

# Respecting a Lost Leader



Emily Seppelt  
Opinion Columnist

We should all be thanking Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) right now. And we definitely should have been thanking her before her death. The way that American women move through the world is radically different than the way they did over fifty years ago. While five decades may seem like quite a long time ago, consider the fact that you are only one generation away from an America where, according to National Public Radio (NPR), a woman couldn't open her own credit account or serve on a jury. Birth control had only relatively recently been available to the public, and it was not only an unreliable method, but was often harmful to a woman's health. This is the world that our grandmothers inhabited.

Both as a lawyer and later as a federal judge, RBG put in

huge amounts of work to make independence acceptable for women across the nation. As a Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Major and long-time feminist, it is astonishing to me that more women, no matter their political leanings, aren't aware of just how much American women have gained in the last half-century. This is why it is so important that we teach young women and girls the history of their gender, and present them with female role models who show just how far a woman can get if she pursues her goals.

Although thousands of obituaries and outpourings of grief and love have come out in the days since RBG's death, people have also used her death as an opportunity to point out what she didn't do, what she voted against and certain controversial opinions that she shared over her lifetime of working in the judicial field. I, of course, encourage this dialogue. It is false that every hero or leader from a social movement did everything right or held all the beliefs that are essential to us today.

What I disagree with, however, is the use of this period of mourning as an opportunity to lash out against the person that RBG was or what she stood for. There is a time and a place to criticize and think analytically about the mistakes of our leaders. Was RBG perfect? No. Did she stand for ideals and share opinions that we now consider problematic? Of course. But does that mean that she doesn't deserve the reverence



Gusties at an RBG memorial

Luke Yang

## The Good, the Bad, and the Meh



Students are coming back to campus



Students are coming back to campus



Students are coming back to campus

and respect that someone who worked so hard for women's rights deserves? I would say no.

The sudden appearance of these critics of RBG immediately after her passing is interesting to me. I wonder why these concerns weren't shared when she was still alive. It would have been a much more interesting and productive conversation if RBG had been allowed to participate.

Out of respect for all the women who worked alongside RBG to forward women's issues, the millions of women whose lives were changed by RBG and her peers, and RBG herself, there should've been a grace period to allow the nation as a whole to grieve the loss of a historic leader.

To come back to my argument about the need for more female role models, doing things like this ("discrediting" a leader soon after their death) may send a message to young girls or women who aren't familiar with RBG's work or women's issues that RBG is not someone to revere or study. In my opinion, this is a dangerous possibility that could prevent some women from engaging with or truly understanding feminism and women's history in America.

I would encourage you as a reader to go out and attempt

to understand the entirety of a person's character—instead of the one part that is presented to you without context. We become better citizens when we do the research to understand important figures ourselves, rather than allowing others to do the research for us and hand us ready-made conclusions about others. RBG's body of work is an impressive, complex and interesting one, and learning about her successes and failures is something we all should do. But first, we should let ourselves and the people around us mourn our loss. May her memory be a blessing.



# It's Okay Not to Know



**Maddy Smerillo**  
*Opinion Columnist*

I started my undergraduate degree feeling certain that I would major in Political Science. I knew that I wanted to work in government or the nonprofit sector. I felt good about this certainty I possessed and, at times, better than oth-

ers because of it. When friends would say they were undecided in their major, I would feel a sense of relief that I already knew what I wanted to do.

Government and non-profit work was my guaranteed career path for exactly nine months of my time at Gustavus. By the time my sophomore year rolled around, I had major doubts that the public sector was meant for me. By the time I was a junior, I was set on going to law school.

During the pandemic, I have had ample opportunity to deeply think about the career path I have lined up for myself. This period of reflection has led me to two key realizations: the first being that I do NOT want to become a lawyer and the second being that a flexible outlook will provide more opportunities than a unchanging plan.

Despite my early assuredness of my major and the positive social response I always got when I told people my plans, the goals I set for myself were not the ones I actually wanted to pursue. Rather, they simply seemed to make sense within a rigid mental structure

that I constructed to maintain stability amidst all the changes that come with going to college. This structure ultimately led me astray and took my focus away from finding a path I felt truly passionate about pursuing.

You see, the fact that I appeared to have my life together during my first couple of years at Gustavus means very little now that I have changed my mind. All it did for me at the time was give me a false sense of confidence and take my attention away from doing the things that I love. If I had not been so set on following a certain path, I would have been able to absorb and enjoy life's moments more thoroughly. Because I have now let go of the strict expectations to which I was holding myself, I have an endless number of new things to try and places to go. I can discover a more fulfilling path for my future because I'm not inhibited by trying to map everything out. Instead, I can take my time to do what my gut tells me is the right choice and move forward from there.

Given this knowledge, here is my advice to all Gusties:

Focus on the present. We should not spend our time today seeking what will make us happy five years from now; we should spend it finding that same happiness right now. Ask yourself: what do I need to do to make today as wonderful as it can be? Do not neglect the present in order to think about the future, that does an injustice to the you that exists in the here and now.

Take risks. Starting college without a firm idea of what you want to do with your degree or even knowing the field in which you want that degree is just fine. You have time before you need to decide where you are headed, which means you have the freedom to explore many different options. Use this time to try something you may not have been able to try if you were on a fast track in a specific field of study. If you end up hating it, at least you know.

Maintain a flexible mindset - it is okay to change your mind. Having it all figured out is not the key to success. Instead, figuring out what you need and want in the moment is. What is the purpose of starting a career

in a field you have no interest in? You and the world will benefit more if you can find what makes you happy.

Finally, stop comparing yourself to others. Even if you know people who seem to have it all together, that has nothing to do with you. There is no magic point in your life at which you are supposed to know what you are doing. Some people take comfort in planning, that doesn't mean doing so is the right solution for everyone. Instead of worrying about how you compare to your classmates, focus on what you can do to get every ounce of goodness out of your world and to give some back, too. If you can find fulfillment in your day-to-day life, you just might discover that you are unstoppable.



*First-years have no need to worry about coming into college undecided.*

Nathan Habben



# TikTok: Here to Stay



**Tori Smith**  
Opinion Columnist

After multiple threats and rumors of banning the popular video-sharing app from the U.S. App Store, it looks like Tik Tok is here to stay. At least, that's what the U.S. Government is saying now after Trump's buddies over at Oracle have promised to protect American users' data. So Trump first declared that Tik Tok was to be removed from the U.S. App Store, then reversed his position two days later because he gave the Oracle-Walmart deal his blessing. Thanks, I guess.

This series of events prompted me to wonder just how important Tik Tok is to our generation. For me, it filled the hole that Vine left in my heart when it was shut down in 2016. When it was rumored that Tik Tok would have a similar fate, I was really worried. Like, really worried. Where will all my favorite creators go? Where else will I get all my Avatar: The Last Airbender memes? What

other platforms could bring together enough people to prank the president at his own rally? Will Charli and Lil Huddy get back together? Okay, I don't really care about that last one, but did you guys see he was just with her at James Charles' house? There's definitely something going on there...

So, what is it about Tik Tok that has us all hooked? Is it the endless scrolling that offers limitless entertainment? Or is it China that's pushing the app into all of our lives in order to spy on us through our data? Maybe both? I don't really know too much about the China conspiracy, and to be completely honest, I would probably continue to use the app regardless. That's how obsessed I am.

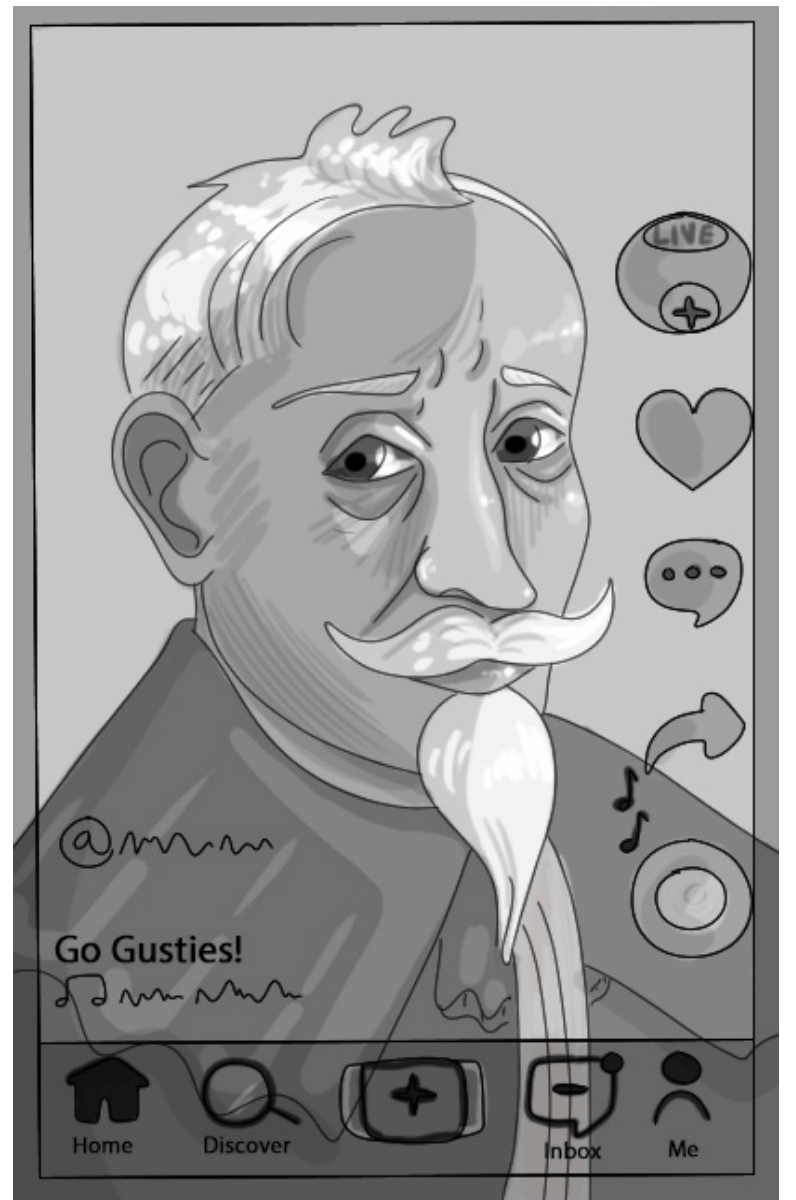
The thing that sets Tik Tok apart from its competition is the For You Page (FYP). Unlike apps like Instagram or Twitter where you see content from people you follow, the FYP shows you endless videos from across the entire app that are recommended to you based on who you follow and what kind of content you like or share. You can still follow creators and see their content in another section of the app, but if you're anything like me you rarely divert from the FYP because of its endless stream of entertainment.

Another reason why Tik Tok is so popular with new creators is because of its virality. Never before has it been so easy to make viral content; in fact, I bet anyone reading this knows at least one person who has had a Tik Tok receive thousands of views. The reason for this is the FYP's unique and very com-

plicated algorithm. There are many theories circulating the internet about how it works, but according to Tik Tok, a combination of user interaction, video information (captions, sounds, hashtags), and device settings (language preference, country setting, and device type) determines whether or not a video makes it on to other users' FYPs. Notice that follower count is not included in this list. This means that you don't have to be mega-famous and have a million followers to go viral on the app (although it might help).

Although I've never gone viral, I'm still very much in love with this app. But am I the only one that's head-over-heels for it? According to a poll I posted to my Instagram story (great investigative journalism, I know), only 54 percent of all participants (my followers) said that they use Tik Tok. Additionally, out of all the participants who are Gustavus students, only 56% reportedly use Tik Tok. That means that roughly only half of my target audience reading this will understand my Charli/Lil Huddy joke from before. What a shame.

While I can't say for sure whether the app poses an actual threat to our national security or if this was Trump's way of getting back at the teens that pranked him, I can say that I'm glad it didn't get shut down (yet). Because even though many people aren't active users, there's a very high chance that they've at least chuckled at a Tik Tok or two. There's no point in denying it: It's a fun app.



*If Gustavus Adolphus had TikTok*

Vin Branom

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Word Search

Back at GAC

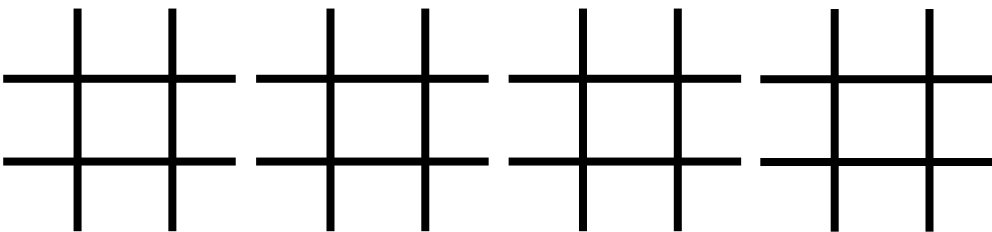
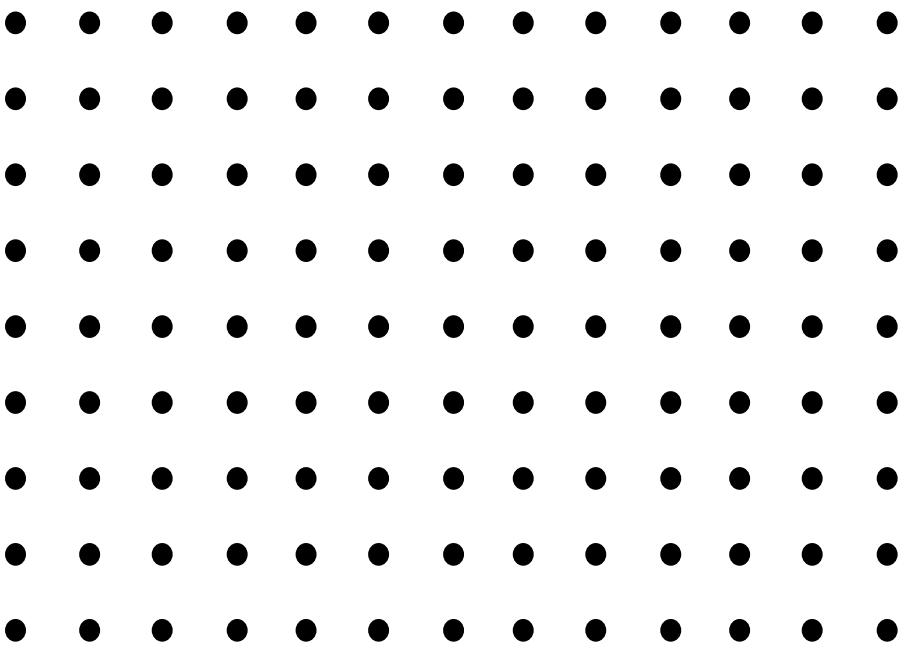
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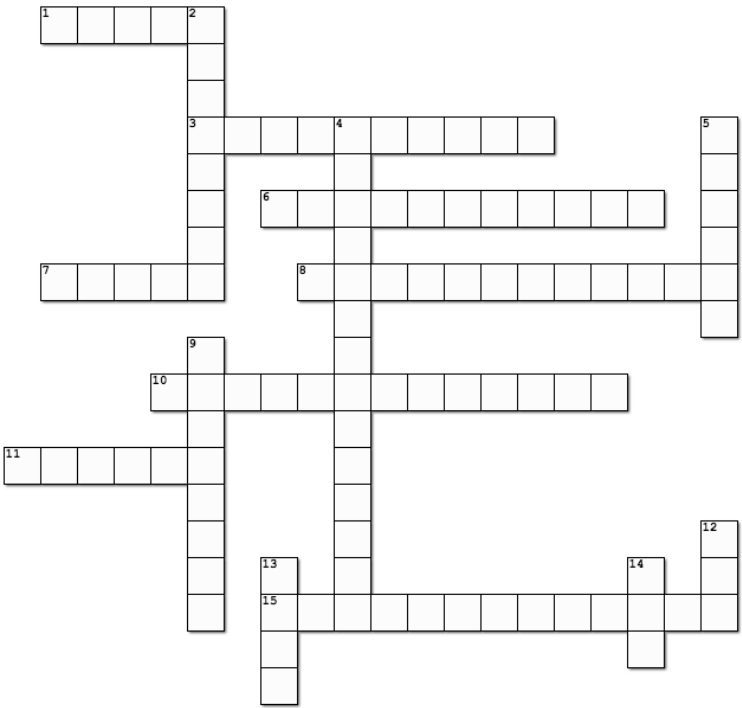
Dots & Boxes

Take turns drawing one line. If that line completes a square, write your initial in the box and draw another line. Continue until all dots have been connected. The player with the most boxes wins!



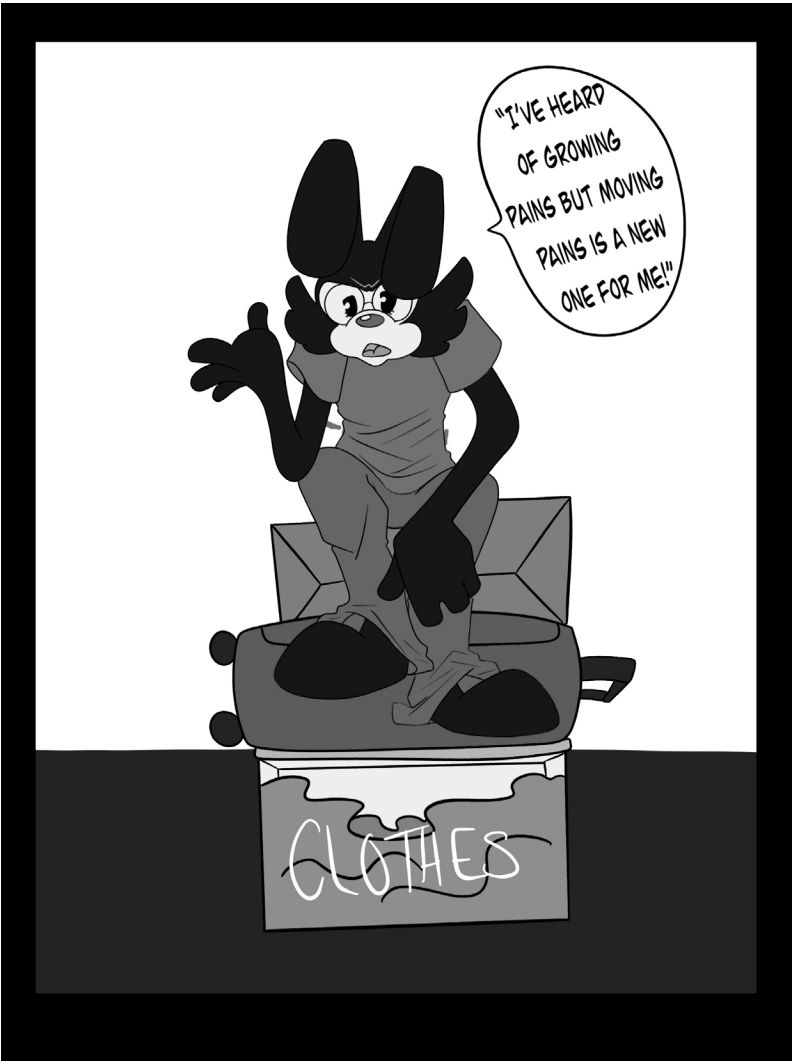
Crossword

So, you're new to GAC...



- Across
1. The only living space with some semblance of normal life.  
3. You now have an excuse to be this.  
6. We have two new \_\_\_\_\_. Go visit them when you're sad.  
7. It is now encouraged to make fun of people who do this.  
8. Regardless of what your friends say in the middle of the night, it is a bad idea to climb this.  
10. Only \_\_\_\_\_ if your best work is done under pressure.  
11. Campus Safety can't search your \_\_\_\_\_.  
15. \_\_\_\_\_ is an excellent, but expensive, way to cope with stress (two words).
- Down
2. The newest edition to the GAC café family.  
4. If you charge it to your \_\_\_\_\_, the money isn't real until next month (two words).  
5. What only the coolest kids call the new addition to Nobel.  
9. The only good thing about campus orientation events (two words).  
12. It is okay to \_\_\_\_\_ in the shower.  
13. Anything is \_\_\_\_\_ from the caf if you're quick enough.  
14. No, you do not want to get up for an \_\_\_\_\_, even if you could do it in high school (time).

"Moving Pains" by Bryanna Filip



Crossword Answers: Across. 1. dorms, 3. antisocial, 6. counsellors, 7. party, 8. tennis bubble, 10. procrastinate, 11. fridge, 15. retail therapy. Down. 2. Steamery, 4. student account, 5. Newbel, 9. free food, 12. cry, 13. free, 14. 8AM.



# Sports are back (kind of)

## Gusties prepare to return to campus for athletic practices



Gusties gear up to safely return to sports.

Gracie Jackson

### Jack Wiessenberger Staff Writer

Gustavus athletes and coaches are set to return to practice this fall. Though all sports in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) have been postponed until next year, teams are finding ways to work with COVID guidelines in order to prepare for the upcoming season. Protocols have been put in place to help keep athletes safe while still allowing them to train.

"Gustavus is following guidelines set by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) for resocialization and return to sport. Athletes are having daily temperature checks and COVID [screenings] completed prior to team practices," Head Athletic Trainer Troy Banse said.

Over the summer, Lund Center was updated with the goal of creating a safer environment.

Facial scanners that identify athletes as well as check their temperature have been placed at the main entrance. Cardio machines such as treadmills and ellipticals have been separated to accommodate social distancing. The area inside the indoor track has been made into a makeshift weight room

for teams to use.

In order to use any of the equipment, athletes must sign up for a timeslot at the information desk. The Athletic Training Room (ATR) has also switched to a primarily appointment-based system.

"[Almost] all access to the ATR will be by appointment through the athletic training system to see an athletic trainer for nonurgent items such as rehab and basic treatment. All athletic training staff will be wearing masks and face shields as well," Banse said.

The changes to the way Lund Center operates is something that all athletes will have to get used to while training for their sports.

With the new scheduling system, finding times to workout has become more challenging than ever. Some athletes are feeling frustrated with the restrictions put in place.

"I used Lund almost every day last year. The fact that I am still paying for the right to use it but not getting any compensation for the limited availability is tough. But that's no excuse to not continue to work hard and find other methods of training," Junior Baseball athlete Nicholas Azar said.

This new way of life in Lund has already presented a number of challenges. Athletes are attempting to work through the distractions in order to focus on having a good sea-

son. For the season to happen, though, safety must be made a priority during practices now.

"Our team has been working overtime to stay safe. Everytime we go to the field we are all masked up. We maintain six feet of distance and even have separate ball buckets for our workout pods. I have talked with the coaches about the plan for the upcoming practices and to call their plan thorough would be a huge understatement[...]. The bottom line is we all just want to play ball," Azar said.

Athletes want their teams to be safe because they know that one positive test has the ability to halt all team activities. Every team that has already begun fall practices has been working hard to make the necessary safety changes.

"I believe the track coaches and athletes are doing a good job trying to keep us all safe throughout all of this. It's hard to get used to wearing masks when working out, especially when outside, but it's something we need to do[...]. I think if we all do our part, Gustavus and the athletic programs can stay open for the remainder of the semester," Thompson said.

Coaches have been tasked with making sure their teams have the new safety protocols down. The COVID protocols put in place will see their first real stress-test next week when all students are brought back to



Lund staff takes necessary precautions for students' safety.

Gracie Jackson

campus.

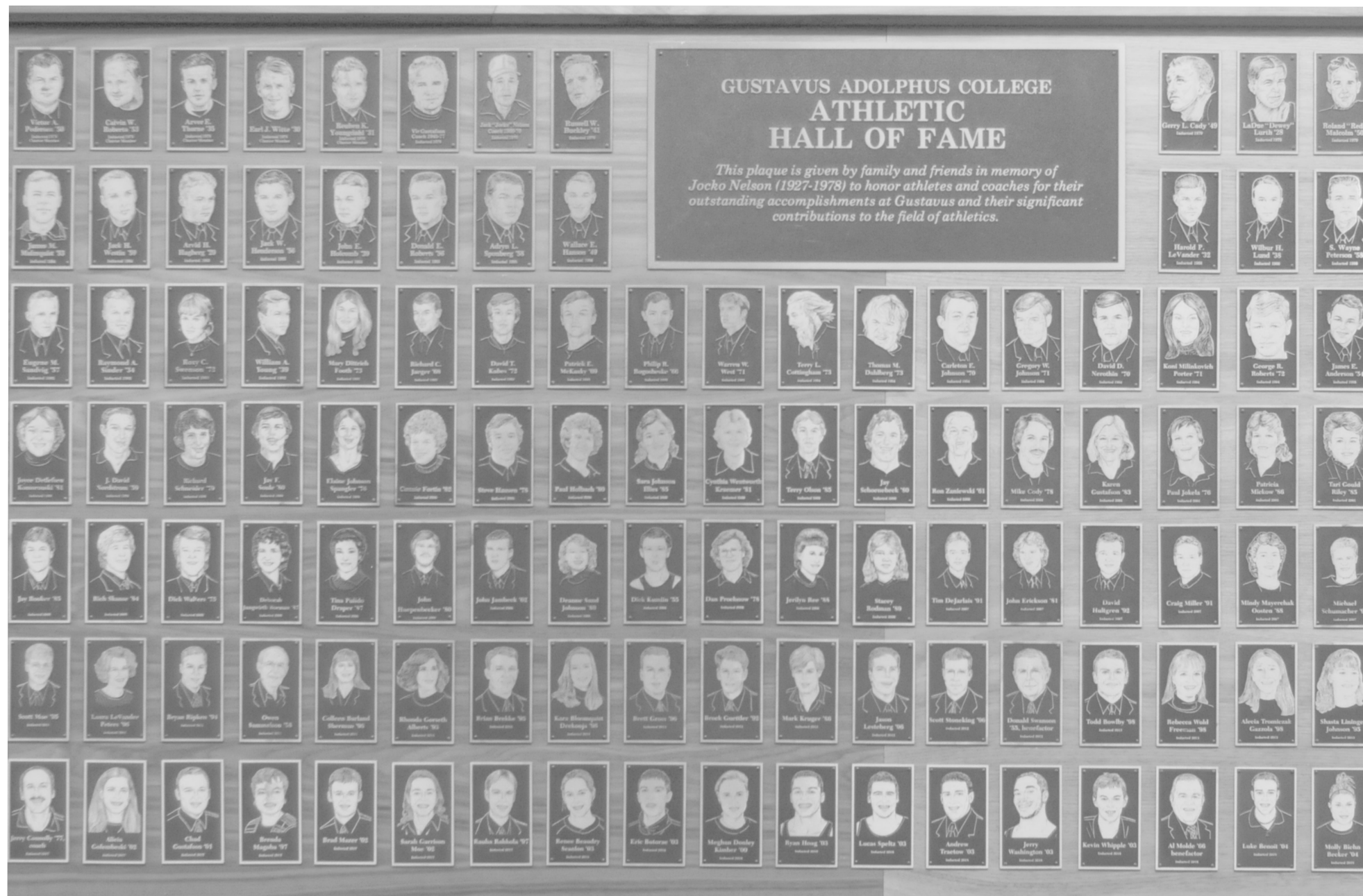
Athletes will be working for a safe and successful training

season in hopes of returning to competition next year.



# Athlete of the Decade contest heats up

## Voting has officially begun for the Gustie Athlete of the Decade



Gusties have the opportunity to become part of the historical Athlete of the Decade legacy.

Gracie Jackson

### Eamonn McCullough Staff Writer

It's been a tough week of competition for some of the most accomplished Gustie athletes of the last decade, full of landslides and close calls. However, unlike the competitions these athletes excelled in to earn their prestige, the winner of this competition is decided by the votes of their peers. The first round of voting for the Gustavus Student-Athlete of the Decade bracket occurred last week on Wednesday and Thursday (Sept. 16-17), bringing several players, including three current Gustavus student-athletes, one step closer to being crowned champion. Senior Track and Field athlete Taylor Rooney, a three-time All-American, eight-time MIAC champion and Gustavus record holder in two events, was humbled by the nomination.

"I was honored. I had no idea

until... the second day of the first voting, some people had started sending it to me. It's a really big honor, and it's really humbling to be a part of," Rooney said.

As herculean as these accomplishments seem, behind every nominee for the Athlete of the Decade are outstanding teams, teammates and mentors.

Rooney recounts his first trip to the NCAA DIII Indoor Championships in 2018 as a first-year, as well as the mentorship of his fellow Athlete of the Decade nominee.

"My [first] year, when I went to Nationals, it was a really cool experience overall to just be able to go... [and] for Michael Hensch ['21] to just take me under his wing, calm me down through it all, as I'm freaking out, as I'm, like, 'what is even going on, this is a giant stadium, everyone here is so good.' Never having a race like this before, having him to just be there for me and just really showing how it is to be a

Gustie and a teammate... that's just really cool," Rooney said.

Another program that is well represented in this week's bracket is Football, with five players, including a current student-athlete, moving on to round two.

"Football's a really big team sport... My success is credited to all the people around me, and my favorite part about that is when it is working well, when everyone is doing their job, when a play comes together... it's a lot of fun[...] The competitive spirit... that doesn't change. [I'm looking forward to] just getting back to some sort of normalcy and getting our guys back together as a whole unit."

Despite the different skill sets and backgrounds brought by athletes of each of the sports in this myriad, it seems like all of the Athlete of the Decade contenders have one thing in common.

"An open-minded attitude to the work that needs to be put

in, [and] just that belief that they can attain the goals that we're putting out there," Track & Field Mid-Distance Coach Becki Staley, said about what separates a good athlete from a great one.

Staley coached Track and Field athlete and contender Tierney Winter ('20) and was there for her All-American honors in Track & Field and Cross Country, three school records and the 2019-20 Gustavus Female Athlete of the Year title).

"I remember we were up there [a 2020 indoor Track and Field invitational at Minnesota State University, Mankato] and I think she was going after a possible school record... she came over...and she was like, 'just hold on one second' and what she was doing was running and cheering for another girl that was trying to get one of her personal goals, and that's just... that's Tierney, all day long," Staley said.

Voting for the second round

of the contest commenced on Monday, Sept. 21, and fans can vote on Facebook (Gustavus Athletics) or Twitter (@GustieAthletics) through Wednesday, Sept. 23.



## Senior Athlete Q&A

Senior athletes reflect on their upcoming final season.

**Weston Lombard**  
Sports & Fitness Editor

With the 2020-2021 season being this year's seniors final seasons, now more than ever it is important to take a moment and reflect upon the journey and what lies ahead for senior athletes. THE GUSTAVIAN WEEKLY interviewed five senior Gustie athletes for their thoughts.

**Senior Hailey Auran**  
(Swim and Dive)

**Q:** What is your favorite memory on the swim team?

**HA:** "My favorite memory on the team will forever be the team atmosphere Gustavus brings to every single meet, especially Conference. We always have the loudest cheering section and I am grateful for the chance I've had to cheer on my teammates for four years during their races and dives."

**Q:** What are you (hopefully) looking forward to going into your final season?

**HA:** "I am looking forward to having the best year yet and to meet all the new first-years and transfers. We also might have our first (and last) dual meet against University of St. Thomas this year, which will be super fun and high energy."

**Q:** What will you miss most about your team?

**HA:** "I will miss the teammate appreciation we do every Friday. Teammate appreciation is a chance to give shout outs to our teammates that might not know how much they helped you get through the week. You could give a shout out to someone for helping you with a lab/home-work, or sitting and chatting with you in the cafeteria, or just being a positive person during a hard set. We show our gratitude for each other every single week

and it brings us closer together as a team."

**Senior Matthew Gibbons**  
(Men's Soccer)

**Q:** What is your favorite memory on the soccer team?

**MG:** "My favorite memory of being on the soccer team is our freshman year when we were scrimmaging Bethany Lutheran. Leo Spry scored our eighth goal, we were only supposed to score seven. The coach told Scotty Heinen to go up to the front and told Leo "Go back." Leo thought the coach meant like go back to the locker room, so he just went down the tunnel towards the locker rooms and everyone was laughing along with our coach on the bench."

**Q:** What are you (hopefully) looking forward to going into your final season?

**MG:** "The thing I'm looking forward to most is hopefully one last NCAA tournament run with boys. We feel we have a very strong team and a great group of young guys that can influence our team."

**Q:** What will you miss most about your team?

**MG:** "The thing I will miss most about my team is just being with them all the time, training and playing games on the pitch. They are such a big part of my college experience and it'll be sad to not see them everyday."

**Senior Peter Lundquist**  
(Men's Basketball)

**Q:** What is your favorite memory on the basketball team?

**PL:** "Beating St. Thomas my freshman year. Won in the final minute."

**Q:** What are you (hopefully) looking forward to going into your final season?

**PL:** "Looking forward to having a very similar team to last year.



Senior Hailey Auran hits the pool.

Gustavus Sports Information

Only lost one senior."

**Q:** What will you miss most about your team?

**PL:** "I will miss the extremely strong friendships I have made with my teammates over the past three years. The best group of guys I have ever met."

**Senior Ava Gonsorowski**  
(Women's Basketball)

**Q:** What is your favorite memory on the basketball team?

**AG:** "[My] favorite memory would have to be going to the sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament my [first] year and beating St. Thomas last year. Both were awesome experiences."

**Q:** What are you (hopefully) looking forward to going into your final season?

**AG:** "I really hope that we can play the game that we love as consistently as possible. We still have high hopes for this year, a lot of talent coming back and



Senior Mo Alhouni practices in the Tennis Swanson center.

Gustavus Sports Information

some first years that can help too."

**Q:** What will you miss most about your team?

**AG:** "I will miss seeing my teammates everyday. I feel like

Gustavus' teams all have really good bonds and connections overall, so it's going to be weird not constantly being with the girls on the team as much as I usually would."

**Senior Mo Alhouni**  
(Men's Tennis)

**Q:** What is your favorite memory on the tennis team?

**MA:** "My favorite memory with my team will probably be the yearly trips we take. It's just fun to have all the guys at the same place."

**Q:** What are you (hopefully) looking forward to going into your final season?

**MA:** "I am looking forward to getting all the guys together again and hopefully for the spring season."

**Q:** What will you miss most about your team?

**MA:** "I will miss practicing together and playing weekend matches at the bubble."



Senior Matthew Gibbons is the Men's Soccer attacking midfield.

Gustavus Sports Information



Senior Ava Gonsorowski plays guard for Women's Basketball.

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