

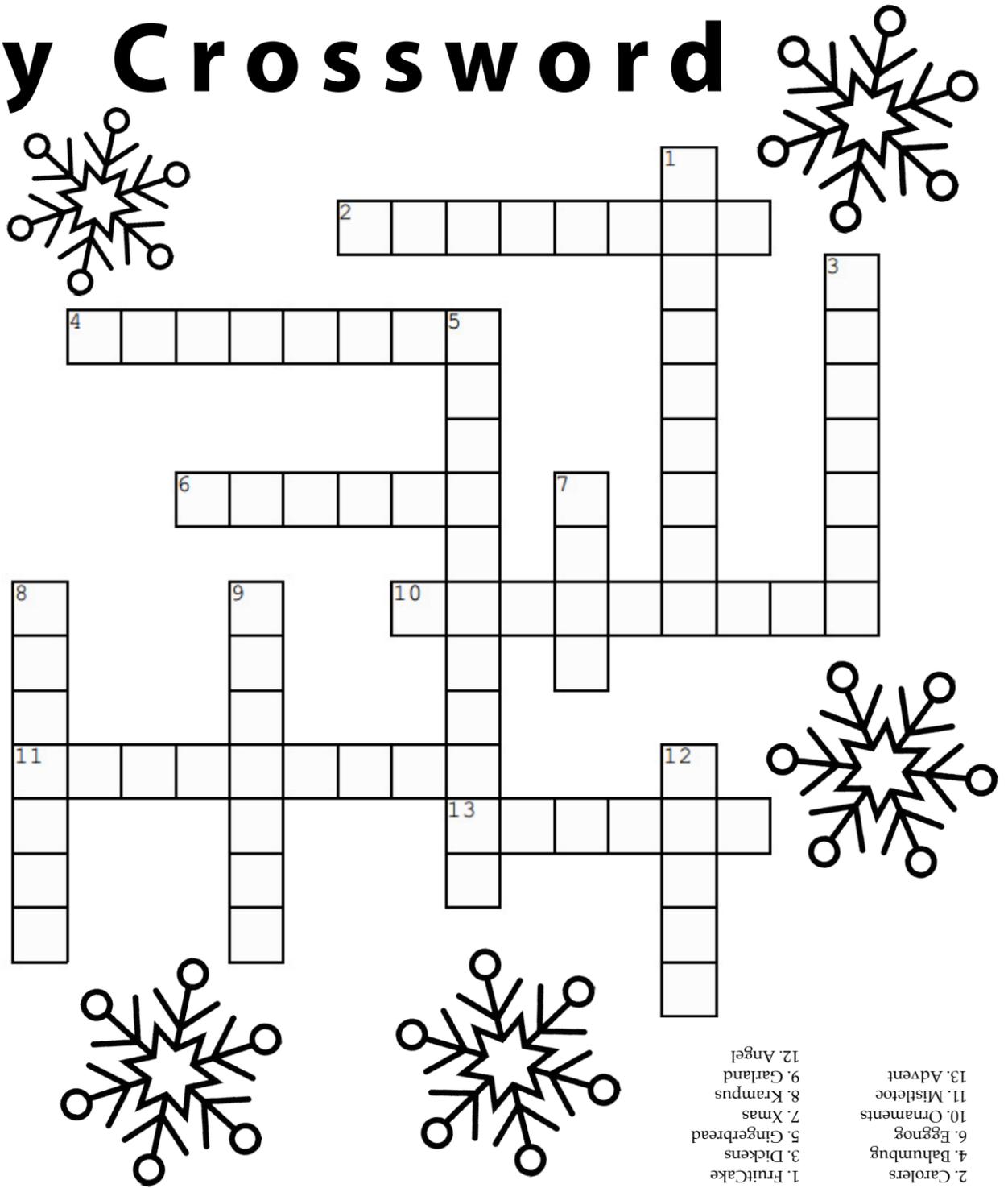
# Holiday Crossword

## Across

- 2. They sing around your neighborhood
- 4. The Scrooge's signature exclamation
- 6. 'Milk punch'
- 10. You put these on your Christmas tree!
- 11. Put this merry shrub on your doorways
- 13. These calendars often have chocolate in them

## Down

- 1. A special dessert your neighbors make for you on Christmas
- 3. Author of *A Christmas Carol*
- 5. A type of dessert house, usually made for decoration around the holidays
- 7. Abbreviation for Christmas
- 8. The opposite of Santa
- 9. This Judy's surname is also a type of Christmas decoration
- 12. Figurine commonly placed at the top of the Christmas tree



- ACROSS
- 2. Carols
  - 4. Bahumbug
  - 6. Eggnog
  - 10. Ornaments
  - 11. Mistletoe
  - 13. Advent
- DOWN
- 1. Fruitcake
  - 3. Dickens
  - 5. Gingerbread
  - 7. Xmas
  - 8. Krampus
  - 9. Garland
  - 12. Angel

## Unnecessarily Random Fact Corner

All letters addressed to Santa in the U.S. go to Santa Claus, Indiana.

## Pun of the week

"An elf that can sing is called a wrapper."

## The zodiac signs as Santa's reindeer

<p><b>Aquarius</b> (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)</p>  <p>Vixen</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b> (April 20-May 20)</p>  <p>Comet</p>	<p><b>Leo</b> (July 23-August 22)</p>  <p>Dancer</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b> (October 23-Nov. 21)</p>  <p>Donner</p>
<p><b>Pisces</b> (Feb. 19-March 20)</p>  <p>Cupid</p>	<p><b>Gemini</b> (May 21-June 20)</p>  <p>Blitzen</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b> (August 23-Sep. 22)</p>  <p>Coach Reindeer</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius</b> (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)</p>  <p>Rudolph's mom</p>
<p><b>Aries</b> (March 21-April 19)</p>  <p>Rudolph</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b> (June 21-July 22)</p>  <p>Dasher</p>	<p><b>Libra</b> (Sep. 23-October 22)</p>  <p>Prancer</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b> (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)</p>  <p>Rudolph's dad</p>

# Rugby club wins Regional Championship

## Gusties place fourth in the nation



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Tory Makela attempts to break a tackle during a game this season. This year the team had a lot of success, winning the Central Regional title and finishing fourth overall.

**Nathan Thompson**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Women's Rugby team reigned supreme as the Gusties beat out the top 16 to be crowned Regional champs in Ohio on November 11th and 12th. They went on to the National Championship this past weekend at Life University in Marietta, Georgia and placed 4th.

"We were all super passionate this season. We have a lot of very talented girls and we were very passionate about going out there and playing the best rugby we could and it ended up working out very well for us," Senior Anna Johnson said.

Rugby is a club sport, meeting four days a week for practice and over the weekend for games. The team consists of players of all levels and is coached by Charles Johnson.

"There's a very unique dynamic to rugby as a whole. The girls are tenacious and hard working towards life in general and on the pitch. Rugby really

brings out the best in people. It's very welcoming but also expects a lot of you," Senior co-captain Kristen White said.

Following a successful regular season, in which the team won the Minnesota state title, the Gusties qualified for the playoffs and captured the Central Regional title at the Sweet 16 Tournament in Delaware, Ohio this past November.

*"We have a lot of very talented girls and we were very passionate about playing the best rugby we could and it ended up working out very well for us."*

—Anna Johnson

They dominated their first round matchup against Denison University where they cruised to a 49-12 victory. They battled through a tough matchup in the next round and

walked away with a 42-39 victory against Rochester University from New York.

"It was our intensity that really drove us to be so successful. It's really challenging to play two 80 minute games back to back but we knew what we were capable of," White said.

White, who won the Hardshell award, given out to those who embody the passion and ability for rugby, was also named the MVP of the tournament in Ohio.

The Gustie victories would move them into the final four, making them one of the best teams of the 98 National Small College Rugby Organization competitors. Along with Gustavus, the other top three small college teams consisted of Wayne State University (Neb.), Bentley University (Mass.), and York College (Penn.).

In the Final Four bracket played this past weekend, the Gusties opened play against Wayne State, who had won four straight regional titles, and fell 78-7.

"I think we got a little bit worn out in the second half. They were a very disciplined and well established team. But I was proud with the way the girls played. We showed that we had a lot of class and we played hard until the end," White said.

*"There is a lot of talent and leadership from our underclassmen and they have a really good shot at making a run at the championship again."*

—Tory Makela

In the third place game, Gustavus went up against York College. Down by seven with under two minutes remaining, the Gusties pushed the game into overtime, where they eventually lost 43-36, after nearly 100 minutes of playing time.

"It was a really well fought game and we knew that we had the capability of winning and it was enjoyable to have my last game be such a tooth and nail," White said.

Gustavus was dubbed the fourth best small college rugby team in the nation to go along with one of the best seasons in eight years. The Gusties have a lot of young talent currently on the team and look towards a bright future.

"There is a lot of talent and leadership from our underclassmen, and they have a really good shot at making a run at the championship again," Senior co-captain Tory Makela said.

With several seniors graduating this year, there will be many open spots on the team for new players.

"It's something you never really thought you would be involved in but once you join, you will gain twenty to thirty new best friends and then get to have fun learning this new sport," Johnson said.

# Women's Hockey skating well

## Gusties ranked No. 6 in the nation



Gustavus Sports Information

Sophomore Kristen Cash keeps the puck away from a Bethel opponent during a game Dec. 2. The Gusties defeated the Royals in back to back games, improving their record to (ADD RECORD)

**Michael O'Neil**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Women's Hockey team continued its dominance last weekend with two wins over the Bethel Royals as they extend their win streak to three games. With these two wins, the seventh-ranked Gusties hold a record of 6-1-1.

Last Friday, the Gusties traveled to Blaine, MN to take on Bethel in the first game of their two-game series. After both teams failed to get on the board in the opening period, the Gusties struck first in the second period. About halfway

through the period, Junior Allie Stanger gave Gustavus the lead with an unassisted goal, her first of the season. The one-goal lead remained heading into the final period of play.

"Our competition level and willingness to win battles in tight spaces was a little disappointing, especially in the second period. We seem to have some lessons still to learn in that area, but the nice silver lining was that our goalie played great in the second period and kept them at bay." Head Coach Mike Carroll said.

In the third, Bethel tied the game up just three minutes in, but it was all Gustavus from

there on out. Senior Laine Fischer regained the lead for the Gusties less than two minutes later with assists from Stanger and Junior Laura Johnson. Then, with 11:06 remaining in the game, Senior Kaitlyn Klein scored her team-leading sixth goal of the season with assists from Sophomore Amelia Vosen and Junior Marina Chapman. The Gusties held on for the rest of the game to secure a 3-1 victory.

"We can control our attitude and effort as we game plan during the week, and if we do those things we're going to do well most of the time. Our attitude was okay tonight, but our

effort was not where it needs to be," Coach Carroll said. Clearly, the returning Division III Coach of the Year holds his team to high standards standards, regardless of their results. "It was a nice hard-fought win on the road, but it wasn't a 60-minute effort," he commented after the game.

On Saturday, the Gusties returned to St. Peter to host the Royals in the second game of the series. The first period of game two mirrored that of the night before in that neither team was able to score. Once again, Gustavus scored the first goal of the game, as Laine Fischer scored 5:36 into the second period. Fischer's second goal of the series came off of assists from Stanger and Vosen. Kaitlyn Klein found the net once again with just under four minutes left in the second period to give the Gusties a 2-0 lead. This time, Seniors Erica Power and Diana Draayer set up the goal.

"We picked it up the last half of the second period and got a couple goals. I think that relaxed the girls a little bit and they started playing with more energy" Carroll said after the game.

In the third, the Gusties kept their momentum going as Stanger netted another goal about six minutes in. Klein and Sophomore Kristen Cash were responsible for assists. The Gusties scored their fourth

and final goal of the game four minutes later as Cash beat the Bethel Goalie while Draayer and Sophomore Paulina Scheid were credited for assists. Despite two goals from Bethel in the final 2:23 of the game, the Gusties held on for the sweep by a final score of 4-2.

"Getting up 4-0 was huge, but a little disappointing giving up two late, especially as well as Amanda [DiNella] played, but a win's a win," Coach Carroll said. DiNella recorded 16 saves on 18 shots for her sixth win of the season.

On Dec. 6, the Gusties took to the ice again at home, playing No. 5 ranked UW-River Falls. The last time these two teams met, the Gusties won a dramatic 3-2 game in the NCAA Quarterfinals last year.

"Playing good hockey teams, win or lose, you're going to be a better hockey team for it and it's a good measuring stick for regions to know where we're at. Hopefully these two games will make us better and prepare us for when we come back to conference play after Christmas break," Carroll said.

At time of print, the Gusties were hosting the No. 5 UW-River Falls team in a national top ten battle.

The Gusties will travel to River Falls, WI on Saturday for a second match against this tough opponent.



Gustavus Sports Information

Senior Erica Power takes the puck up the ice during a game Dec. 2. The team won this game 4-2.

# Swimming and Diving excels at Pioneer Classic

Men's and Women's teams place first out of 11



Gustavus Sports Information

The Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams competed at the Pioneer Invite at Grinnell College this past weekend. The teams both had strong performances, placing first on both sides.

**Jacob Woodrich**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams have both enjoyed a great amount of success in their first half of competition this season, which wrapped up last weekend when the Gusties traveled to Grinnell College in Iowa for the Pioneer Classic, where the Gustie men and women both took first place in a field of 11 teams.

"The meet at Grinnell was very fun. There were tons of outstanding swims, and the team was very supportive of each other the whole weekend," First-year Nolan Larson said regarding the big meet at Grinnell. The team was very pleased with many aspects of the meet and the weekend as a whole.

"It was clear this weekend that people wanted to be inspiring with their swims. We had a lot of back to back swims with little time to cool down in

between, and people did a great job at being positive and leaving it all in the pool despite being tired. Our on-deck atmosphere also attributed to our success. We were super bubbly and silly, and I think people started carrying that over into their races, and they just started to have fun while racing. People were thriving off of the energy that we were able to create on deck," Senior Kate Reilly said. The success this season goes far beyond just this past weekend, however.

*"It was clear this weekend that people wanted to be inspiring with their swims."*

—Kate Reilly

"So far, we have had great success in the pool. Both teams are undefeated against conference teams, and both teams recently won the Grace Goblirsch Invitational and the Pioneer

Invitational at Grinnell College. Many individuals are posting top-8 times in the conference. Along with this, both teams have posted the fastest relay times. All of this early success attributes to all of the hard work in the pool and the early morning weight sessions," Junior Frankie Zobitz said. The team has had multiple MIAC Swimmers of the Week this season, including Larson, who is in his first year of swimming for Gustavus.

"I wasn't really sure what to expect for collegiate swimming, but it has been awesome. I am very surprised thus far on how fast the season has already gone by. So far, this season swimming with Gustavus has been more than a privilege as the team has been so supportive and welcoming," Larson said.

The team now has a bit of a break in competition until the calendar turns to 2018 next month. The Gustie swimmers and divers will welcome the new year in with warm weather

during their annual team training trip. The team's original training trip destination was Puerto Rico, but due to the severe hurricane season experienced there earlier this year, the team's trip destination has been modified.

*"So far, this season swimming with Gustavus has been more than a privilege as the team has been so supportive and welcoming."*

—Nolan Larson

"We are traveling to Fort Meyers, Florida this year. We'll be training at Florida Gulf Coast University's facility, and we will have full access to their weight lifting facility, which will be awesome. We do have a trip every year and the coaches try to

mix it up and offer somewhere new and unique every year. I think Fort Meyers will be an awesome venue for this year's trip, and we are sure to get some great training in," Reilly said. Upon returning to Minnesota in mid-January, the team's sights will be set on what they like to call "championship season."

"I am most excited for our championship season in February. Each year, we have the goal of winning the conference. This year, on both sides, I believe this could come true. The women have not won since 2015, and the men have not won since 2008. All of the hard work that started all the way back in September pays off. Seeing people swim lifetime bests and then seeing their reaction afterwards is priceless," Zobitz said.

The Gusties continue on their quest to a conference championship and begin the latter portion of their season on Friday, January 12 when Carleton College, a strong conference opponent, comes to town.