



Perhaps you've recently seen the tiny humans parading through the Caf with signs reading:

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES.

Yes, it's that time of the year. With National Girl Scout Day (yes, it exists) falling on March 12th, I thought it appropriate to spend some time sharing the history of the Girl Scout cookie empire and some fun facts about America's most adored delicacy: Le Cookie de la Girl Scout (Could you tell I took two semesters of French?)

It all started with the Mistletoe Troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma, who baked cookies and sold them in their high school cafeteria as a service project to finance their troop activities in 1917. A couple years later, the same cookie recipe was featured in *The American Girl* magazine and given to the council's 2,000 Girl Scouts, leading to Girl Scouts nationwide beginning to bake simple sugar cookies and sell them door-to-door for 25 to 35 cents per dozen. In 1933, the Girl Scouts of Greater Philadelphia Council sold baked cookies in the windows of the city's gas and electric company and became the first council to sell commercially baked cookies.

From there, Girl Scout cookies were sold by councils across the country and by the 1960's, fourteen licensed bakers were mixing batter for thousands upon thousands of cookies every year. Today, Girl Scout cookies are produced by two bakeries (ABC Bakers and Little Brownie Bakers) which is why the cookies you get and what those cookies taste like depend on where you live (for example, "Samoas" vs "Caramel deLites").

Somewhat unknown fun facts:

- Every year, cookie flavors change and must be approved by the national Girl Scout organization. However, three flavors are always mandatory: Thin Mints, Do-Si-Dos/Peanut Butter Sandwiches, and Trefoils/Short breads.
- During peak cookie season, Girl Scout cookie producers bake over 4.5 million Thin Mints per day. PER DAY.
- It may come to no surprise that Thin Mints are the most popular cookie, accounting for a quarter of all sales. Thin Mints are followed by Samoas (making up 19% of sales) and Tagalongs (making up 13% of sales).
- From January to March, Girl Scout cookies are the number one cookie brand in the United States. During the rest of the year, Oreos sit at the top of the list.
- During World War II, a shortage of sugar, flour and butter led to no cookie sales in 1942, with Girl Scouts selling calendars instead (They are NOT the same).
- RIP to the cookies that couldn't take the heat and never came back: Fruity Mango Cremes, jam filled Iced Berry Pinatas, chip-studded Lemon Drops....



Man, all this talk about cookies is making me hungry... Just out of curiosity, what's your favorite Girl Scout cookie flavor? (I'm #teamSamoas). Have a good rest of your week and stockpile these cookies while you can!

Why can't we choose?



Jonas Doerr
Opinion Columnist

“What do you want to do this weekend?”
“I don’t know, what do you want to do?”
“I don’t know?” The conversants walk off and end up doing nothing that weekend.

This situation has happened to nearly everyone. I’ll be a mind-reader for a second; you have a hard time making decisions. Was I right?

Nearly everyone does. One of the most fundamental parts of human existence is also one of the most difficult. Making choic-

es is not easy.

It’s hard to choose a college. It’s hard to choose a major. It’s hard to choose what to eat, what to wear, and what to watch. Even when there’s only two options, like the Caf at 8 p.m., it’s still hard to choose.

When a group of people are bad at making decisions, a horrific cycle begins. One person defers to the others under the pretense of being nice. Another person says, “I don’t care.” Everyone tries hard to be the one who doesn’t care where they go the most. Of course, whatever they end up doing - going to Taco Bell, for example - will be something nobody truly wanted, because everyone just compromised.

Sometimes people feel like they can’t say what they want without being rude. Some people think it’s nice to defer to others. Some people just don’t know what they want.

Why is this a problem?

First of all, if you can’t choose, you’ll end up doing things you don’t want to do. You will end up at a restaurant you don’t like, for example. But more than that, you will find yourself stuck in a rut of what you are already doing.

Why is it so hard to put down

Tik Tok or Instagram? Because it is a hard decision. Continuing scrolling, essentially is putting off a decision. To put down the phone and do something else requires you to decide that you want to do something else, and you don’t have to make that decision if you keep watching cute goat videos.

“When a group of people are bad at making decisions, a horrific cycle begins. One person defers to the others under the pretense of being nice.”

Procrastination is also at its heart the postponement of a decision. Sometimes the hardest time to get started on your homework is when there is a lot of it. What should you start on? It’s easier not to choose, and this is why you will start doing something else.

If you become better at making decisions, you will be able

to procrastinate less and spend your time more effectively. You will also be able to avoid groupthink.

Groupthink is a researched effect where a group of people, attempting to make a decision, agree with nearly everything the other people say. But this leads to bad things.

This effect was one of the reasons the Challenger mission failed. While some people had qualms about launching the shuttle, in the meeting to discuss the launch everyone quickly agreed, and the mission dramatically failed.

Groupthink doesn’t just occur in high-level meetings. It also happens in class discussions, clubs, and friend groups. People are often afraid to disagree, and it feels good when everyone is working together, so voila! Groupthink.

The difficulty of choosing also causes groupthink. It’s hard to choose to disagree. If you go with the group, you don’t have to make a decision. You can flow with the situational inertia. But learning to choose would solve this problem, too.

The formula for becoming more decisive is simple: make more choices. Figure out what you want, and then try to achieve

it. This is easier said than done. Many people do not know what they want.

“Why is it so hard to put down Tik Tok or Instagram? Because it is a hard decision. Continuing scrolling essentially is putting off a decision.”

One of the hardest things about choosing a major is deciding what benefits each major would provide for you and then determining which benefits are the most important. You have to know what you want.

Journaling is one way to improve at this. Write down your thoughts and take some time to ponder what you want. Consciously thinking about what you want will allow it to come to mind more easily in the future.

After you know what you want, you have to try to achieve it. Don’t be a pushover.

This does not mean that you should be stubborn and rude. It’s hard to balance speaking up for yourself and being kind, but it’s important to try. Say what you want, and see how you can mesh that with what other people want.

Practice making choices, and you will make more choices and better choices.

Without effective decisiveness, we cannot lead our community. Decision-making is an essential part of leadership; training in it will build a strong community of leaders who can guide us to a brighter future.

“Decision-making is an essential part of leadership; training in it will build a strong community of leaders who can guide us to a brighter future.”

Do not become choosy or picky, but choose more and pick more. A more decisive Gustavus means less procrastination, less groupthink, and better usage of our time. Can we do it? You decide.



AI - friend or foe?



Gabrielle Lavan
Opinion Columnist

We've entered into the stage of capitalism where we attempt to turn robots into sentient beings. Machines that can move, consume, and think on their own used to be a concept of the sci-fi-fantasy genre. Beloved fantasy worlds with sentient

robots such as BB-8, WALL-E, and R2-D2 pique our curiosities because human-like robots are a spectacle. They're confusing, interesting, and a little alarming.

Obviously, AI and robots are two different things that have overlapping concepts. Robotics is just one piece of artificial intelligence. AI has existed for quite some time and can be found in our pockets. AI is our autocorrect, maps, facial recognition, chat-bots, and other features many of us use daily.

We use it for so many things, that many of us are unfazed by the role of AI in our lives. Even with its practical uses, there is a fear of the potential of AI. As much as AI giveth, it can taketh away. We've already begun to see some of the more unfavorable aspects of seemingly favorable applications.

I first heard of the use of artificial intelligence at a dinner conversation at Patrick's

on Third at the end of the Fall 2022 semester. Its use? To write essays that pass the proverbial humanness test.

This scared me. As a humanities student, the idea that an AI application could quickly and efficiently pen an essay that would take me more than a few days to conjure without even blinking an eye horrified me and my future career prospects.

An AI can never fully replicate human thought, and arguably, it should never try. The goodness of something that lacks human consciousness can only extend so far. Human experience that is filled with love, longing, loss, joy, and grief can never be replicated.

In fact, when it tries to replicate human experience, there are chilling consequences. It takes only a Google search to read lengthy articles covering the creepy things that AI chatbots say. The AI programs are based on human based data

and use patterns to generate what they say. So while AI's responses may be based on human data, they are not human.

AI will never understand your passions and motivations. However, it can try to reproduce it. AI makes things easier, but it won't be long before it makes things more complicated. In fact, it's already started to complicate things on campus.

I was surprised in some of my first classes this spring to see some professors have already begun to incorporate policies regarding the usage of AI in their classrooms. I was thoroughly impressed at how quickly the potentially destructive effects of systems like ChatGPT were addressed. Obviously, professors are worried about it enough to take speedy action.

I have really complicated feelings about AI. On one hand we use it everyday and it has greatly improved my personal

ability to spell and get around. It is safe to say that many of us literally would be lost without AI. But on the other hand, it has the potential to devalue thousands of people's degrees and move us closer to robots taking over the world.

One thing I know for certain is that human experience matters. It is unreplicable, special, and unique. There is something inherently human and beautiful about pulling one's own thoughts together into a cohesive string of phrases.

In many ways, human brains act much like computers. We analyze, we gather data based on experience, and we make decisions based on what we find. We ignore our own capabilities when we succumb to using AI to think for us for tasks larger than where the nearest grocery store is.

In short, AI has its place and uses. However, its capability to profane what is human makes AI a foe.

Blinded by the headlights



Houston McLaury
Opinion Columnist

The modern world brings a multitude of wonders into people's lives thanks to the advantages of modern technology. Items from phones to microwaves have changed lives in drastic ways, some improving life, while others tend to hold people down. One of these inventions that holds us down is the LED headlight. This light, straight from the fiery furnace, has ruined a multitude of drivers' nights, due to the strength of the light and the people that often drive these types of cars.

Take, for example, my own experience with these vehicular lamps from hell. While driving to campus one night, driving back from home, I was enjoying my drive down Highway 169,

the Minnesota River as my companion. I kept my eyes on the road, listening to a steady and calming song that eased my nerves as I drove into the night and back to campus. Then, the music changed. A suspenseful piece, building upon my anxiety as I stopped at a red light. It was at that light that I saw it in the mirror behind me, about a mile off. A light as bright as the sun racing towards my car, it's metal grill like teeth, hungry to consume my car and my soul.

In an instant, the light blinded my vision, thanks to my mirrors reflecting the light directly into my eyes. And as I kept driving down that stretch of highway, I had to lean back and into my chair, adjusting myself to avoid the gaze of light that haunted my vision. Eventually, the car passed me, and with my vision restored I thought I would finally be able to enjoy my drive again. But alas, as the blinding white faded from my retina's I saw the most horrid of sights. On the opposite side of the road, every few minutes, there were more vehicles from the underworld, like locusts swarming the highway and ensuring I was never without light.

Through my horrid experience of night-time driving is my first issue with this invention: the light. The light from these new LED headlights is noticeably different from the ones of old, instead of holding

a calming yellow light that only gets into a person's eyes if they look directly at the light, these LED headlights come in a sterilized white color. These lights cover a wide range, and extend farther than necessary, and is the main reason why I have become a vehement opponent of these headlights. In a terrible way, these lights act as a constant high beam activated to these cars, and while high beams are useful in some situations, there's no need for them to always be on.

On another occasion while on Highway 169, I ran into the other trouble with this blessing from the modern age. The people that drive these vehicles are needlessly aggressive while on the road. In the winter, I like to drive a bit slower after fresh snow, yet as I was going the speed limit a Toyota started to tailgate me, again the lights from before forcing me to sink into my chair as I drove, forced to speed up. An important factor to note is that there was not a soul in the left lane. This person, who was in such a hurry decided not to move over, to pass me, but to sit there for the drive, tailgating and blinding me as I tried to get back to campus.

Now, of course, not all cars with LED headlights drive like this, and I am sure only a few intentionally tailgate someone. However, the fact of the matter stands that these headlights,

whether inadvertently or not, harm people's ability to see on the road, not only from the same side of traffic, but on the opposite side as well. So, what is to be done? The reasonable and rational person might suggest regulations, or laws. Putting into effect laws that determine how strong these lights can be, and at what intensity they can legally be on the road. And, while yes, there are laws and regulations on certain headlights, I think more of these will better address the issue of these horrible headlights. This is a reasonable, and rational solution, to a reasonable problem.

I am not a reasonable man. Nor am I rational. The idea to solve this problem through the law is fine, however I think there would be benefits in bringing back older punishments. The punishment that will work best is that of the stockade and the tomato. Having these offending drivers get humiliated through the throwing of tomatoes may serve as enough of a deterrent to offset the number of LED vehicles out there on the roads today. Getting rid of these LED headlights will help keep the roads safer, and the eyes of drivers across the country safe.



Bright headlights.

submitted

Oscar-ventions



David Eide
Opinion Columnist

In the past couple of months, I've been trying to get out and see more movies in theaters and I think it's really inspired a deeper appreciation and curiosity towards the art of filmmaking. In turn, this interest has spun off to include things that directly tie into films, in particular, the Oscars. If you're somehow unaware, the Oscars, or the Academy Awards as they are officially known, are the most prestigious film awards in the world, meeting in late February or early March every year to honor the films released in the last year. I quickly grew intrigued by the long and storied history of the Oscars as well as the enduring points of controversy that arise every year once Oscar season rolls around and so I decided to throw my hat in the ring and write my own reflection upon where the Oscars are now and where they might go in the future.

"If you're somehow unaware, the Oscars, or the Academy Awards as they are officially known, are the most prestigious film awards in the world..."

A major point of general discussion regarding the Oscars in recent years has been the marked decline in viewership

in recent years. This decline has been blamed upon many different factors including a general decline in live television viewership and a feeling that the ceremonies have gotten too long and bloated. One argument that I see frequently bandied about is that the biggest films of the year rarely get nominated for the Oscars with more focus being placed on smaller films that most filmgoers haven't even heard of. There is some validity to this argument, as in the past, major films like *Jaws* received nominations for best picture which has become a less and less common occurrence nowadays. However, I think this is a very flawed argument for a number of reasons. Personally speaking, I do think that the quality of major blockbusters has declined by quite a bit recently. Previously, major motion picture events often had original stories or adapted major historical events whereas now they're often either standard franchise fare or a remake of something from the '80s. Furthermore, the premise itself is flawed as just recently the Oscars have nominated major films for best picture like *Black Panther* in 2019 and *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Avatar: The Way*

of Water this year. Basically, if big films would get their act together and actually feature good cinematography and storytelling they might get nominated for best picture more often.

"This decline has been blamed upon many different factors including a general decline in live television viewership and a feeling that the ceremonies have gotten too long and bloated."

That brings us to this year's ceremony which is looking to be a very interesting one. Unlike in some prior years there doesn't appear to be a clear favorite as to which movie will win best picture, leaving the field wide open. I haven't yet had the chance to watch all the nominated movies but I have seen a solid amount of them and looked at the general reception of the ones that I haven't so I feel decently confident in my commentary.

Everything Everywhere All at Once stands out among the nominees as having received many awards in other prominent award shows. While I personally have not seen the movie, despite it seeming to be right up my alley, I have heard nothing but good things about it and I think it has a very good shot and it would be a well-deserved win. Another best picture nominee with a lot of buzz surrounding it and that I have actually seen is *The Banshees of Inisherin*. Out of all the nominees I've seen this one is probably my favorite as it has fascinating themes and excellent cinematography and it's the one that I'm rooting for at the moment. It seems unlikely to me that *Top Gun* or *Avatar* will win as the Academy has never quite felt comfortable giving the award to big studio films. I've also seen some speculation about *The Fabelmans* by Steven Spielberg but I also see that as somewhat unlikely since Spielberg has already won several Oscars and the Academy might want to give the award to a lesser known filmmaker. This is what I mean when I say that the field is very unsettled, you can make solid points for many of the nominees, and it would probably

be fair to say that it's anyone's game at the moment.

"It seems unlikely to me that Top Gun or Avatar will win as the Academy has never quite felt comfortable giving the award to big studio films."

Of course there's always more to say about the Oscars but I purely wanted to keep the focus on the films rather than the celebrity drama and physical altercations that may arise from the ceremony. While I could easily have devoted half the article to talking about the slap and what it says about hosting the Oscars, I wanted to keep a narrow focus on the actual films being honored which of course is the entire point of the Oscars. The Oscars have many flaws but ultimately they exist to honor an art form which has brought me and millions of people a lot of joy and so I think they deserve at least a little bit of support and consideration.



The Oscars.

submitted

Movies From Swank: Green Book

Will Sorg
Movies Guy

The Oscars are this weekend, and in terms of nominations, it's a great year with a lot of solid movies up for awards including the always contentious best picture. Besides 2016's *Moonlight* win that was undercut by accidentally announcing *La La Land*, there hasn't been a best picture winner in recent years with as much controversy as the 2018 film *Green Book*. This Peter Farrelly-directed film left a large majority of Oscar viewers perplexed. It certainly had the makings of a best-picture shoo-in but it definitely was not the front-runner by any means.

Watching *Green Book* years after its release is like eating at Applebee's. You know it's going to be acceptable and safe before you come through the door, it's not going to be life-changing, and you definitely won't remember too much about it after you've finished. This historical road trip dramedy about a Black virtuoso pianist and his Italian driver as they tour through the deep south in the 1960s is a remarkably okay movie. It is hard to remember through all of the social media discourse and regurgitated hot takes, but this movie's first big critique at the time of its release was that it was boring and fine. Yes, more controversy came after regarding the accuracy and ethics of the film but really most people just shrugged at the film. Viggo Mortenson plays Frank "Tony Lip" Vallelonga, a man who is so comically Italian American that it only makes sense that the real-life Vallelonga later had minor appearances on *The Sopranos*. Mortenson is fine in this film, he plays the role well even if he is constrained to the tired archetype of a low-brow, working-class man who forms a friendship with a person of color and discovers the evils of systemic racism.

His co-star Mahershala Ali portrays Dr. Don Shirley with nuance and masterful technique so it's no wonder his performance won him an Oscar. Dr. Shirley is easily the best part of the film as he plays a refined, wealthy performer that grapples with his own self-identity. A common theme throughout the film is his distinct lack of common Black stereotypes which contrasts with the racism the pair of protagonists encounter. It cannot be overstated how much Mahershala Ali's portrayal of Shirley is essential to the overall impact of the film as without his hard work the heavy-handed film would fall flat on its face. He energizes the whole thing wonderfully.

However, despite him sharing almost equal screen time with Mortenson, Ali only won best supporting actor. This could be attributed to the common practice of arbitrarily splitting up co-stars into supporting and leading role categories so that one is more likely to win than the other. That year the Oscars had an incredibly competitive lead actor category. Rather than deal with the possibility of Ali and Mortenson competing against each other in an already incredibly competitive year, they decided to put Ali in a category with far less competition as none of the other supporting actors had nearly as much screen time.

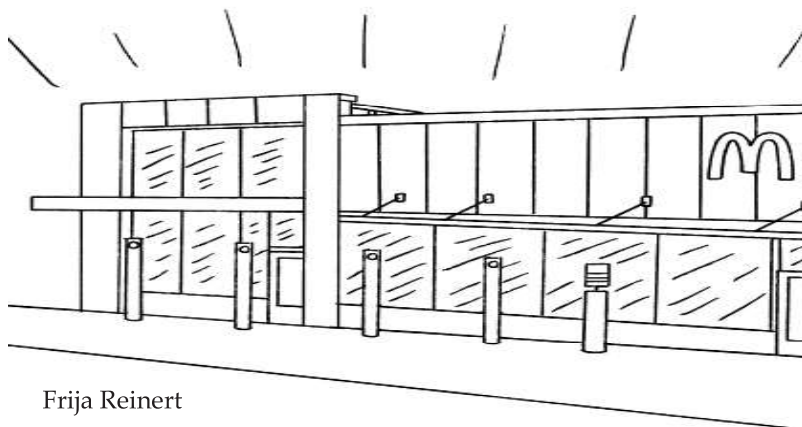
It is astonishing how much time and thought is spent maximizing success for even a single award show. What was not surprising at all however was that this film, about a Black man, told through the perspective of a white man, was directed, written, edited, and almost entirely produced by white people. The sea of old white men coming on stage when the award was announced is almost all you need to critique the film. The film is not bad, it's just so incredibly formulated to make money and win awards. Pretty much the only thing in it that isn't soulless is Mahershala Ali's performance.

Word Scramble!

1. haspormi _____
2. ginbo _____
3. dwaakwr _____
4. ywh _____
5. yisll _____
6. ntisky _____
7. inudasro _____
8. ulbe _____
9. orsjiatuln _____
10. amlet _____
11. kobos _____
12. teewvl _____
13. rsiftrgunta _____
14. shpar _____
15. raysp _____
16. hogst _____
17. apper _____
18. ianma _____
19. yabcapar _____
20. goutry _____
21. piec _____
22. amj _____
23. siinde _____
24. hirtll _____
25. orfth _____
26. tacoucis _____
27. danh _____
28. noottsip _____
29. nang _____
30. nde _____

Answers in the next issue

*A reminder to get your shamrock shake before 3/17!
(not sponsored)*



Frija Reinert

Tennis picks up two wins

Gustie men demolish Hamline, Luther

Emma Esteb
Staff Writer

After an amazing sixth-place finish at the ITA Men's Indoor Championships last weekend, the Gustavus men's tennis team carried that momentum with them as they faced Hamline University and Luther College on Saturday, March 4. The Gusties swept the Hamline Pipers 9-0 and defeated the Luther Norse 8-1. These victories put the Gusties 10-4 overall and 4-0 in the MIAC. "We started off with Hamline and we took care of business pretty fast. I think after a super competitive and tough weekend everyone was ready to take care of business in the Conference," Senior Alex Budde said.

"We started off with Hamline and we took care of business pretty fast. I think after a super competitive and tough weekend everyone was ready to take care of business in the Conference."

First-year Luke Haddorff was undefeated as he went 8-0 in the doubles with partner Senior Justin Sehlin and beat his Hamline opponent in the No. 6 singles spot with two 6-0 scores. Sophomore Taona Mhwandagara also had a clean sweep in the No. 4 singles spot with a set of 6-0 scores. After



Gustie tennis player returns an incoming serve.

Submitted.

these wins, the Gusties felt confident as they shifted to face the Luther Norse.

"We have had some decent matches against Luther in the past. On Saturday, in the doubles we lost one match, we played a good team which came down to a tiebreaker. But the two and three doubles spots we won pretty easily, so we got a lead," Senior Sourabh Terakanambi said. Terakanambi and his partner First-year Marco Siviero, won in the No. 3 spot 8-3 with Budde and First-year Gage Gohl winning in the No. 2 spot 8-2. "We tried to look at it like any other match, so we tried to go into it pretty intense

and bring high energy," Budde said. He also won in the singles as he defeated Luther's Marvin Kuehnelt 6-0 and 6-3.

"We were really focusing on the present because we have a big weekend this week as we are heading to California for a big invitational. So I think a lot of people were just making sure we weren't looking ahead and actually just focusing on the match we had," Terakanambi said. After coming off such a promising weekend, facing nationally ranked teams on Feb. 26, the Gusties gained immense confidence as they head into the outdoor season. Budde and Terakanambi faced

top-tier teams at the ITA Championship with Budde being the only singles player to pull out a win and Terakanambi and his partner defeating their opponent 8-2.

The team is heading to California this week where they will have enough sunshine to compete outdoors. "I think we are more successful this year, I think we are on an up trend. I think it's because, for once, we have been pretty open about what we want to do as a team rather than just expect everyone to just bring it themselves. I think one of the biggest things is bringing a lot of energy to practices kinda going from what we said earlier about going from a week where we are playing a top-ranked national team to playing a much lower-ranked team, that practices could typically in our years prior, maybe weren't as great if we are not playing as good of competition but I think we have found a way to streamline our energy," Terakanambi said.

This buy-in from the whole team has created so much success for the Gusties not only in the MIAC but also on the national scale. "I think last weekend showed that we could beat the best teams so then I think that adds confidence to all of your matches you play throughout the year and I think everyone seems to be playing better, too, after seeing we can beat pretty much anybody," Budde said. The ITA Championship event was a very meaningful and special experience for D3 tennis and an even cooler experience that Gustavus was able to host.

"This buy-in from the whole team has created so much success for the Gusties not only in the MIAC but also on the national scale. The ITA championship event was a very meaningful and special experience for D3 tennis."

As the season shifts towards outdoor, the seniors have much to look forward to as they end their tennis careers. The team is looking to exceed expectations and advance far in the national tournament. The bonds and friendships that are made on and off the court have played a vital role in the success of the team. The cohesiveness of the players has also contributed to their success not only within the MIAC but also against teams such as the University of Chicago, NC Wesleyan, and Emory, who are all top 10 nationally ranked.

The Gusties are looking forward to an exciting week in California as they head to the Stag-Hen Invitational hosted by Claremont-Mudd-Scripps. They will also host Iowa Central on Friday and send some players to Fargo, North Dakota to compete against Concordia on Saturday.



Gustie player awaits a serve.

Submitted

Basketball wraps up historic season

Women's team eliminated in round of 32



The Gusties' valiant comeback against UW-Whitewater came up just short.

Submitted

Nyden Hill
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Gustavus women's basketball team traveled to UW-Whitewater to take part in the 2023 NCAA tournament. Entering the tournament, the Gusties were riding a kind of momentum that was beyond anything ever seen in program history. Aside from being ranked in the top-10 in NCAA DIII basketball, they claimed both the 2023 MIAC regular and postseason titles, a feat that had only been accomplished once before. Heading into their first round matchup against Ohio Wesleyan, the Gusties' mindset had not seemed to change since conference play and the regular season.

"We were feeling really good and excited. Because we were matched up with another non-hosting team, we knew that there wasn't going to be a crazy crowd difference and were really confident in ourselves," Junior guard Emma Kniefel, said.

From the very beginning of action, the Gusties wasted no time getting out to an early lead, ending the first quarter with an 11 point lead (27-16). This same momentum carried over to the second half, where they increased their margin to 14 points off a made three by Senior guard, Anna Sanders. At the end of the half, the Gusties stood in firm command of the game, with a 14 point lead, at 46-32.

While they built a signifi-

cantly large lead and had momentum throughout the first half, the Gusties built their largest lead of the game in the third quarter, 24 points ahead. Much of this offensive effort can be attributed to Sanders, who rattled off seven of the team's 24 total points in the third quarter. Junior forward, Izzy Quick, who was injured earlier this season but was still a key contributor to the MIAC championship team, had this to say about the flow of the game from a sideline perspective.

"I thought we played really well. There were times where Ohio went on runs but we thought back every time they punched we punched back. I thought we moved the ball really well and attacked their weaknesses. We were prepared for the press and knew how to handle the pressure going into the first game. Our team did a really good job of getting the ball inside for touches and kicking out to our guards as well," said Quick.

In the fourth quarter, the Ohio Wesleyan fought back, rattling off 21 points, to the Gusties' 15. However, this comeback was not enough to close the gap, as the Gusties emerged as the winners, ending the game as 16 point victors, with the final score being 84-68. Sophomore forward, Rachel Kawiecki, had this to say following the contest.

"It is hard for anybody else to stop our team because we just have so many people that can score. If I am a coach scouting our team, it really makes it

hard because we have so many people that can score on any night," said Kawiecki.

In the second round of the tournament, the Gusties faced the site hosts in the UW-Whitewater Warhawks. Still riding the momentum of the previous night's victory over Ohio Wesleyan, the Gusties carried a similar mindset heading into their second round matchup.

"Going into the second round, we were all very confident and definitely more on edge due to this game being for a sweet sixteen spot," said Kniefel.

However, this momentum found itself halted in the first quarter, as the Gusties played from behind from the very beginning of play. Concluding the first quarter, the Warhawks had situated themselves in the lead, with the Gusties trailing 18-11.

Starting the second quarter, the Gusties attempted to ignite the spark that they had in their game against Wesleyan with a three pointer from Sophomore guard, Kylie Baranick. This effort was punctuated by two free throws being made just three minutes later to tie the game at 18-18.

While this offensive push put the Gusties back in the ball game, it was unfortunate that it was short lived. The Warhawks would go on to rattle off 15 total points in the second quarter and end the half 33-21.

Throughout the second half of play, the Gusties constantly battled to tighten the gap that the Warhawks had created. In

the third quarter, a Gustie offensive push cut the gap to nine points, after which both teams battled, going back and forth for the remainder of the third quarter.

In the fourth and final quarter of play, the Warhawks pulled away, increasing their lead to as many as 17. However, this did not discourage the Gusties, as thanks to a series of clutch plays made in the final seconds, as the MIAC champions found themselves in the

ball game, only down by three points, with 21 seconds left.

While this final push was nothing short of admirable, it came a little too late, and a pair of free throws by the Warhawks sealed the game, defeating the Gusties 68-63. While this may not be the ending the Gusties' envisioned, they had an absolutely historic season, finishing with the most wins in program history (26) and making a run in the NCAA tournament.



Gustie player eyes up the competition.

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Gustie women make it three straight

Hockey dispatches of Augsburg, headed to nationals

Parker Burman
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Gustavus Women's hockey team pulled off an impressive feat by securing their third straight MIAC Championship with a 4-2 victory over Augsburg. The win marks the Gusties' eighth straight victory and their 24th of the season. Their victory Saturday also marked their MIAC-leading fourteenth Playoff Championship.

Going into the game Gustavus and Augsburg had already faced off three times before their championship meeting. Gustavus was looking forward to revenge as Augsburg had handed them their only regular season conference loss of the year.

"The atmosphere of Lund gave us a ton of energy. The fans were super loud and encouraging and it made it even more fun to play in front of. We knew this game was huge and it means so much to us to have that much support from other students and families to encourage us to play to our best abilities," Junior forward Brooke Power said.

The Gusties got the scoring going early in the first period when Power scored at 6:30 to take a 1-0 lead. Finding the puck in the slot, Power sent a shot over the shoulder of the Augsburg goalie for the score.

"Against any team, we want to have momentum right away and start off on a good note. Scoring six minutes into the game did exactly that. We had a ton of opportunities right away and were just waiting for one to sneak by. I was in the right position to make the play and as soon as I got the puck, I took



MIAC Champs.

a moment to look up and snipe the goalie's glove side. The whole building went crazy including our team on the bench. It was fun to be that person to start the momentum and get things rolling," Power said.

Continuing to put the pressure on Augsburg, the Gusties capitalized on another chance to score to an early 2-0 lead. A face-off win from Senior forward Emily Olson ended up right on the stick of the team's leading scorer, Senior forward Hailey Holland. Holland did

the rest, burying the puck at the 7:59 mark.

"I just made sure to get really low and was able to tie up the stick of the Augsburg center, and I saw Hailey coming through out of the corner of my eye so I tapped it into the lane she was skating through. Tina tied up her girl which opened up the middle for Hailey. She made a great move on the player coming towards her and sniped in typical Hailey fashion," Olson said.

"We always want to start the

scoring early. So Brooke and I getting the goals in the first helped the nerves settle down a bit," Holland said.

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The Gustavus offense cooled off in the second period managing to only score a single goal, but it was all they needed. Senior forward Tine Press stole the puck from an Auggie and worked her way around the defense to put the puck in the top right corner for the score.

Aside from this Gustie goal, that was all the offense that transpired for either side in the second. Senior Goalie Katie McCoy faced her first shots of the game in the second saving all five put on net by Augsburg.

In the third, Augsburg fired up their offense and worked themselves back into the contest by putting away two goals to make the score 3-2. Holding onto the lead in the third was something the Gusties managed to do as Press put the game away with an empty net goal, her second of the contest.

When the clock had struck zeroes the Gusties had secured the 4-2 victory to continue

their dominance of the MIAC. "Winning back-to-back-to-back MIAC championships is an unreal feeling. Getting a shot at the national tournament even once in my time playing here is a dream come true—and now we have done it for the third time," Olson said.

"Winning back-to-back-to-back MIAC championships is an unreal feeling... a dream come true."

The Gusties will host UW-River Falls in the NCAA Quarter on Saturday March 11, at 2 p.m. at the Don Roberts ice arena. "When we play our game we are able to beat anyone we want. So if we keep playing Gustie hockey we will go far," Holland said.

"Our overall goal is to win the tournament and to do that by taking it one step at a time. Coach likes to phrase this national tournament as being our third and final season of the year, and given that we want to compete and do the best we possibly can. Especially after how last season ended just short of a national title, we are very motivated to do whatever it takes to get back to the championship game and take it home. It starts with Saturday against River Falls, so the current focus is winning that game," Olson said.



Gustie player slashes by Augsburg defender.

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