

# MAKING THE CASE

[ VICTORY BEYOND THE WIN ]



## **VICTORY IS...strength of character.**

*Our Character is contagious.* One in four students at Concordia are student-athletes participating in the University's 15 teams and another 10 intramural sports offerings. While we are among the top competitors in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), we are equally proud of our involvement in the Champions of Character program. From our coaching staff to our student-athletes, we teach and live out the five core values of the Champions of Character: respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

## **VICTORY IS...overcoming adversity.**

*Adversity makes us stronger.* 97 percent of our students receive tuition assistance. Many are first-generation college students. Meanwhile, our nearest elementary school has 70 percent student eligibility for free and reduced lunch and more than 67 percent diversity.

## **VICTORY IS...a healthy community.**

*Sport empowers communities.* We know how the power of sport and the spirit of fans can empower a community. Our athletes are coaching summer camps for 1,000 local kids, cleaning shelters at Dignity Village, running free basketball clinics and volunteering with Special Olympics. Yet with only one year-round turf field at Delta Park, the University and Northeast Portland currently lack well-maintained athletic facilities and fields enjoyed by other areas of the City.

## **VICTORY IS...a shared space to play.**

*Field space is community space.* A well-lit, year-round turf field and facilities for clubs, camps, kids and student-athletes have so far eluded Northeast Portland, but no longer. Without a home field, our teams travel to practices and games, wherever a field is available in the greater Portland area, racking up nearly 1,000 hours that would normally be spent on campus. Neighborhood children and families cannot currently cheer on student-athletes on the University campus in their own backyard. *That's all about to change...*

**Together, let's go and get The Big V.**

# ATHLETIC COMPLEX



[ VICTORY IS A NEW ATHLETIC FIELD ]



**YEAR-ROUND USE:** Synthetic turf, lights, and increased size from current grass field will allow year-round use of the facility and increase hours of operation into the evening hours

**ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE:** Improved training resources for coaches and athletes will elevate athletic performance and reduce injury

**FAN EXPERIENCE:** Stadium seating, dugouts, concessions, press boxes, and the alumni plaza will enrich the experience of fans and provide northeast Portland with a premier athletic complex

[ TOTAL PROJECTED COST: \$7.5 million ]



# ATHLETIC COMPLEX FAST FACTS

[ VICTORY IS A PLACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO PLAY ]



<b>SQUARE FEET:</b>	15,927
<b>SEATING CAPACITY:</b>	1,833
<b>HOURS RESERVED FOR CU ATHLETICS:</b>	1,143
<b>HOURS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE:</b>	1,922 (63%)*
<b>HOURS DEVOTED TO CAMPS FOR LOCAL KIDS:</b>	150
<b>NUMBER OF KIDS WHO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPS:</b>	more than 1,000
<b>ALL-AMERICANS:</b>	163
<b>ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS:</b>	108
<b>CASCADE COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:</b>	40

[ Visualize success and you can make it happen. ]

*\*Out of 3,065 usable hours annually*

# SCHOLAR ATHLETE

[ VICTORY IS HAVING FUTBOL FANATIC FACUNDO ON YOUR TEAM ]



Facundo Dipascuale walked to school in Buenos Aires, Argentina, dribbling his soccer ball. Now, a sophomore at Concordia University he says “I’m still growing and maturing, I have a lot ahead of me.”

This bright future wasn’t always so obvious to him. At age nine, after moving around the Buenos Aires region, he moved to the U.S. with his mother and three older siblings and settled in Beaverton, Oregon. He walked to and from school in silence with one other boy from the same apartment complex – the soccer ball as the only communication between them.

For the first time, he joined an elementary school soccer team. He remembers many of the kids playing because their parents made them. Yet, Facundo just played for the love of the game.

He overcame language, cultural and socioeconomic barriers. A turning point was entering Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon at the urging of his close friend Eric and father Gary DeStefano. Without the friendship of the DeStefano family and the support of Lakeridge varsity coach Paul Slover, he wouldn’t have taken his game to the next level.

Yet, college and money for college seemed to be a looming obstacle.

Now, he’s not only making the grade in his coursework and leading the Concordia men’s soccer team to success, he is giving back to the community by serving as part of Concordia’s Athlete Corps, Teacher Corps, working with kids in the Nike Back your Block program, feeding the homeless, and supporting Special Olympics.

“I changed as a person because of community service and because of Concordia. It [service] brings my spirits up, it just makes my day – I look forward to it.”

**“If we can get this field, it would be great to have the community come out to use the field and watch our games. I want to help build something where we can go out, put up flyers, knock on doors and invite people out.”**

# INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETE

[ VICTORY IS A TEAM THAT FEELS LIKE FAMILY ]



When she graduates spring 2010, Jessi Ramback will leave a mark on Concordia University.

Finishing her soccer career with three straight 20-goal seasons, Ramback's 70 career scores leaves her at number two on the school's all-time list. Ramback was a First Team NAIA All-American, two-time honorable mention NAIA All-American and was the Cascade Collegiate Conference Offensive Player of the Year in 2007 and 2009. She was also a finalist for both the 2009 Ad Rutschman Small College Athlete of the Year in the State of Oregon and NAIA National Player of the Year.

"My favorite thing about Concordia is the bond that I've had with my team. Being on a team at Concordia is like having a second family. To be so emotionally invested in the girls I play with brought a whole new element to the game. I've never had that same bond before on any other team."

Reflecting on her four years at Concordia, Jessi has achieved a number of personal goals that have contributed to her team's success. As team captain, she led the women's soccer team to four straight NAIA National Tournaments, including three Final Four appearances during her time at Concordia. Academically, she is proud to be graduating with her Bachelor's in Psychology and to have found her calling in life—to work in the school systems.

"I want to help children and adolescents deal with everyday issues like being picked on, to more intense issues like grief and trauma. I want to reach out to kids and be a source of encouragement and strength they need and deserve."

One of the reasons Jessi pursued psychology came from her personal experience with trauma at a young age. At the age of fourteen, Jessi's father and lifelong soccer coach had an unexpected heart attack and passed away.

**"My dad always said, 'If you aren't making mistakes, you aren't doing anything worthwhile.' He was my motivation. I want to give my whole heart to everything I'm doing, whether its soccer, a career, or friendships. I want to know that I put everything I had into it."**

# JARKKO TUOMINEN

[ VICTORY IS A LIFE THAT INSPIRES OTHERS ]



We'd like to think that it says something about a small university when it can attract – and keep – international athletic talent with qualities of both skill and character. We know this is just the beginning, of something greater...

Concordia University's first athlete to ever make First Team All American embodied both of these qualities. He also personified the University's mission to prepare servant leaders who give back to society.

Jarkko Tuominen modeled excellence both on and off the field and was honored as a First Team All-American title in 1994, just eleven years before an accident tragically took his life.

"He was an exceptional person. People wanted to be around Jarkko. His easy sense of humor, gentle confidence, integrity and exceptional skills were a light for all those around him," according to Concordia coach Dan Birkey, who remembers that first time seeing Jarkko play on a muddy field in Gladstone, Oregon and being instantly intrigued by his talent and poise.

In many ways, his commitment to sport and character reflected his father's influence. A top track athlete on the Finnish National Team in the 1960s, Jarkko's father later moved his family to the U.S. and represented Steve Prefontaine as his agent. Both father, then son, spent a combined three decades working for Nike and for the love of sport.

Jarkko continued on after his time at Concordia to lead a life of character and service, coaching youth soccer on the East Coast while continuing to work for Nike. He was so revered by the youth and their families in the SeaCoast United club, that they named a field and golf tournament in his honor.

We know, that as Concordia's new athletic complex takes shape, we will also pay tribute to the life of character and service exemplified by Tuominen and his family. **We hope you'll help us.**

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COMPLEX / SOCCER



# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COMPLEX / BASEBALL

