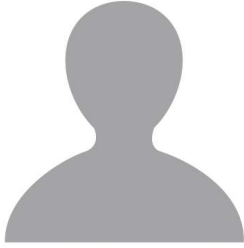


# The loss of physical media



**Houston McLaury**  
Opinion Columnist

In my childhood home, back in the early 2000s, my family and I had a VHS and DVD player. From as early as I can remember, I remember that gray box that could play any multitude of movies: Aladdin, Barbie: Fairytopia -that movie introduced me to Bibble- and when I was older, the entirety of the Avatar the Last Airbender series on DVD. Some of these movies I still have in their DVD boxes and some of the VHS tapes in their cardboard boxes with cheesy pictures and titles on the front. Why do I bring up this snapshot of a time from my childhood? One

simple reason: Streaming.

In 2023, streaming has been a godsend to many college students, allowing many to stream their favorite movies, favorite tv shows, and even their favorite songs to any device they may own. On your phone, you can watch the entire Godfather series, or on your computer, you can watch the entirety of The Last of Us. This doesn't even account for the fake video games, which could once be ordered in disks or cartridges, but now require download times for basic installations and updates as well. As technology progresses, the world loses its previous obsolete technologies. But, just because these items are obsolete does not mean they do not serve a purpose. The main purposes are the reliability of owning physical media, the nostalgia it can bring to people, and because of the innate joy of physical objects that it gives me.

First, what do I mean by the reliability of physical media? Well, by this I mean that having physical media, CDs, Cassette Tapes, DVDs, VHS, all of these items cannot be taken

from a person unless stolen. Meanwhile, take a look at the multitude of streaming services out there in the world. At the end of each month, TV shows and movies are always taken away from platforms, making these streaming services unreliable for someone who wants to enjoy a full TV show. Now, this may be done simply because another streaming service bought the rights to that media so that they would be able to stream it on their own service, which is fine. However, sometimes media can be taken down from services with no explanation and no other home for them, resulting them to the confines of Amazon video where episodes can be bought for \$2 apiece. This unsustainability and unreliability are what make the original physical copies so much better for me. With these physical copies, they are preserved in their original state, untampered, and with little fear of losing this media due to another service buying the rights to them. Now, of course, these physical copies can get damaged through the scratching of

a disk, magnetic loss in VHS, and a variety of other harms. However, if proper care is taken, these media can last longer than most new shows do on Netflix.

*"Well, by this I mean that having physical media, CDs, Cassette Tapes, DVDs, VHS, all of these items cannot be taken from a person unless stolen."*

Another facet of physical media is the nostalgia that can come with it. For me, this nostalgia comes when handling VHS tapes, since a multitude of movies I saw as a child were on these tapes. I can remember having to hold down the rewind button at the end of each movie I saw when I was young, watching as the scenes flew by in a multitude of colors and lights, and being amazed at the images I saw. When I pick up a VHS I used to watch and I rewind that tape, I am instantly transported back to

when I was young, watching those fascinating colors fly in reverse across the screen. An innate joy flows over me as I sit in front of the television, simply rewinding. And this doesn't just fall to the VHS, but to other older technologies as well, transporting people back to their younger days if they use vinyl, a cassette tape, or any other multitudes of media.

Lastly, this is a personal point that I must give to physical media, but it's nonetheless a good one. Being able to hold something, to hold it up and say without a doubt in one's mind that "This is mine," is something that is getting harder and harder to do. With streaming services and online media dominating the landscape, there are very few pieces of media we can hold and say are our own. Now, this may not be a problem to most people, but for me, I want to be able to hold onto my favorite TV shows, my favorite albums, or my favorite movies. Being able to hold onto them, to say that I have it in a way that can't be undermined by a streaming service, makes owning the media a better experience.

*"Now, this may not be a problem to most people, but for me, I want to be able to hold onto my favorite tv shows, my favorite albums, or my favorite movies."*

No one can stop progress, let alone technological progress, but I cannot overstate the want -or the need- to physically own media. As our world becomes more and more digitized, and less of what we own is physical, we must cling to the physical as much as we can. And starting with a favorite movie, or TV show, is not a bad start.



# Movies from Swank: Cocaine Bear

**Will Sorg**  
*Movies Guy*

Perhaps the best compliment that I could give the film Cocaine Bear is that it was watchable enough that I could finish it. In fairness, that is not a high bar as pretty much the only movie I've seen that was so bad that I couldn't finish it is 50 Shades of Black, a 50 Shades of Grey parody film. This is all a roundabout way to say that I find Cocaine Bear to be borderline unwatchable.

The film was heavily marketed off of its simple concept: What if a bear did hardcore drugs and then killed a bunch of people? Admittedly, on paper this is a really fun idea and reminds me of similarly simple yet insane movie concepts like the Wisconsin samurai ghost slasher film Blood Beat or the accidentally funny Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. However, there's a problem with drawing inspiration from "so bad it's good" horror films. Trying to replicate that unbeatable alchemy that stems from hilariously bad concepts means that you more often than

not just make a really bad movie. To me, this is what has happened with Cocaine Bear.

I don't know if this movie has any jokes. Yes, it is a horror comedy film, but if you take out all the lines where characters awkwardly explain the concept of the movie to the audience, I don't know if there would be any jokes left. We get it. A bear is doing drugs. It is not funny enough to sustain an hour and a half movie and the violence isn't either. Here's the thing about this movie's weird brand of violence. Typically in the kinds of monster movies that this film is clearly taking a lot of inspiration from, the deaths that happen in the film are either meant to frighten the audience or it's meant to provide some thrill due to horror fans' desire for creative kills and whatnot. This film is neither scary nor creative and it also breaks one of the biggest rules of horror.

Typically, you want the audience invested in the victims of the monster or, in this case, the cocaine bear. The film does not have a single character that is likable, fun to watch, funny, relatable, or interesting. So when a film like this is lacking, any characters with those characteristics typically are so unlikable and

antagonistic that the audience enjoys seeing them get picked off by the monster. However, in this film, the bear just kinda kills a bunch of normal people and a few of the more vaguely empathetic characters and the whole tone of the movie feels very conflicted. A park ranger is given perhaps one of the most brutal deaths in the movie, and all she did was be kind of annoying and bad at her job.

There's such a clear lack of any true creative vision. There are so many inconsequential characters and side plots with none of them reaching any satisfying conclusion because they're done in the safest, most cliché way possible. The bear itself doesn't really have any menace to it and it also is never really all that funny; it's too anthropomorphic while also lacking any distinct personality beyond liking cocaine. I feel like the whole film has that strange feeling of lacking any emotional or textual depth while also not really making up for it in the entertainment end of things.

There are countless movies that I will watch over and over that have practically zero artistic merit or true craft behind them simply because they are so fun to watch. This is not one of them;

it is a hollow attempt at recreating the magic of "so bad it's good" films. The more I write about this waste of resources, the more my contempt for it grows. It is a mean spirited, uninteresting slog that is constantly begging for a reaction but earns nothing. Not a single laugh or a moment of terror to be found in this one.

## Word Search

K	N	K	U	E	K	N	U	N	F	J	T	D	L
S	T	K	U	H	U	N	K	H	U	T	K	G	L
E	P	T	U	U	K	D	U	N	N	K	O	U	B
K	S	E	N	H	N	N	K	D	K	N	N	N	D
P	K	R	L	P	U	N	N	H	K	U	K	K	S
N	S	K	N	U	U	K	D	U	N	N	S	N	K
P	U	N	U	U	N	E	U	U	U	U	U	F	U
S	U	N	K	U	D	K	U	B	D	U	S	N	D
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G	K	K	T	K	K	D	K	K	K	N	U	P	U
F	K	K	N	K	S	K	U	N	K	U	K	D	K
J	K	U	H	N	K	M	O	N	K	K	U	U	K
N	E	U	N	D	G	N	N	K	N	U	H	N	D
N	N	N	P	O	L	U	K	N	U	R	T	U	L

1. Gunk
2. Funk
3. Spelunk
4. Punk
5. Junk
6. Trunk
7. Debunk
8. Skunk
9. Hunk
10. Dunk
11. Monk
12. Sunk

## Last Issue's Answers

1. Moby Dick
2. War and Peace
3. Dracula
4. Ulysses
5. Great Expectations
6. Little Women
7. The Hobbit
8. 1984
9. Don Quixote
10. Things Fall Apart

# Baseball takes MIAC Crown

## Victory over St. Olaf gives Gusties regular season title



Gusties celebrate MIAC title.

Submitted.

**Emma Esteb**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Baseball team clinched the MIAC Championship on Sunday, May 7, as they faced the St. Olaf Oles where they split in a double header. The Gusties started their road to victory on Tuesday, May 2 where they beat the number one seeded Bethel Royals in a double header with scores of 12-3 and 8-0.

Junior Adam Biewen was recently named MIAC Pitcher of the Week after his shut-out performance against Bethel. "Going into the game versus Bethel, I obviously knew that they were a very good team, being first in the Conference. I was just focusing on trying not to think too much and just do what I do and know that I have a lot of good players behind me in the field and a lot of good pitchers on the mound to back me up. So I was just trying not to do too much," Biewen said.

He only allowed two hits and had eight strikeouts. He was perfect heading into the fifth inning before he allowed his first hit. This double header sweep moved the Gusties into first place heading into their final MIAC game against the Oles.

"I think after we beat Bethel twice and moved into first place, both our confidence and just energy as a team really took a big step. During our Bethel games, it seemed like everybody was just locked in, our energy was higher than

it had ever been, we had a lot of fans there, and that kind of carried over into Sunday when we had even more fans and we knew we were actually playing for something," Biewen said.

*"I think after we beat Bethel twice and moved into first place, both our confidence and just energy as a team really took a big step. During our Bethel games, it seemed like everybody was just locked in, our energy was higher than it had ever been, we had a lot of fans there, and that kind of carried over into Sunday."*

In order to clinch the MIAC Championship, the Gusties needed to split their Sunday game versus St. Olaf. Junior Drake Siens started off the game with a solo home run in the second, putting Gustavus in the lead. St. Olaf responded with a run in the third inning, tying the game. Senior Nick Azar scored a solo homer in the fifth, putting the Gusties back in the lead. Unfortunately, they couldn't hold on to their lead as the Oles scored three runs in the sixth inning. The Gusties ended up scoring one more run

but weren't able to pull out the win. Sophomore Luke Siegle allowed two earned runs on two hits with seven strikeouts.

With a tough loss in the first game, the Gusties had to pull it together in order to win the next game.

"Our mentality after the first was that this is a must-win game. We needed to win that game in order to get the number-one seed so just do whatever it takes, at all costs, and play for us instead of playing selfishly," Senior Bryce Novak said.

*"Heading into the bottom of the third, Siens led the Gusties with a huge home-run sailing over the scoreboard. After Siens crossed home, the umpire announced that Siens would be ejected from the game because he flipped his bat."*

The second game was back and forth with the Oles starting off strong after scoring four runs on five hits in the first inning. The Gusties responded with a leadoff home run by Novak and a sac fly from Senior Nick Azar after three walks. Still trailing, St. Olaf was 5-3 in the third and the Gusties knew they needed to step it up.

Heading into the bottom of

the third, Siens led the Gusties with a huge home-run sailing over the scoreboard. After Siens crossed home, the umpire announced that Siens would be ejected from the game because he flipped his bat. "The energy felt really dead at the start. So, I tried to get the team going a little bit, and I think I did," Siens said.

Gustavus Head Coach Brad Baker was extremely emotional and upset about the situation and was also ejected from the game for arguing with the umpire. "That was probably one of the craziest things I have been a part of on a baseball field. That was just a lot of high emotions, I have never seen Brad like that," Junior Chris Knowles said. Knowles was on the sidelines waiting to hit and had to step up and get in between Coach Baker and the umpire during their altercation.

With their head coach and one of their best players out of the game, the Gusties really needed to step up in order to win this game.

"The whole situation definitely brought some fire to us and was a nice jolt we needed as a team to come together. It was obviously not fair to throw Drake out of the game but it was nice to see Brad go down with a teammate and stand up for us," Junior Jackson Nelson said.

The Gusties came together to regain their lead in the sixth as senior Gavin Baker hit his 11th home run of the season to give a 7-6 lead. The Oles responded in the seventh inning

with two runs, giving them a 8-7 lead. The Gusties took hold of the bottom of the seventh as Senior Logan Bjorkman hit a pinch-hit two-run single. Then three batters later, Senior Patrick Timmer hit an RBI single for a 10-8 lead. Gustavus held on to that score and finished on top, earning their title of MIAC Champions.

*"The whole situation definitely brought some fire to us and was a nice jolt we needed as a team to come together. It was obviously not fair to throw Drake out of the game but it was nice to see Brad go down with a teammate and stand up for us."*

The Gusties are the number-one seed in the MIAC playoffs and will play the number-four seed, either Concordia or St. Olaf, on Thursday, May 11 at 2:30 p.m. at Saint John's. The Gusties will play again on Friday at either 12:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. against Bethel or Saint John's. This is the first time since 2019 that the Gusties have clinched the MIAC regular season title.



# Splashing outside of the pool

## Recreational basketball keeps swimmers in shape



All-American Andrew Becker elevates for the dunk.

Submitted

**Kieran Ripken**  
Staff Writer

The Gustavus Men's Swim & Dive team is nearly three months removed from winning their fourth straight MIAC Swimming & Diving Championship and some of the team's athletes have already started training for next season. However, with a demanding schedule spanning from the end of September through February, burnout from swimming out of season can be common. To effectively train for next season, a few members of the Men's Swim & Dive team and an assortment of other students on campus have embraced a new way to stay active and in-shape: recreational basketball.

Seniors Andrew Becker and Taylor Vander Jeugd first had the idea of organizing the optional offseason games for the team in the Fall of 2021. Since their introduction of recreational basketball, the activity has blossomed into one of the more popular activities among the Men's swimmers before and after the season. It has become so popular, students outside of the swim team have joined in on the fun.

"[These are] some of my best friends at college... It is a good

get-away from swimming and something a lot different that is a little bit more competitive, in my mind," said Becker.

"I strive to be the best swimmer-basketball player ever. I want to leave a legacy on the team... [by] splashing not only in the pool but on the court as well," said Vander Jeugd.

Through this version of cross-training, swimmers are noticing a positive correlation between their workouts in the pool and on the court.

"Basketball has improved my swimming skills with increased hand eye coordination, timing, cardio, and vertical jump. All are essential skills for swimming," said Vander Jeugd.

Assistant Swimming & Diving Coach Breanna Schlegel noticed the benefits paying off for her swimmers early this season and incorporated a few games of 5v5 and the game "Lightning" during lifting warmups.

"The happy athlete is a successful athlete. If playing basketball makes people happy, we might as well incorporate it," said Coach Schlegel.

According to his teammates, Junior Logan Schindler has improved the most in both swimming and basketball during his time at Gustavus. Schindler, who has earned the nickname "Rodman" from his

teammates for his tenacious defense, has developed into one of the team's better players with a team-first attitude. This past season, he tallied seven lifetime best times in the pool.

*"Schindler, who has earned the nickname 'Rodman' from his teammates for his tenacious defense, has developed into one of the team's better players."*

"Basketball has taught me to look for the strengths of my teammates and to try to help them become the best players that they can be," said Schindler.

On Tuesday, the group of regulars assembled on the Gus Young Court in Lund Center to go head-to-head like many other times this year.

The rules are simple. Players shoot free-throws to select teams, intending to randomize who they will team up with in each outing. Regardless of how many players show, they play to a score of 21 counting three-point field goals as three points and shots inside the arc as two points. No free throws or fouls

are called.

In game one, Team Vander Jeugd hit the first three-pointer of the game and the team never looked back. Senior Adam Thornberg, a last minute addition, caught fire with two early three-pointers to give his team a commanding 9-0 lead. Team Becker closed the gap with easy lay-ups from Sophomore Nyden Hill, Senior Brady Boie, and their captain. In the end, Team Becker's efforts were not enough to overcome Team Vander Jeugd. Thornberg led all scorers with eight points and Schindler tallied five points in the 21-15 win.

After shooting for new teams, Becker and Vander Jeugd once again captained their respective teams. In game two, Team Becker jumped to a big lead with dominant post-play from their captain and Hill. Team Vander Jeugd roared back with huge three-pointers from First-year Logan Braley to tie the game at 13.

The remainder of the game was a defensive battle with both teams struggling to hit their shots. Ultimately, Vander Jeugd stepped up and willed his team to victory with multiple tough, contested lay-ups. He stuffed the stat sheet with a game-high eight points, three assists, and played lockdown defense. Hill led the game with

ten rebounds and Braley distributed the game-winning assist.

"I am more of a pass-first guy, but when the team is down, I go into beast mode and start to score buckets," said Vander Jeugd.

It is unlikely that this group of recreational basketball players will be heading to a professional league, but they undoubtedly love any chance at competition they can get.

"Everybody wants to win. Everybody wants to put up points for their team and make cool plays. Everybody is going all-out, all the time, doing whatever they can for their team to try to get the W," said Schindler.

"As we've gotten better and more adept at playing basketball, it's gotten a little bit more serious with a little bit of trash-talking. It's been fun," said Becker.

The Men's Swim & Dive season will kick off next Fall as they pursue their fifth straight conference championship and extend their dynasty. Until then, it is safe to expect the Gustie swimmers will continue their passion on the court in preparation for next season.



## Gustie tennis upsets Chicago

### Men's team punches ticket to Orlando



Gusties mob the court after a dramatic victory.

Submitted.

**Nyden "Best of Luck" Hill**  
Staff Writer

This past weekend, on Sunday, May 7, the Gustavus men's tennis team hosted the NCAA regional third round of the NCAA outdoor championships. This third round match was critical for the Gusties to keep the momentum of their national championship dreams alive, as a win would send them onto the NCAA quarterfinals in Orlando.

However, the Gusties faced a mounting challenge that afternoon, as they were scheduled to face the defending national champions in the University of Chicago Maroons. This match marked the third time the Gusties and Maroons would square off this season, with the Maroons besting the Gusties in both prior contests 5-3 and 7-2, respectively.

The Gusties entered the contest riding the momentum of a dominant showing in the second round of the NCAA Regional Championship, besting UW-Whitewater in an impressive score of 5-1. While this momentum gave the Gusties some definite hope regarding their chances on Sunday, they faced a tough test in the defending NCAA champions, who were most certainly favored to win

the match.

"Since it was the postseason, it was a different kind of pressure heading into the match. It was win or go home, so we knew there were no options other than grinding out a win if we wanted to extend our season," said Senior Nick Aney.

Aney was not the only Gustie to share this sentiment.

"We knew that if we gave everything we had, we would have a good shot of beating them," said Senior Daniel Fouchier.

With this in mind, it is important to note that competing with the best teams in the country is nothing new to the Gusties. Earlier this year, at the ITA National Indoor Championships, the Gusties took on the likes of NC Wesleyan and Emory. While the Gusties fell short against Emory, they proved that they had the capability to hang with the best that Division III has to offer, as well as beat a tough opponent in NC Wesleyan.

The Gusties also continued to prove their national contention earlier this spring when they traveled to Claremont California and took on the Trinity University Tigers in the Stag Hen Invitational. Being ranked 13th in the country, the Tigers were a more than intimidating force for the Gusties, but again, the Gusties took care of Trinity

in a score of 5-2, continuing to prove to others and themselves that they were a force to be reckoned with on the national stage.

To start the day at Swanson Tennis Center against the Maroons, the Gusties wasted no time adjusting to the spotlight, as they found immediate success in doubles. Playing in the number one doubles spot, the Gustie duo of Aney and Fouchier defeated their University of Chicago opposition 8-3. The pair of Senior Alex Budde and First-year Gage Gohl, who played in the number two spot, bested their opponents by a score of 8-6. Being able to win two-thirds of their doubles matches certainly put the Gusties in an amazing position as they looked to carry the momentum over to singles play.

"Going up in doubles is always a huge deal. The last two times we started down 1-2 after doubles so this change lit a spark telling guys we had a chance," said Budde.

Sophomore Odin Fouchier also added to this assertion by Budde: "Going up 2-1 before singles is a great lift, but it was important to stay in the present moment and focus on singles matches. All the people on the sidelines gave so much energy in every single moment to keep the momentum going," said Fouchier.

While singles play proved to be not as quite clean and dominant, the Gusties showed their grit throughout singles. While the Maroons proved victorious in the first set, winning the number four spot, the Gusties came back with Sophomore Rafael Costa, playing in the number 6 spot, giving the Gusties a 3-2 lead.

With this back-and-forth trend continuing, the Maroons won the number 3 singles spot, evening the score 3-3, as well as the number 5 spot after dropping the number two spot to the Gusties. This now left the deciding point to Aney, who was playing in the number one spot.

In typical fashion for the afternoon, this one was a thriller, with the score going to three sets. Aney picked up the first set, but dropped the second in a sweep to the University of Chicago opposition. In the third and final set, Aney battled back from being behind early in the set to claim a 7-5 victory over his opponent, sending the Gusties to the Final Eight.

"It was one of the most special moments of my life. At that moment, I could barely process what happened. I was shocked. I've dreamed about being in this situation and sending Gustavus to the Elite 8 my entire career here, so getting to do it at home in my final match at Gustavus,

in front of my whole team, my family, and an electric crowd was a moment I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life. It was also a huge effort from the entire team, and I wouldn't have had the opportunity to clinch the match if it wasn't for everyone else on the team performing great and getting us 4 other points," said Aney.

*"It was one of the most special moments of my life. At that moment, I could barely process what happened. I was shocked."*

With this win in mind, the Gusties have some season-high momentum heading into the final stretch of their season, where they hope to continue their historic run in Orlando. We wish them the best of luck!