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PressRelease

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUC WOMEN BLUNT SABRES FOR HOME-OPENING WIN *DEFENSE HOLDS MARIAN TO 20 PERCENT SHOOTING*

Nov. 27, 2018 – Following a 1-3 road trip to start the new season, the Concordia University Chicago women’s basketball team finally played in front of a Geiseman Gymnasium crowd when they entertained the Marian University Sabres on Saturday, Nov. 24. The Cougars, who defeated the Sabres in the season opener Nov. 14, made it an early-season sweep over their guests from Fond du Lac, WI with a 46-35 win.

Concordia-Chicago grabbed the first bit of momentum late in the first quarter, as an inside basket by Bethany Hoehne (Parker, CO – Lutheran Westland – MI) and a backdoor layup by Deja Southall (Chicago, IL – Chicago Hope Academy) gave the Cougars an 11-8 lead after 10 minutes. Marian opened the second quarter with an 8-0 run, but CUC turned up the intensity on defense to regain the lead. A layup by Southall gave CUC the lead back with 2:25 remaining in the quarter, and a Maddie Vojacek (Evergreen Park, IL – H.S.) layup off an Ashley Measel (Litchfield Park, AZ – Valley Lutheran H.S.) steal allowed CUC to retain a lead at the half by a 21-20 score.

The Sabres opened the second half with another quick run to take the lead back, but Jada Dixon (Gary, IN – West Side H.S.) put an end to the short run with a three off the left wing. A Crystal Corr (River Forest, IL – Oak Park-River Forest H.S.) layup off a Southall steal kept the Cougars’ run going. A pair of Annika Rae (Anaheim, CA – Canyon H.S.) free throws built the CUC lead out to 10. Marian countered with a late basket to cut the lead to 35-27 after three.

Concordia-Chicago continued to up the pressure in the fourth, with Rae scoring the first five points of the quarter. The Cougars built their lead out to 14 on a Corr layup and put on the finishing touches from there.

Southall finished the game just one point short of a double-double with nine points and 10 rebounds. On the defensive side, Dixon played an outstanding game with three blocks and three steals. The Cougars' overall defense was excellent as well, forcing 23 Sabres' turnovers and holding them to a .206 shooting percentage.

Four days earlier, the Cougars' road swing had concluded with a 75-52 loss to North Park University. The Vikings jumped out to a fast 6-0 lead and built their lead to double digits midway through the first quarter. Back-to-back threes by McKayla Tilton (La Verne, CA – Glendora H.S.) got CUC back within 13-9 with 2:18 remaining in the quarter, but North Park closed the quarter on a 6-2 run to take a 19-11 lead after one quarter. The Vikings remained on a roll in the second quarter, stretching their lead to 40-21 at the half.

The hosts opened the second half on a 14-0 run, leading to a 61-33 advantage after three quarters. The Cougars opened the fourth quarter with a 6-2 run, powered by a pair of Sam Bloom (North Riverside, IL – Riverside-Brookfield H.S.) free throws and layups by Corr and Rae. However, the Cougars had too much of a mountain to climb, and the Vikings would prevail by a comfortable 23-point margin.

Bloom led CUC with 14 points, marking her fourth consecutive game in double-figure scoring. Corr pulled down 11 rebounds for her second double-digit effort of the season.

The Cougars (2-3, 2-0 NACC) will remain at home this week for games against Concordia University Wisconsin on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 7:15 p.m. and Edgewood College on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m.

COUGAR MEN'S QUEST FOR 2-0 CONFERENCE START DASHED BY FALCONS

The Concordia-Chicago men's basketball team hosted Concordia University Wisconsin on Nov. 20, looking to go 2-0 in Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference play. However, the Cougars could not match their second-half comeback from the

previous game against Rockford University, and the Cougars fell to the Falcons by a final score of 95-86.

The Cougars started quickly, as Jalen Meeks (Aurora, CO – Cherry Creek H.S.) and Mitch Pelissier (Puyallup, WA – Mount Rainier Lutheran H.S.) scored for a fast 4-0 lead. However, that would be CUC's only lead of the night, as CUW responded with eight unanswered points for an 8-4 lead before Landen Gladney (Chicago, IL – St. Rita H.S.) broke up the Falcons' run with a tip-in layup off an offensive rebound.

The Cougars stayed on the visitors' heels, as Pelissier drilled a three-pointer to pull CUC to within 22-20 midway through the half. By the 4:56 mark, however, the Falcons had pulled ahead to a commanding 13-point lead. Concordia-Chicago would continue to chip away at CUW's offense over the remainder of the half and ultimately trim the Falcons' lead to 46-37 at the break.

Thoughts of a CUC comeback were stifled early in the second half as CUW scored the first six points. Justin Schwarz (Edwardsville, IL – Metro-East Lutheran H.S.) slowed the visitors' momentum briefly with a driving layup, but the Falcons ran off the next 10 points to open up their biggest lead of the game at 62-39.

Concordia-Chicago was not ready to call it a night, however, and they chipped away at the deficit by going up-tempo. A fast-break score with Meeks setting up Neil O'Donnell (Braidwood, IL – Reed-Custer H.S.) provided a highlight for the home crowd, and the Cougars eventually climbed back to within 10 points with just under four minutes remaining as Pelissier went coast-to-coast following a steal. But the Falcons had enough left in the tank to withstand the Cougars' charge, and despite a late three by Evan Snyder (Cottonwood, AZ – Mingus Union H.S.), the visitors held on for the nine-point victory.

Pelissier led the Cougars with a game-high 27 points as well as four assists and three steals, in 37 minutes of work. Gladney added 13 points and 12 rebounds, marking his third double-double in his first three collegiate games.

The Cougars (1-2, 1-1 NACC) will continue their five-game home stand with contests against Marian University on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 5 p.m. and Edgewood College on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 4:15 p.m.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Mitch Pelissier (Puyallup, WA) of the men's basketball team and Deja Southall (Chicago, IL) of the women's basketball team are honored for the week of Nov. 19-25.

Pelissier scored 27 points to lead the Cougars in their Nov. 20 game against the Concordia Wisconsin Falcons. The 6'3" guard/forward shot 9-18 overall, including 4-8 from three-point range, and was good on five of six from the free-throw stripe. Pelissier added four rebounds, four assists and three steals in his 37 minutes of work. His career point total is now 1,345, and he has moved into seventh place all-time in CUC men's history.

Pelissier, the son of Steve and Jennifer Pelissier, is a 2015 graduate of Mount Rainier Lutheran High School in Tacoma, WA. He is a senior sports management major.

Southall's 25-minute effort off the bench was instrumental in the CUC women's 46-35 win over Marian on Nov. 24 in Geiseman Gymnasium. The 5'7" forward scored nine points and pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds, also adding one assist and one steal. Through five games, Southall is second on the Cougars with 6.8 rebounds per game.

Southall, the daughter of Kristofer and Yves Southall, is a 2018 graduate of Chicago Hope Academy in Chicago, IL. She is a freshman business management major.

About Concordia University Chicago

Founded in 1864, Concordia University Chicago is a comprehensive liberal arts-based Christian university in the Lutheran tradition. Through its College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, College of Graduate Studies and College of Innovation and Professional Programs, Concordia-Chicago offers more than 100 areas of study in small classes taught by professors who are passionate about teaching and student success.

Under the leadership of President Daniel L. Gard, Concordia-Chicago equips men and women to serve and lead with integrity, creativity, competence and compassion in a diverse, interconnected and increasingly urbanized church and world. More than 5,500 full-time undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at Concordia-Chicago, located 10 miles west of downtown Chicago in River Forest. Learn more at CUChicago.edu.

For more information on Concordia University Chicago athletics including up-to-date statistics, recent scores, Athlete of the Week profiles and more, visit www.cucougars.com.

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