saw an historic decline in approval in the polls—while his predecessor, and the ACA alongside him—surged to all-time highs. Meanwhile, Trump's "repeal and replace" health care plan, dubbed the American Health Care Act, was dead on arrival.

The AHCA was considered by one conservative journalist and longtime supporter of Speaker Paul Ryan as "the worst rollout of any major piece of legislation in memory."

This proposal would have cut



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President Trump campaigned on a promise to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. The GOP's first effort to propose a replacement bill failed to even make it onto the House floor.

taxes for the wealthy, reduced the number of Americans with coverage by 14 million by next year, and led to skyrocketing premiums almost across the board due to a smaller, older, sicker pool of those paying into the insurance markets.

Additionally, it would have disproportionately hurt those who voted for the candidate who has literally spent a quarter of his time in office at his golf course. Unsurprisingly, less than 20 percent of Americans

supported this bill, and it died even faster than people without access to quality, affordable health care.

So, the bill, which one lawmaker proposed renaming the "Republican Pay More for Less Care Act", died. People still have health insurance at a higher rate than ever before (which is still lower than virtually every comparable country, despite spending more on it per capita than any of them), so why should anyone worry anymore?

Well, the president, who is on track to spend more on travel in one year than President Obama did in all eight, has some alternative facts. Last week in a softball interview with Fox Business, Trump said "I think we're doing very well on health care. It's been very much misreported that we failed with health care. We haven't failed, we're negotiating and we continue to negotiate."

Without getting too deep into political and parliamentary strategy or the tremendously, hugely complicated math behind this calculation, these negotiations between Mar-a-Lago and the House of Representatives have a 0 percent chance of producing anything that could pass the Senate.

Rumored plans include removing the ability for dependents to remain on their parents insurance until they are 26 and removing the protection of those with preexisting conditions. This amounts to removing the two most popular parts of a bill that only had 19 percent public approval in the first place—not a great negotiation strategy.

One could give the benefit of the doubt to someone who wrote a book entitled *The Art of the Deal*, but then again he hired a ghostwriter for it, so who knows whether he's even read it himself.

This fight is not over, however, as the president, whose former campaign manager recently *retroactively* registered as a foreign agent, has the power to severely hinder many of the incredibly positive impacts the

ACA has had on the insurance marketplace by taking away government subsidies from insurance companies. These insurance providers, in turn, would drop the plans supported by those subsidies, effectively stripping insurance from 7 million of the lowest income Americans.

Considering Republicans have control of Congress and the Presidency, and have claimed for the better half of a decade to have a replacement plan that would be cheaper and insure more people than the ACA, it'd be political suicide to do this. But logic is scarce in this administration, while cruelty seems to be abundant, so it's not off the table.

The Affordable Care Act is not perfect and people still pay way too much for health care. This is largely due to seven years of Republicans successfully undermining the most promising portions of the plan for political purposes, but that's history. To close with something that shouldn't be a partisan issue, our government has a responsibility to protect our chance at life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

Even if uninsured people don't literally die because they can't afford the state of the art procedures or ridiculously expensive prescription pills, entire families lose a fair chance at happiness because half of this country lives paycheck to paycheck, and crippling debt caused by a health emergency can last a lifetime. This is inexcusable, and we as a country should be embarrassed.



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Uncovering “Silenced Crimes”



Rachael Manser
Opinion Columnist

Global social issues like human trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM), and child marriage are widely known about and I think there’s a worldwide consensus that they are problems and should be resolved to improve our societies.

Even though the term “global” would seem to imply that every country around the world is affected by these issues in some way or another, these specific problems, among others, are ones that many associate with underdeveloped nations or third-world countries, and therefore we often deny their presence within our own society.

Exact numbers and concrete facts can be hard to define for any one of these issues as they are extremely widespread but silenced crimes. However, that shouldn’t stop anyone from try-



Though widespread, global issues such as female genital mutilation, human trafficking, and child marriage are silenced crimes.

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ing to obtain information and doing something to help.

The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking believes the number of children trafficked in the U.S. to be in excess of 100,000. DoSomething.org estimates the number of people trafficked every year in the U.S.

to be between 14,500 and 17,500. Whatever the correct numbers happen to be, one human being forced into sex slavery or any other form of servitude anywhere in the world is one too many, let alone in a country that claims to be as great and powerful as the United States.

According to a 2016 study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prevalence of female genital mutilation in the U.S. has more than tripled since the 1990s. They estimated that 513,000

women and girls in the U.S. have undergone or are at risk of being subjected to female genital mutilation.

While there are surgical procedures designed to help victims of FGM, many victims either don’t have access to the right kind of health care or they are too embarrassed or ashamed to ask for help.

The minimum age for marriage in most states is 18 years old. However, most states have “parental consent” laws that allow teenagers to get married at 16 or 17 with a parent’s signature on the marriage license and lack laws that forbid forced marriages. There is also the exception of judicial approval which lowers the marriage age below 16 in many states and doesn’t specify a minimum age.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 3,481 children were married between 1995 and 2012 in New Jersey alone, 163 which were children under the age of 16, and 91 percent of which were married to legal adults.

These global issues clearly present themselves within our own country if only someone cares enough to look at the problem. The first step in taking action and creating hope for change in regards to any social issue is fostering awareness.

We have become desensitized to real world suffering because we are bombarded by headlines and images of it every day. We need to wake up to the realities of injustice within our own country and become uncomfortable with ignorance.

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Good news! Despite the rumors, North Korea didn’t test a nuke this past weekend.



Remember the “armada” the White House said was sailing to the Korean peninsula to rattle Kim Jong Un? Turns out there was a little miscommunication between the Pentagon and the WH.



Apparently the ships were sailing 3,500 miles in the opposite direction. Whoopsie.

Women's golf places second at Bethel

Meierhenry earns second Athlete-of-the-Week Award



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Jessica Nelson tees off during a match at Pebble Creek Golf course. The team placed second behind Carleton College in a hard-fought second day of the Bethel invite.

Joseph Brandel Sports Editor

After impressive performances in their last two invites, the Gusties earned some attention within the conference and at the national level. The regional rankings were released on April 14th by the NCAA and Gustavus was listed as No. 5 in the Midwest region and No. 21 overall.

On April 14th, the women's golf team teed off at the Bethel invite for its second invite of the spring season. The Gusties were coming off a second place finish at the Washington University invite in St. Louis, Missouri on April 8 and 9.

The team battled through day one of the 36-hole event with challenging competitors, such as ranked Bethel University and Carleton College. The team was composed of Seniors Mae Meierhenry and Mallory Drenttel, Juniors Jessica Nelson and McKenzie Swenson, and First-year Kristen Cash.

Meierhenry led the team

through day one with a score of 73, followed by Nelson who hit 79. First-year cash posted the third best score for the Gusties with 81, followed by Swenson with a score of 83 and Drenttel with a score of 86.

"By far the best round of golf we have had this year as a team. Everyone played well and we played with confidence. I am very proud and looking forward to teeing it up again next weekend."

—Coach Moe

Head coach Scott Moe said he was impressed with the team's performances and resilience in the first day of the invite.

"Mae put together a great round again, 73 was a really good score," Moe said. "Others

had a bad hole or two, but we were really close. We battled hard and bounced back after a bad swing."

Meierhenry earned her second MIAC athlete of the week title this season from her performance in the Bethel invite. Her first athlete of the week award was due to a similarly impressive performance at the Washington University Invite the week before.

The Gusties competed in match play on the second day of the invite against No. 12 ranked Carleton College. The Gusties lost the battle for the Bethel invite title with a score of 3-2. Meierhenry lost two down, Nelson lost two and one, and Cash lost three and two. Swenson won two and one while Drenttel won three and two.

Moe said this performance was very memorable and was impressed with the team's ability to challenge high-level competition.

"By far the best round of golf we have had this year as a team," Moe said. "Our five

players combined for +15 for the day. Everyone played well and we played with confidence. Carleton is a very good team, ranked No. 12 in the country, and we hung with them until the final hole. I am very proud

and looking forward to teeing it up again next weekend."

Women's golf is back in action on April 22nd in Victoria, Minnesota when they compete in the Bethel's Royal Match.

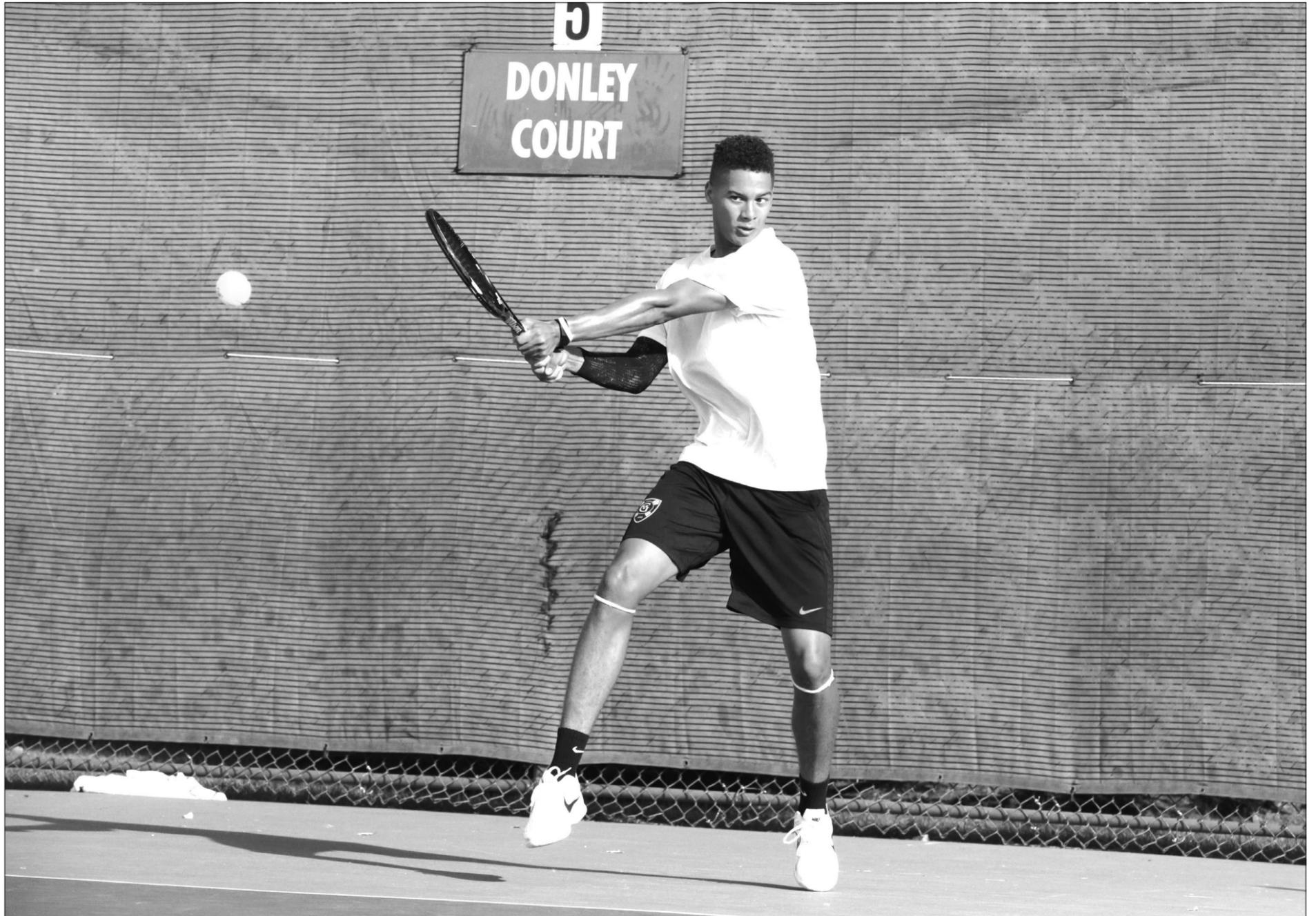


Gustavus Sports Information

First-year Morgan Bleyhl tees off. The Gusties placed second at the Washington University Spring Invitational out of 15 teams.

Nonconference play ends for Men's Tennis

No. 31 Gusties drop match to No. 5 University of Chicago



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Mason Bultje returns the ball during an early spring season match. The Gusties concluded nonconference play with a loss to the University of Chicago. The team holds a record of 20-8.

Tanner Sparrow
Managing Editor

The No. 31 Gustavus Men's Tennis Team faced a tough test when they faced off against No. 5 University of Chicago on April 9. The Gusties lost 6-3 to conclude their nonconference play and move to 20-8 on the season. Junior Mohanad Alhouni won

in the first spot of singles, and both Sophomore Chase Johnson and Freshman Yassine Derbani also won in the fourth and fifth spots respectively.

Sophomore Patrick Whaling battled hard in the two spot, but was defeated in three sets. Junior Tommy Entwistle also dropped a hard fought third spot match, as did Junior Gabe

Steinwand in the sixth.

Where the Gusties struggled was in doubles, dropping all three matches. Alhouni and Whaling were defeated 8-3, Entwistle and Johnson 8-6, and Senior David Hagberg and Derbani 8-6.

"We certainly hoped for a better result in the doubles, but we had chances in each of the three spots and numbers two and three could have gone either way down the stretch."

—Coach Valentini

"Overall we did some very good things today," Head Coach Tommy Valentini said. "We certainly hoped for a better result in the doubles, but we had chances in each of the three spots and numbers two and three could have gone either way down the stretch."

Valentini was proud of the team's effort in singles.

"The response in singles was outstanding. Chicago is extremely talented and despite the deficit our guys competed the right way and showed great spirit, togetherness, never gave in and played some intelligent singles," Valentini said.

The loss to Chicago came a day after the Gusties defeated DePauw University 8-1. Alhouni, Junior Zach Ekstein, Whaling, Entwistle, Johnson and Derbani all won to sweep singles.

"In the singles each guy did well to stay in the present and make sound tactical decisions. We competed with poise and we're grateful it translated to a winning result," Valentini said.

Alhouni and Whaling squeaked out a win the first doubles slot against the Tigers, 9-8, and Entwistle and Johnson won in the two spot 8-6. Hagberg and Derbani lost the Gusties only match of the day with a close 9-7 loss.

"The doubles were well played and close. We trusted

our plan and each other down the stretch and handled some tense moments very well," Valentini said.

"The response in singles was outstanding. Chicago is extremely talented and despite the deficit our guys competed the right way and showed great spirit, togetherness, never gave in, and played some intelligent singles."

—Coach Valentini

The Gusties will return to MIAC play at Carleton College on April 22.

"We'll look to grow as a team from this one and to keep making progress," Valentini said.



Gustavus Sports Information

Junior Mohanad Alhouni returns a ball during the ITA Singles Final. Alhouni defeated teammate Patrick Whaling in this match to win the title.

Softball wins four straight in MIAC play

Gusties improve record to 19-11



Gustavus Sports Information

First-year Caitlin Kammerer prepares for an incoming pitch during a game against College of Saint Benedict. The team lost 4-7 in the first game and lost 3-5 in the second game.

Michael O'Neil
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Softball team is on a roll this week, notching two straight sweeps against MIAC opponents. The Gusties allowed just one run across four games, and improved their record to 19-11 (6-6 MIAC). The Gusties are in the heart of conference play and last Thursday marked their first sweep, as they won two straight games against St. Mary's University in Winona, MN.

In the first game against the Cardinals, the Gusties relied on a strong pitching performance from senior Hannah Heacox, and a few productive innings offensively to win by a score of 4-1. Heacox gave up just one run in a complete game, and recorded 11 strikeouts, moving her record to 9-7 on the mound. After failing to score in the first four innings, the Gusties put together three runs in the fifth inning. First year Aly Freeman added a solo homerun in the sixth inning to extend the lead

to 4-0. The Cardinals managed to score one run in the bottom of the sixth, but Heacox and the Gustie defense secured the 4-1 victory.

Senior Jena Willis took over at the mound for game two of the doubleheader, and continued the stellar pitching. Willis recorded a complete game shutout, allowing just four hits and recording 3 strikeouts. The Gusties scored one run in the first inning, and then two runs in both the second and third innings, extending their early lead to 5-0. The defense carried the load the rest of the way as the Gusties held on to win with by the same score. "I am proud of the way that Jena pitched today," Head Coach Britt Stewart said. "She maintained great composure and stayed ahead all day. We were able to come back in the second game and get ahead early which helped to maintain control and gave us some confidence. We are excited to continue to build on this success."

They did exactly that four days later against Concordia at home, recording their second straight sweep with two straight shutout wins. Heacox returned to the mound for the Gusties and put on a clinic, allowing only one hit in a complete game shutout. This stellar performance improved Heacox's

record to 10-7, and marked her fifth complete game shutout of the year. Gustavus was able to put two runs on the board in the second inning and two more in the third before breaking open their lead with a huge fourth inning. After the first two batters got on base with singles, Junior Jessica Neuman cleared the bases with her first career triple. They kept the bats going, and recorded eight runs in the fourth inning to seal the deal on a 12-0 win. Heacox was 2-3 with 2 RBI, Neuman was 2-4 with 2 RBI, and Hoffman was 1-3 with 4 RBI to lead the Gustie offense.

In the second game, the Gustie pitchers continued their dominance as Willis and Freeman combined for a shutout. Willis recorded the win, improving her record to 9-4 on the year. On the offensive side, the Gusties used their momentum from game one to take an early lead. In the first inning, Heacox and Neuman reached base and took advantage of some errors by the Cobbers to score and secure an early 2-0 lead for the Gusties. Then, in the second inning, the Gusties rattled off three hits, highlighted by a 2-RBI single from Neuman to extend their lead to 4-0. They added another insurance run in the fifth inning, after freshman Sidney Welp recorded an RBI single. Ali Hoffman led the Gusties offense

with a career-high three hits. "I am most proud of Ali Hoffman for stepping up today at the plate," Stewart said. "We also had a great performance from Aly Freeman on the mound. I know she is seeing how much her hard work has paid off. I can't wait to see what else this team can accomplish this week."

The Gusties seem to be hitting their midseason stride now after winning their last four games.

"I couldn't be prouder of our athletes for coming out and competing. We took care of business today and played softball like we know how. Our pitching was lights out, we made all of the plays behind them and hit the ball extremely well. I liked the fact that we came out with confidence and intensity to win both games. It was a great start to the week," Stewart said.

They will look to continue their strong play against St. Catherine University on Wednesday, Macalester College on Thursday, and St. Thomas on Saturday, April 22nd. Saturday's game against St. Thomas begins at 1 pm and is a special event for "Strike Out Cancer". The Hill Crew will be accepting donations for cancer research and handing out prizes for the first 50 fans, so make sure to show up in pink!



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior pitcher Hannah Heacox winds up for a pitch during a game against College of Saint Benedict, The team has an overall record of 19-11.