



HoofPRINTS

March 24-30, 2008**BRIAR CLIFF OPENS 2-0 IN GPAC****SWANK**

The Briar Cliff baseball team opened GPAC play with a sweep of Hastings, Saturday. The Chargers pounded out a combined 22 hits in the contests, winning 10-6 and 13-2. The victories upped the Chargers' record to 3-12 overall. Half of the team's losses have been to NCAA or nationally-ranked NAIA opponents. The Chargers will play five road games this week before hosting Nebraska Wesleyan, Saturday. The Chargers play at 1-17 Concordia, today, and then at NCAA Div. II No. 17 Wayne State, Wednesday. BCU is slated play a doubleheader at Grand View, Friday. Saturday's 22 hits against Hastings lifted the team's batting average to .269. Senior Andrew Swank leads the teams with a .426 batting average, .596 slugging percentage and 20 hits. Freshman Jacob Olivas is hitting .348, while sophomore Jeremy Majeres (.333) and junior Chris Davis (.327) round out the Chargers' .300-plus hitters. Olivas and Swank lead the squad with 16 and 15 RBI, respectively. Davis has a team-high eight stolen bases. Junior Charlie Benz leads the team's pitching staff in innings worked (24.1) and strikeouts (10). Benz, sophomore Stephen Keane and freshman Craig Harris each have one win on the mound this season.

CHARGERS OPEN CONFERENCE PLAY

The Briar Cliff tennis team will open conference play, Saturday, as they host Dordt at Leif Erickson Park. The Chargers were 2-6 last year against GPAC opponents, picking up wins over Doane and Sioux Falls. Lawless was an all-conference selection at No. 1 singles a year ago after posting a 7-1 GPAC record. The 0-3 Chargers will play at Southwest Minnesota State, Sunday, in the squad's fourth out-of-conference dual of the season.

SOFTBALL TEAM PICKS UP MOMENTUM, HOSTS SIOUX FALLS

The Charger softball team is scheduled to play its first home games of the season, Wednesday, as it hosts Sioux Falls. The Chargers have won two-straight and three of their last four. Freshman Tana Colt has played in four games for the Chargers since joining the squad following the conclusion of the basketball season. Colt has given the Chargers an offensive lift, hitting a team-best .417. As a team, the Chargers are batting .264. Sophomore Kashe Manley and senior Emily Dvorak continue to play well for the Chargers, hitting .346 and .326, respectively. Manley slugs a team-leading .538. Dvorak leads the team with 15 hits, while senior Ashley Loos has a team-high seven RBI. Sophomore Camille Cruz is 4-3 on the mound and leads BCU's pitching staff with an ERA of 2.31. She also leads the team in innings worked (50.2) and strikeouts (55). The Chargers will bring a 5-9 overall record and a 1-1 conference mark into Wednesday's doubleheader with the Cougars. Last time out, the Chargers picked up their first sweep of the season, defeating the College of St. Mary, 7-1 and 11-2 in five innings. The Chargers will close out the month of March with rescheduled games at Dana, March 28 and at Nebraska Wesleyan, March 29. The doubleheader with Dana was postponed from March 14 and the Nebraska Wesleyan games were moved up from April 11.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS:

- Monday:** BA @ Concordia, 12:30
- Tuesday:** No Athletic Events
- Wednesday:** BA @ Wayne State, 3:00 (1x9)
SB vs. Sioux Falls, 3:00
- Thursday:** No Athletic Events
- Friday:** BA @ Grand View, 2:00 (2x7)
SB @ Dana, 5:00
- Saturday:** TR @ Mount Marty Invite, 11:00
TN vs. Dordt, Noon (Leif Erickson Park)
BA vs. Nebraska Wesleyan, 1:00 (2x7)
SB @ Nebraska Wesleyan, 1:00
- Sunday:** TN @ Southwest Minnesota State, 11:00

TRACK TO RUN AT MOUNT MARTY

The BCU track team will open its outdoor season, Saturday, at the Mount Marty Invite. The squad features program-highs of 26 men and 26 women. The team is expected to be led by returning outdoor national qualifier sophomore Ashley Wehle (400m hurdles) and freshman Erik Lindsay (60m hurdles), who was the team's lone indoor national qualifier. The Chargers' outdoor season will consist of four invitationals as well as the Sioux City and Drake Relays. The 2008 GPAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships will be held May 3, in Sioux City.