

Pro-Life and Pro-Choice Chalking Events

On Tuesday March 29 2022, Gustavus Students for Life organization and Gustavus Students for Reproductive Freedoms(SRF) held chalking days representing their opposing stances on abortion laws.

The Students for Life participated in a national Pro-life chalking day to show their support for pro-life students on campus. The President of the org, Samantha Bach, describes the org's objectives as, "explicitly Pro-Life, and we aim to save lives by opposing abortion and supporting human rights across the board". They work towards this goal by providing, "comprehensive pregnancy resource guide which has information on accessible housing, healthcare, and continual support for pregnant people on campus". This event in particular was aimed to reannounce the presence of the organization post-covid and to show solidarity to other pro-life students. As a summary Bach said, "There is a reason why students here are afraid to 'come out' as Pro-Life. It can get hostile fast regarding abortion, which is why GSFL focuses on kindness. We know that anger doesn't fix anything, doesn't heal".



One of the two Co-Presidents of SRF, Emily Falk, described the organization's objective for this event as creating a fun and supportive environment for all students. They also worked to "stop the spread of misinformation" and to make a point to "keep religion out of politics". The org worked to point out facts such as, "abortions are less than 3% of the care Planned Parenthood provides". The org was proud of the urgency that students took in organizing this event so quickly and the high level of passion and enthusiasm that participants expressed. Looking forward SRF is working towards Sexual Assault Awareness events which for the second year in a row will include the 97% event and screaming in the woods. Falk ended with the point to remember the importance for people to have "the ability to make those choices" for themselves.

Overall both clubs got the chance to express their opposing opinions and despite some issues both organizations described the event as supportive and successful.

Upon hearing about this event and seeing that The Newman Organization had supported the event by sending out a notice of it to all the students in their organization, Gustavus Students for Reproductive Freedoms decided to host a parallel chalking event. SRF was particularly concerned about the suggested quotes to chalk that were included in the email The Newman Organization sent out. These suggestions included;

- "We are the Post-Roe Generation"
- "Women don't need abortion"
- "Dear women, the Abortion Industry is lying to you..."
- "If your healthcare kills, it is not healthcare."
- "Need resources for your pregnancy? StandingWithYou.org"
- "Women need love, NOT abortion"
- "Defund Planned Parenthood"
- "Women do not need abortion to be successful"
- "Save a life, end abortion"
- "Explicitly Pro-life"



Bidetvus



Jonas Doerr
Opinion Columnist

There is a hidden health crisis on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. Students and faculty are suffering, but no one even acknowledges the problem. Instead, people continue on in quiet misery.

What is this source of pain that lurks unspoken in the minds of most inhabitants of this college? It is the lack of bidets. Students are instead forced to use harsh, single-ply toilet paper for their hygienic needs.

Gustavus already tells students to “Make Your Life Count,” but if the college improves its restroom facilities our lives would count even more. In fact, students could unite under an even more inspiring slogan: “Bidetvus.” By showing thoughtfulness in attending to student health, Gustavus can earn unmatched loyalty from its grateful students.

“Gustavus already tells students to “Make Your Life Count,” but if the college improves its restroom facilities our lives would count even more.”

Toilets at Gustavus are not filling the needs of students. Nowadays, college students expect to receive a bathroom experience comparable to their tuition expenses. Bidets replace toilet paper by attaching to a toilet seat and cleaning occupants with a stream of water. Requiring students to suffice on the pulp of dead trees will not be tolerated by students for much longer.

Sophomore Aiya Jorde is the leader of the Bidetvus movement on campus, and says the movement’s mission is “to inspire students to reach their full potential - one clean bum at a time.” She hopes that Gustavus will provide the best for its students by modernizing its restroom facilities and mentions how much of a bum-

mer it would be if the college did not.

Other students are also suffering because of Gustavus’ reliance on toilet paper. Junior Studio Art major Elliott Schroeder claims, “There’s a dry bum epidemic on this campus and it can end with our generation.” He adds, “Let’s be honest, we all know that Gustavus is going downhill fast. What our collective buttocks need most is this watery blast.”

Aside from the pain, the lack of bidets can impact Gusties in other ways. Discomfort during class can cause Gusties to fidget and become irritable. Because of the subject matter, they cannot share the reason for their discomfort, so they are forced to squirm in silence.

This can cause lower information retention levels as well as a greater dislike for the classes the uncomfortable students are in. But none of this is due to poor teaching or subpar subject material; it is because of an easily fixed hygiene issue.

Installing this simple up-

grade can help Gusties in numerous ways. Sophomore Aiya Jorde also states, “A clean butt is the way to a clear mind and headspace. The atmosphere of Gustavus will brighten once Bidets are implemented campus-wide. The confidence of each student will show on their brightly shining faces as they proudly walk knowing they’re stink-free and stain-free.”

Adding bidets to campus will help Gusties shine brighter by smiling more confidently and sitting more comfortably.

Men have long wondered why women often go to the restroom in groups. Wonder no longer: it is because they are scared of the toilet paper. One-ply paper’s scraping is a terrifying thing, and their fears are entirely justified. Implementing bidets at Gustavus will help ease this fear and give women the confidence to go alone.

Adding bidets to Gustavus restrooms will also dramatically improve our attractiveness to prospective students. Junior Elliott Schroeder says, “Pro-

spective students nowadays are looking for something revolutionary. Something unique. Bidetvus is sure to give us the competitive edge over one-ply schools like St. Olaf.”

Think back to your own days choosing colleges. Obviously, you chose Gustavus for its many other merits despite the lack of bidets, but consider this scenario.

As nature calls, you enter a nearby restroom. Expecting typical industrial toilet paper, you are surprised to see none of any kind. Instead, the stall is equipped with a state-of-the-art bidet. You burst out the door with excitement, and then realize you did not wash your hands. After remedying that, you rush back outside to share how amazing the bidets at Gustavus are. That’s when you realize Bidetvus truly is the school for you.

Scholarships or academic success cannot have the same impact on prospective students that attention to amenities like bidets does. If a college can

take care of students’ basic needs, how much more can it take care of their intellectual necessities?

Bidets will also help strengthen the community Gustavus is known for. Typically, a bathroom experience is not a conversation starter, unless something extraordinary takes place. When students use bidets, however, they will bond over their shared experiences.

A typical conversation post-bidet installation might go: “Have you heard how good the bidet is on the third floor of Beck?” “No, I’m a little nervous to try bidets.” “You should definitely try this one. It’ll flush all your fears away.”

Gustavus has the opportunity to be a national leader in the hygienic movement to install bidets in campus restrooms. Let us unite towards our common cause under the slogan “Bidetvus.” By installing bidets in our campus restrooms, Gustavus can wipe students’ discomfort away.



Bidet.

Submitted

Courtyard cat-fé



Emily VanGorder
Reluctant Cat Person

Step aside, Pause for Paws, there's a new pet-based form of relaxation hitting campus. Or at least there should be, given how much the administration claims to care about student's mental health. I'm talking, of course, about turning the Courtyard Café into a cat café. With the disappearance of beloved campus cat Nemo, campus is again one species short in animal representation. It's time we add some friendly, furry felines to the mix of humans, squirrels, and whatever the thing that lives in the Arb is.

Creating a cat café on campus is guaranteed to elevate the vibes of the Courtyard Café to astronomical levels and reduce student stress by 503%. Cats are ergonomically designed to fit in any workspace and around any obstacle. No matter how much you have on your metaphori-

cal plate, cats will fit in, on, and around anything you have in your way to provide you with your God given right to serotonin.

Have you ever been asked out by someone you like? Got ten praise from a professor? Said something funny that made a bunch of people laugh? All of these experiences mean nothing compared to the levels of joy that being accepted by a cat will provide. Knowing you've been tolerated by one of these picky, potentially evil overlords will make your damn week.

"All of these experiences mean nothing compared to the levels of joy that being accepted by a cat will provide. Knowing you've been tolerated by one of these picky, potentially evil overlords will make your damn week."

Students blessed with naturally high levels of serotonin and or the ability to secure a counseling center appointment

can enjoy this cafe as well as the intended audience. This one goes out to my fellow stressed, pressed, and depressed Gusties who are spending way too much time freaking out about how the hell they're going to make their lives count. Sit and relax for an hour or two with a lil creature who aren't concerned with anything beyond where they'll take their next nap.

The Courtyard Cat-fé would also give students the experience of being around animals without the responsibility of owning one, and might put a stop to the middle of the semester urge to buy and keep an illegal pet in your dorm room. Inhaling cat hair with every sip or bite would provide a serious boost to student's failing immune systems now that masks are coming off and everyone is getting sick again. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

The only thing better than new baby smell? New kitten smell. Getting to be around kittens is much more sustainable than giving into baby fever and popping out your own little free-loader, and the resulting fallout is much less likely to start another cat spat between pro- and anti-choice groups on campus.

I am a lifelong dog person, but regardless of your pet preferences you can appreciate the relaxing atmosphere and top-notch aesthetic a cat café provides. Think of all the cat themed names we could give to café items: catpuccino, meow-cha,



King Kiko the cat. Cadence Paramore

claw-ssoiant, and other tooth-rottingly sweet names that make everyone sound ridiculous when they order.

Cats are essentially more highly evolved college students. We are picky and volatile. We want to lie around in sunbeams for hours on end, get pets, and receive treats. Biologically, we

share about 90% of our genes with the Abyssinian shorthair. It's high time we embrace our catlike natures and welcome them to campus as equals. This isn't just what the students want, it's what we deserve. Help keep Gustavus from going into the proverbial litter box and support the Courtyard Cat-fé.



Courtyard cat-fé. Submitted

What are we, twelve?



Hailey Brune
Opinion Columnist

Let me paint the picture for you. It's the week of mid-terms. We're cramming every night and trying to get everything done. There's a million things to do, and a hundred assignments being crammed into a week. We're just dragging ourselves to the end so we can have a break just long enough to take a deep breath that'll get us through the last two months. I've been dragging myself to the finish line tied up with a big inorganic test. It's Wednesday night and I've just come back to my room. Outside our door we have a skeleton, his name is Skelly. He's been hanging outside our door since October. His Christmas sweater was still

on since I forgot to pick him up some summer threads.

I turn my head to greet him before going back to my room to quickly eat and go back to homework. When I turn my head his spot is empty, though. All that's left is his hanger and the piece of tape that keeps his foot propped against the wall. Skelly is gone, alone with his home-made Christmas sweater. Now, I will not repeat what I said when I went into my room, but I can tell you I was seething. During Christmas break somebody stole the paper money my roommate and I made, out of his hand. I didn't care and just made some new ones. I don't know why anybody would want to steal fake money made out of post-it notes, but that's their prerogative I guess.

Stealing my rather large skeleton wearing a few articles of clothing from outside my door is another story. I informed my roommate that some "fill in your best guess and you'd be right" stole our skeleton in the hour I'd been gone. Immediately, I asked the floor group chat if anybody had seen anything, and to let me know if they saw or heard anything. Luckily, an hour later our neighbor found our little Skelly. Someone had thrown him in the garbage in the laundry room.

Now, I'm not here to talk about how angry it made me, or to share my feelings on someone taking my things. But I am here to share my thoughts on stealing from fellow students in general.

We all remember the beginning of fall semester. There were things being broken, signs, fire extinguishers, and phones being stolen. We all hear about this and roll our eyes at the idiotic actions of these children. I say children because how can you be twenty-some-years-old and still think it's funny to be stealing hallway phones. If you do find it funny, then I think somebody needs to pray for you, because yikes.

"We all remember the beginning of fall semester. There were things being broken, signs, fire extinguishers, and phones being stolen. We all hear about this and roll our eyes at the idiotic actions of these children."

The Good, the Bad, and the Meh

The Good

Classes on zoom.

The Bad

The stupid snow ice.

The Meh

You can slide your way to class.



Somone beiong robbed.

Submitted

The school has ways of dealing with their things being stolen. Stealing from fellow students is a different story. First, you don't know who you're stealing or messing with. You don't know what's going on behind their door and what stress you might be putting on them. Second, we're all just doing our best to emotionally and financially get through each semester. So, you're selfish enough to take a little spark of happiness from someone's life. Someone who maybe can't replace the things you decide to steal, or are very attached to the things you take. Third, you are around the ages of 19 and 23 years old. That's it. You're a whole freaking adult and you think stealing hallway or door decorations is funny, or cool? That's embarrassing. No matter how many mistakes I make, at least I'm not you.

Now, I know I'm not the only one having problems with theft. A friend of mine, Cerise, had origami on the bulletin board outside her door stolen last month. As well as a picture of her cat. I know other people have had little things stolen off their doors. They're normally small decorations and such. It doesn't change the fact that some students think they're entitled to do what they want. As students there's not much we can do about it either. We can't tell campus safety because what are they going to do? Tell us not to decorate our doors

"You're a whole freaking adult and you think stealing hallway or door decorations is funny, or cool? That's embarrassing. No matter how many mistakes I make, at least I'm not you."

or tell us how there's no cameras in the hallways so there's no way to find those who are stealing.

We're left to just hope that the entitled people who decided to take what's not theirs, don't take anything else. There's some problems with cameras in buildings, but it would stop our stuff from being stolen. As well as get rid of the stress of mass fines when a small group of people decide to steal and vandalize from the school. To those stealing, I hope you get caught and you get your just desserts.



Gustavus alumni speaks on U.S. Supreme Court



"U.S. Supreme Court lecture" article on page 4

Dr. Timothy R. Johnson speaking in the Wallenberg auditorium.

Jayme Mapstone

WEEKLY Scan

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Campus Safety Report

Thursday, March 17, 2022

- On Thursday, March 17, 2022, a Campus Safety employee noticed GAC property damage in Norelius Hall.

Thursday, March 17, 2022

- On Thursday, March 17, Campus Safety received a report of a fire alarm over the radio in Southwest

Hall.

Sunday, March 20, 2022

- On Sunday, March 20, Campus Safety was contacted by a student to inform us that a Gustavus van was broken into in Minneapolis and some students' belongings were stolen.

Tip of the Week:

Common parking errors:

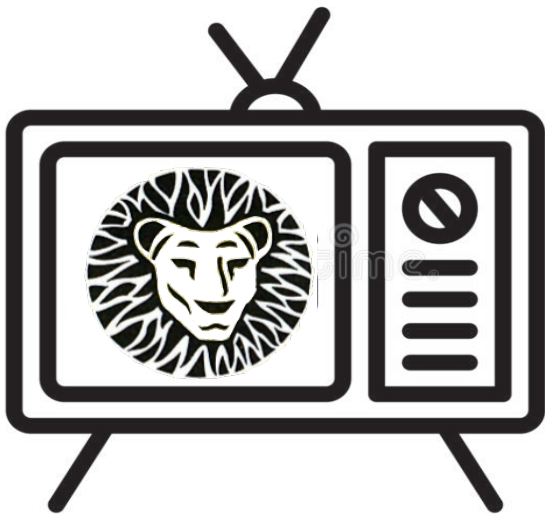
- Three-flags circle is no parking any time, even with flashers on (\$50 citation).
- Green permit parking is no parking 2am-7am, 7 days a week (\$30 citation).
- Designated overnight green spots are available in the Motor Pool lot.
- All parking in the Stadium/

Beck parking lot is marked No Parking 2am-7am, 7 days a week (\$30 citation).

- There are 14 red parking lots, you may have to search more than one lot to find an open parking space.
- Visitor parking is closed to students and staff at all times (\$30 citation).

- A vehicle is not registered until the permit is properly displayed on the vehicle (\$30 citation).
- Temporary Permits: hanging from the rear view mirror, with vehicle information side out. Contact the Campus Safety office 24 hours a day at 507-933-8888 with any parking related.

Are you interested in placing an ad in *The Weekly*?



Contact our ad manager
admanager@gustavus.edu

Daily Sabbath Calendar

Prayer around the Cross-Mondays (Christ Chapel)
Gather to pause for reflection, music, lighting candles, and prayer.

Chapel and Chill-Tuesdays (Christ Chapel)
Meet in Christ Chapel for a coffee bar and easy going conversation (or not).

Morning Praise-Wednesdays (Christ Chapel)
Join together with Gustavus Choirs to sing the Morning Praise liturgy.

Holy Communion-Thursdays (Christ Chapel)
A brief service of song, readings, and Holy Communion.

Musical Showcase-Fridays (Christ Chapel)
We celebrate the many talented musicians at Gustavus.

CAB Calendar
"Don't Be a Karen" by comedian Chloe Hilliard: April 4th, 7 - 8:30 PM, Wallenerg Auditorium

Letter to the editor:

First letter to the editor in years

To the Editors of the Gustavian Weekly,

Are you doing okay? Every Wednesday I go to study in Uhler basement, and I see you guys through the window looking really stressed out. When I go back to my room at like 10, you're still there! It's seriously concerning, especially since I never see you guys move. Every time I go down to the basement

everyone is still in the same position...Do you need help? Also, I'm not going to lie – nobody I know reads the Weekly. It looks kind of janky, and although we appreciate the effort you put in (which seems like a lot, apparently), it doesn't seem like it's worth this much stress. Your one drawing prof who's been here for decades, and you guys

always look mad at them-- especially as the night goes on. Do you guys need a hug? On the one occasion I did read an edition of the Weekly, I was actually pleasantly surprised. I can tell that you guys genuinely care about what you do and put in the effort to make the best paper that you can under your conditions. If no one has ever

told you, I appreciate you.

If I happen to make eye contact with one of you, I feel like I'm looking at a goldfish in a sad little bowl. Swimming in circles. Your eyes tell me everything I need to know-- you DO need help.

Sincerely,
Concerned Gustie



Gustavian Weekly staff in their natural habitat.

Submitted

Stay tuned for editor's response next week!

Gustavus alumni speaks on U.S. Supreme Court



Dr. Timothy R. Johnson speaking at the U.S. Supreme Court lecture.

Jayne Mapstone

Kendra Smaby
Staff Writer

The Supreme Court, its decisions, and nominees have drawn an ever-increasing amount of attention in recent years. From Mitch McConnell's "Block of Merrick Garland" to the approval of Amy Coney Barret, the discrepancies have certainly garnered mass media attention. This, coupled with the recent hearings on the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, have led to an all-time peak in interest of the inner workings of the supreme court. All of these factors contributed to public interest in the topic. As such, the 2022 Ronald S. and Kathryn K. Christenson Lecture drew quite a crowd. Both students and the general public attended the lec-

ture in Wallenberg Auditorium to hear Gustavus alumni and nationally recognized Supreme Court Scholar Dr. Timothy R. Johnson speak on what could be considered one of the most vital questions of our time: is the Supreme Court still the least dangerous branch of the federal government? Dr. Johnson began with an emotional and heartfelt thank you to his mentors, many of whom were in the audience. Political Science professor Chris Gilbert received a special shout out along with a memorial for the influence that Ronald S. Christenson had on Dr. Johnson's time at Gustavus and a thank you to Kathryn K. Christenson for her continual funding of the lecture.

Dr. Johnson opened the lecture by adamantly asserting that he believes the Supreme Court is now the most powerful branch of the federal government. He

maintained a professional and academic lens while simultaneously joking with the audience. Dr. Johnson began by explaining the historical precedence for Alexander Hamilton's statement in Federalist no. 78 that "the judiciary, on the contrary, has no influence over either the sword or the purse; no direction either of the strength or of the wealth of the society; and can take no active resolution whatever. It may truly be said to have neither force nor will, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for the efficacy of its judgments." He then shared anecdotes including John Roberts' resignation from Chief Justice of the United States to run for the governor of New York.

Dr. Johnson assured his audience that the power of the Supreme Court has come a long

way since its inception citing John Marshall's iron fist ruling and his creation of the precedent of Judicial Review. From there, Dr. Johnson structured his argument to depict 4 main judicial periods under which the court showed their importance; these periods, The New Deal Era, the Post New Deal Era, the Warren Court Era and the Roberts Court Era all showed the different ways in which the court can exert its influence over legislation. Dr. Johnson contextualized these eras citing multitudes of landmark cases that occurred in each era and the key ways in which the era changed legislation per judicial review. Some of these cases, such as *Korematsu v. The United States*, a case in which the court permitted the internment and functional incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II in the name of national security, are

almost universally considered dark spots in the courts record. Despite the tragedy and gravity of the decision, this case is indicative of the massive amounts of power wielded by the court.

Dr. Johnson then moved on to discuss a more contemporary version of the Supreme Court by comparing the activism of the current court to that of the Warren court, which expanded defendants rights dramatically in cases such as *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, and *Miranda v. Arizona*. The only difference, Dr. Johnson indicates, is that the 6-3 majority in this current court swing opposite of the Warren court. Johnson indicated that controversial cases such as *Roe v. Wade* could face challenges in this current era. Dr. Johnson closed the lecture remarking that in the courts, "no more center exists . . . Polarization will continue."

DEI panelists teach importance of mentoring



Headshots of DEI panelists (from left to right, top to bottom): Dr. Doug Thompson, Javen Swanson, Kuma Takamura, Dr. Saul Ovalle

Submitted

Mel Pardock
Staff Writer

Thursday, March 31, the Gustavus Mentoring Program will be hosting a panel to discuss the impacts of the Mentoring Program on the personal and professional lives of those who participate in it. The Weekly interviewed Julie Rudolf, the Gustavus Mentoring and Internship Specialist, to learn more about the event.

Q: What, in particular, will be covered at this panel?

A: How mentoring has had a positive impact in the panelists personal and professional lives. This panel will also discuss how

to integrate DEI awareness and action into your current and future professional environments. The panelists are from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds so it will be wonderful to hear about their varied experiences and recommendations.

Q: Why do you believe mentoring is important?

A: Mentoring can help open doors for mentees (students) by providing them with knowledge on how to achieve their goals and build their professional network.

Q: What are the benefits of being a mentor? Being a mentee?

A: Benefits for a Mentee:

Mentors also are a great source of inspiration. If you are unsure of what to do after graduation, mentors can help you set goals and stay on the right track. Additionally, Mentors are someone you can trust. They provide you with support and encouragement. They also are a great resource and can help open doors for you in the future by building that professional network. Being a Gustie Mentor is a great way to give back to Gustavus while helping out a current Gustie. You also learn a lot about yourself and your own strengths in the process. Plus it's fun!

Q: What else would you like to share with Gusties about the

mentoring program and what it entails?

A: There are 2 parts to the Gustavus Mentoring Program. The 1st being the Gusties Connect Community. Gusties Connect is very similar to LinkedIn. Students can connect with the alumni through this platform to ask them quick questions for a quick informal mentorship while building their professional network. The 2nd part of the program is the Formal Program. This is where you are matched with an alumni for the entire school year. Throughout the year you will meet with this person to go over everything from building your resume, how to network, personal and

professional growth and so much more.

"Lastly, we will have 1 more large scale event this year. The Mentoring Closing Banquet - April 21st from 6-8pm. This year the banquet will be held at the Bloomington Sheraton in Bloomington, MN. This will be a great networking event for students as alumni will be invited to this event as well. There will be great presenters, food and PRIZES! Also, transportation will be provided for students to and from the event. Students do not need to be part of the formal program to attend this amazing event. All are welcome," Rudolf said.

Women's hockey caps season with a thriller

Gusties fall in overtime, make history as national runner-up

Brady Boie
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Women's Hockey team continued their Cinderella run in the NCAA tournament. After knocking off the 2nd-ranked River Falls Falcons, the Gusties found themselves facing the Plattsburg State Cardinals, who were the defending National Champions and touted as the third-best team in the NCAA throughout the regular season. This Frozen Four matchup would determine who would advance to the championship game and served as an opportunity for history to be made for the women's hockey program.

"We talk a lot about what it means to wear the three crowns and what it takes to be successful," Senior Tina Press said.

The Gusties did not disappoint and represented the crowns in the best way possible. After allowing an early goal, the Gusties showed their resilience and ability to overcome difficult situations. A goal from Junior Molly McHugh tied the game less than a minute later and was the catalyst for the offensive eruption that was about to occur.

"We talked about how important the first five minutes are. It (the early goal) happened last week and it happened again today. But our kids are battle-tested and here we are," Coach Mike Carroll said.

After McHugh netted the tying goal, the Gusties never looked back. Junior Hailey Holland found the back of the net towards the end of the first period. Two different Gusties notched goals in the second period, and First-year Hannah Gray put the game away for good with a goal that gave the Gusties a 4-goal lead with five minutes to go in the game. And



The Gusties pose on the ice with their National Champion Runner-up trophy.

Gustavus Sports Information

just like that, the Gusties were headed to their first national championship game in program history.

"I'm so proud of our ladies and how hard they battled... this is a special team... a really close-knit, hard-working group... I couldn't be happier for our school," Carroll said.

The Gusties faced the Middlebury Panthers in the NCAA national championship. Like their two previous matchups, the Gusties were huge underdogs; Middlebury is a perennial championship contender, was undefeated, and was ranked top in the nation for women's hockey. And like their previous matchups, the

Gusties fell behind early. Despite outshooting the Panthers 17-13 in the first period, the women found themselves in a 1-0 hole as they surrendered a shorthanded breakaway goal halfway through the opening frame.

"The start just wasn't quite Gustavus hockey like we know... we had to focus and play our game," Press said.

Once again, the Gusties answered the call. Junior Clara Billings slapped a shot past the Panthers' goalie halfway through the second period, knotting the score at one goal apiece. The score would remain 1-1 for the rest of the second period, as the Gusties

made a strong defensive stand against the relentless Panther offense. This strong stand held true through the first half of the final period, as Junior goaltender Katie McCoy made save after save.

After almost twenty-five minutes of an intense deadlock, the Panthers broke through. Senior Madie Leidt snuck the puck past McCoy with less than three minutes remaining in regulation. This goal left many thinking that the clock had finally struck twelve on Gustavus's Cinderella run. But like all fairy tales, a final twist in the game saved the Gusties' season. After pulling their goalie in a desperate

attempt to score, the Gusties found themselves in a scrum around the Panther net, and all hope seemed to be lost as the seconds dwindled away.

As the final buzzer sounded, McHugh fired a shot that found the back of the net. However, everyone did not know if McHugh had in fact tied the game or if time had expired. The play was put under official review. The verdict? Goal! Tie game! The championship game was headed to overtime.

In the dramatic sudden-death overtime period, both the Gusties and the Panthers showed signs of wearing down. The play was sloppy, and neither team could establish a steady rhythm. The Panthers gained a slight advantage, outshooting the Gusties in the early goings of the period, but McCoy made numerous clutch saves.

After twelve shots on goal for the Panthers shot 13 proved to be the unlucky number for the Gusties; Ellie Barney scored the deciding goal, bringing a national championship to Middlebury and leaving the Gusties as national runner-ups. Despite the disappointing outcome of the final game, the Gusties were proud of their performance and are hungry to return to the tournament next year.

"I think it is going to make a huge impact on how we prepare, how we practice, and how we play our games next year because we are going to be hungry for number one next year," Billings said.



Molly McHugh takes the opening puck drop for the Gusties.

Gustavus Sports Information



Goalie Katie McCoy watches as a Plattsburg shot goes wide.

Gustavus Sports Information

Women's tennis sweeps SMSU and MSU

Team breaks losing streak with huge wins over D2 schools

Luke Siegle
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Women's Tennis team returned from their spring break trip in Texas and locked up two wins this past Saturday against Mankato State University and Southwest Minnesota State University. With an impressive 5-2 win over Mankato and then a dominant 7-0 win against SMSU they got back on track heading into conference play which starts in a couple weeks. "On our spring break trip we played really really good teams and I think that set us up for some really good wins this past weekend against two good D2 teams," Senior Sydney Douglas said.

The Gusties got going early against Mankato as they won two out of three doubles matches to secure the point for doubles. Senior Anna Stutz and Douglas won their match 7-5 and Junior Lili Elofson and First-year Brooke Haddorff rolled with a 6-4 win as well. "We didn't want to lose anymore, we just wanted to win," Stutz said. They kept it rolling by winning four of six singles matches. Stutz, the number two singles player, led the way with a 6-3, 7-6 (5-0) win and the Gusties forth, fifth, and sixth singles players all followed suit, securing dominant wins to give them the 5-2 win.

"A huge factor that contributed to our win was definitely the team atmosphere throughout spring break and now coming back to Gustavus. We cheered for each other which helped us set ourselves apart from the competition and by cheering for each other we pushed each other to do our best," Stutz said.

The strong team atmosphere certainly did its part on Saturday as it led them to a big win against one of their main rivals in Mankato. "There's been a



Sydney Douglas stands at the back line ready to serve some heat.

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lot of hype around the MSU match just because they're so close and it was fun to finally play them and they were a really solid team this year and I think that by our win it shows that we have been putting in more effort and cultivating a winning mindset," Douglas said after the match.

With the win against Mankato it set the stage for the Gusties second match of the day against SMSU. The team overwhelmed SMSU and

secured a 7-0 win. Kicking it off were the doubles matches which featured the combination of Senior Simona Potockova and Junior Yuki Oda who defeated SMSU's top doubles team by a score of 7-5.

"My partner, Yuki Oda, was able to step up big time and she was able to absolutely bomb everything at the net which was great," Potockova said. Douglas and Stutz continued the momentum with an easy 6-1 win in their doubles match

and Elofson and Haddorff finished it off with a 6-2 victory in the third doubles match. That earned the Gusties the one point advantage heading into singles. Potockova once again led the Gusties as she took down her opponent with a 6-0, 6-1 win.

"Going into my last singles match of the week, I was pretty exhausted but I knew it was the last one so I just wanted to leave everything out there on the court," Potockova said. She

did that with her overwhelming victory and the rest of the team followed. Stutz secured a 6-2, 6-1 victory followed by Oda who won 6-2, 6-3. Douglas continued her groove with a 7-5, 6-2 victory. Sophomore Alli Laux defeated her opponent in dominant fashion with a 6-0, 6-1 victory. Lastly, Senior Rachel Lindrud won 2-6, 6-1, 13-11 in a thriller to cap the singles sweep. The six points in singles along with the point for the doubles wins capped a successful day for the Gusties.

With the two big wins, the team's motivation is high headed into conference play. "Our biggest goal is to beat Bethel and then Carleton. Those are going to be our top two competitions," Stutz said. In addition to the on court performance the team also wants to continue to grow in their culture.

"One of the main points our coach makes is you play to inspire. So when you are playing hard someone is always watching you. When they see that, they want to put the same effort in," Potockova said. The Gusties will look to continue to grow on and off the court as they prepare for the start of their conference season which gets going on April 9 against Macalester and St. Scholastica.



Simona Potockova keeps her eye on an incoming volley.

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Assistant Coach Heidi Carlson talks strategy with her athlete during a break in the match.

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Gymnastics seniors compete at Nationals

Merila, Redding earn All-American status

Allison Fajt
Staff Writer

This weekend Gustavus's Seniors Brooke Merila and Sophia Redding ended their gymnastics season on a high at Nationals held at Ithaca, New York. Merila placed 8th in the All-Around category and Redding placed 6th in bars- both earning the title of All-American.

"Getting All-American was definitely in the back of my mind, I didn't want that to kinda be like the end all be all goal for me. And so I didn't really know where I was in the rankings going into the awards ceremony so when they announced it I was very surprised and happily, happily surprised for sure," Redding said.

Redding broke her previous record on bars that she had set for Gustavus's program. Scoring a 9.725 she placed 6th in the category which secured her All-American title.

"It was a crazy atmosphere, it was very loud and over stimulating. But I just took a deep breath and focused on myself, then just did everything that I practiced and I finished and it was a great feeling. My coach and Brooke both gave me the biggest group hug afterwards and so it was super cool," Redding said.

Merila competed in the All-Around category excelling in each event. In her first event vault, she received a score of 9.375. On bars 8.475, on 8.750 beam, and in her final event of her career she earned 9.650 on floor.

"I was the last competitor of the whole meet at that event so everyone was watching me which was kinda bittersweet,



Merila and Redding with their coaches, Erin Sawtell and Aryn DeGrood.

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that's always been kinda something that I thought would be so cool if everyone could watch. I looked around during my final solute and I saw my family was crying, everybody on the sidelines crying, so then I started crying. I'm not usually very emotional but that was the cherry on top," Merila said.

The 2022 Gymnastics Nationals wasn't Merila's first rodeo as she previously attended Nationals her freshman year.

Merila was honored both her First-year and senior year with the All-American title.

"It's crazy these past two years, my sophomore year we went all the way through regionals and there were never Nationals because that's when Covid really started and then last year we only got to have four meets. It was really nice to have that full circle moment," Merila said.

As exciting as shiny trophies and titles are, Merila had more

goals outside of the competition. She wanted to not only be a good teammate but a kind competitor as well.

"My biggest goal throughout my gymnastics career has always been to have a positive impact on other people, so being able to cheer for the other girls, being able to introduce myself. So just saying 'hi' and being a friendly face because gymnastics is truly a hard sport and you want to be able to support each other," Merila said.

"Another goal was to not have any regrets, just go out there one last time and just be happy and soak it all in, not really coming out with a score or event goal because those are things that I accomplished a while back and this year has really been more just taking in all the small moments," Merila said.

Head Coach Arin DeGrood and assistant coach Erin Sawtell were by Merila and Redding's sides until the very end, always cheering them on and the women were so grateful for their constant support.

"Arin has been with us throughout my four years and she's always been very supportive and her passion for our program has always driven us as a team. We also have Erin, she came in as a new assistant coach this year and she just fit so well into her role. Arin has always been passionate and vocal about supporting us and the team and then the other Arin brings a calm demeanor and

grounds everybody else. It's a really good balance to have in the gym," Redding said.

Nationals was both Merila's and Redding's last competition of their gymnastic careers. The event allowed them to showcase their skills as well as end their career in the best way possible.

"At the end [of nationals] we did a senior circle. All the seniors joined hands in a circle in the middle of the floor and soaked it all in, and listened to a sad song of course, while everyone else was surrounding us. It was the epitome of D3 gymnastics and why we do it. We're not getting paid for it, we're not on scholarships, we're doing it because we love it and because there's such a strong community within it makes it really special," Redding said.

Both women represented Gustavus all four years on the gymnastics team. Through all the challenges they faced they practiced hard and earned their titles as All-Americans.

"It has been an amazing four years with the relationships I've gotten to build. My teammates and coaches have been there every step of the way to support me. It's been amazing, it's kinda been a second family, a home away from home. There's been a lot of emotions that come with the sport, that come with school, that come with growing up and so having a place that fosters that and wants to see you do well is all you can ask for in a school or a program," Merila said.



Merila and Redding pose together in their leotards.

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