Bultman is back, eager for school year
Hope College President, James Bultman, postpones retirement as presidential search continues

Claire Call and Brooke McDonald
Cevna News De-Enters

Hope College President James Bultman spent his summer busily flying around to London, Liverpool, Japan, and New York. None of these trips, however, were vacations. After agreeing to put off his retirement and return to his position as Hope’s president for one final school year, Bultman and his wife, Marty, have been hard at work preparing for this 2012-2013 school year and the arrival of the class of 2016.

“I would say that my summer schedule was probably even busier this year than it has been before,” said Bultman. But being busy does not take away from Bultman’s enthusiasm. “We’re just as excited as we’ve been for the other 13 years at Hope,” we’re eager for school year and the look of Hope’s campus. “Hope has a fairly strong effort right now to get involved with integrated marketing,” an attempt to coordinate all promotional efforts. The first big item in this was the upgrading of our website.

And then a third goal of mine will be to complete the capital campaign, A Greater Hope. We’re at about $155 million dollar goal; we have work to do there. We’re very hopeful. We can get it finished by June 30 next year.”

In spite of the fact that he will no longer be president to oversee many of Hope’s other upcoming building projects, Bultman has great interest in fundraising and planning for them. Among the projects are an additional engineering wing in Vander Werf, an art museum, a new concert hall and music facility, the new Student Center, the Lincoln apartments, and a renovation of Phelps cafeteria, all of which should be completed by Bultman, next 2

Freshmen successfully housed

Claire Call and Brooke McDonald
Cevna News De-Enters

When the number of enrolled students exceeds a college’s space to house them, colleges typically don’t ask new students to add a tent to their packing list. In a talk with orientation staff, Kristen Gray of Counseling and Psychological Services joked that Hope College could offer the “9,000 incoming freshmen a Pine Grove Wilderness Experience,” complete with hammocks, and a yurt when it starts snowing.

She said that her suggestion to the housing staff was not well received. The class of 2016 proved a challenge to house, considering the 9,000 incoming freshmen students that needed a housing assignment make up a record-sized incoming class. One legitimate idea the administration had early in the summer was to put some house trailers on vacant lots to house students. But the administration “really didn’t want to do that,” said Hope President James Bultman.

Some of Bultman’s other goals for the year include: marketing and continuing to collect capital for the building projects which will soon change the look of Hope’s campus. “Hope has a fairly strong effort right now to get involved with integrated marketing,” an attempt to coordinate all promotional efforts. The first big item in this was the upgrading of our website.

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See BULTMAN, next 2
Campus

Class of 2016 arrives on campus

Brooke McDonald
Gazette News Co-Editor

Despite a steamy orientation weekend, the Hope College Class of 2016 beat hot temperatures with their cool attitudes as they made Hope their home for the next four years.

What was the best part of orientation weekend? “It was all good, Playfair — that was fun,” Orientation groups, those were good. The comedians, I liked that. Basically, pretty much all of it was good,” said Randy Roux ('11) with a grin Monday. The only downside? “It was hot.”

“I liked meeting my FYS teacher, Professor, Kamstra. It seems like a really good one,” said Faith Potgiesser ('16) who is in the “Choices” First Year Seminar. Also, Potgiesser enjoyed spending time with her chubster, G. J. which is already growing close.

Overall, move-in Friday morning was a breeze for most new students, like Ashleigh Smith ('15).— “The OAs grabbed everything everyone needed to move in, mainly due to the 166 orange-clad Orientation Assistants and 25 Assistant Directors moving like echopals, close at hand to carry everything up mountains of orange stairs.”

For Smith, a sophomore transfer student from Cornerstone University, “it was a little weird being a sophomore with a bunch of freshmen,” but separate events for transfer students “really helped ease transfers in.”

The new student orientation schedule provided social events to encourage new students to mingle, such as a pizza dinner Friday, a picnic in the Pine Grove and Cool Beans Coffeehouse Saturday and a dessert social Sunday evening.

Many freshmen cited the traditional Playfair event at the Dow as a highlight to the weekend. Ellen Milroy ('16), one of this year’s Orientation Directors along with Travis Gibbons ('13), said the main changes to the orientation schedule this year included replacing “Bultman’s Backyard Barbeque” with the dessert social and entertainment provided by WTHS.

While some students like Roux said it would have been nice to enjoy more down time over the weekend to unpack, Samantha Koldenhoven ('16), who plans to study accounting at Hope, was “not at all” stressed out by the constant activities, saying she found the weekend “relaxing” and met many new friends.

Some freshmen athletes like Joseph Beemer ('16) did not attend every orientation activity because, who moved into Hope a week early for Cross Country training camp, said he already knew his way around campus. However, he said “it was good to get to know other people” besides the cross team.

The theme of this year’s orientation was “Anchored in Hope.” Milroy said the weekend’s purpose was to do just that for incoming students. “Orientation weekend can be an overwhelming time for freshmen from the nervousness of starting classes, making friends, and leaving the familiarity of home. Our goal was to first and foremost acclimate the new students to Hope’s campus, traditions and culture.”

She also said the weekend aims to root students in Hope’s heart, identity and community, which she hoped the staffs and small group conversations accomplished.

Freshmen concerns for the school year ahead include managing the college workload, and not fitting in. Smith said she is nervous about Health Dynamics, a Hope general education requirement. Why? “I hate exercising” she laughed.

However, after a full orientation weekend, the class of 2016 is ready to go.

Bultman stays for another year

• BULTMAN, from page 1

One thing not on Bultman’s to-do-list for the year is the search for his successor. As current president, he is not involved in the search, though he did talk to the committee about issues he considers to be particularly important on Hope’s campus.

Bultman’s willingness to return as president may have eliminated any immediate panic, but Hope still must find a new president for the 2013-2014 school year. The presidential search committee is still in place.

“I think there will be some candidates from the last search who will still remain interested in that role for 2015.”

Housing crisis solved just in time

• HOUSING, from page 1

Making the new units move in ready required Residential Life and Housing to hire extra R.A.s, as well as to furnish the apartments.

John Johnson, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life and Housing, said solving the housing dilemma was a “campus-wide effort” that wasn’t solved “until the students were arriving.”

In future years, Johnson said that ReLife plans to take cottages that are a “physically, calmer than what they’re comfortable with and take them offline.” Johnson said this will not happen for a few years.

Construction work on the Tom and Ryan Cook Village on Lincoln Avenue is also part of long-term plans to provide better housing for upperclassmen and lower the cost of maintenance of existing cottages Greg Marbury, Physical Plant Director, said plans for the apartment complex originated five years ago, and that the college plans to build more apartments for upperclassmen “as the need arises.”

Bultman gave high compliments to Richard Frost, Dean of Students, and his staff for their management of the housing situation this summer. Johnson said he wished to especially thank students who chose to be relocated for their flexibility and patience. “It made our lives a whole lot easier.”
**WORLD**

**GOP leaders strand Akin for “legitimate rape” blunder**

Wesley Riehth

World News Co-Editor

Until this past week, Representative Todd Akin was relatively unknown beyond his socially conservative 2nd Congressional district of Missouri. The 66-year-old, a six-term congressman brought a tidal wave of media attention last Sunday after his explosive remarks that victims of “legitimate rape” rarely get pregnant.

In an interview on a local St. Louis television station, Akin stated, “If it’s a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to shut that whole thing down. But let’s assume that maybe it didn’t work or something. I think there should be some punishment, but the punishment ought to be of the rapist, and not attacking the child.”

Akin was quick to apologize for his remarks, but the damage had been done. Democrats from both chambers were quick to condemn his remarks, including the Obama administration. “The views expressed were offensive. Rape is rape,” responded the president in a press briefing on Monday. “[It] certainly doesn’t make sense to me.”

The Romney campaign and many other GOP leaders were not far behind. The Romney team has done its best to steer overemphasized social issues in its campaign, instead focusing on the economy and criticizing the President’s heavy-handed approach to welfare programs and government bailouts.

Paul Ryan, the vice-president nominee for the Republican Party, in an attempt to mitigate the effects of these comments on the larger conservative voting base nationwide, made a personal telephone call to Akin calling for the Congressman to step down from the Missouri Senate race. Sarah Palin also condemned the remarks, calling for a third party candidate to join the race. As told Fox News Tuesday night, “Is a third-party another option? It is, let’s give the status quo that has got to go.”

Although Akin has yet to succumb to overwhelming pressure to end his bid for the Missouri Senate seat, he may not have much choice. By midday Monday, The National Republican Senatorial Committee had threatened to pull $5 million in allocated spending in the Missouri Senate race.

The Senate race in Missouri also holds much larger implications for the GOP as strategists feel that Senate majority control may only be decided by a single seat come November. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the top Senate Republican whose chances of being majority leader could be diminished if the GOP loses in Missouri, referred to Akin’s comments as “totally inexcusable.”

**LET’S TALK ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE—Congressman Akin meets with community leaders in the St. Charles area.**

Akin has set himself apart during his 12 years in Congress as one who will not compromise on his moral beliefs. As Saint Louis University political science professor Ken Warren told Fox News last Wednesday, “The best you can say for Todd is that he’s a very principled guy.” He believes what he believes, and he’s not going to compromise on those principles just to be in the mainstream.”

Although Akin remains an honorable, distinguished congressman, he may jeopardize the Republican’s chances for control of the Senate nonetheless.

**“Chemical weapon an excuse”**

China accuses U.S. of making excuses for Syrian intervention

Shubham Sapkota

World News Co-Editor

It has been more than a year since the Arab uprisings began and while most of them have subsided or completely diminished, the revolution in Syria is still escalating with world powers like the United States and China taking opposite sides in the crisis. Soon after President Obama issued a statement noting that a military intervention by the United States will be inevitable if chemical weapons are used in Syria, the Chinese government bluntly labeled it as an excuse.

The Chinese government, much like the Russians, has warned the West against any military intervention in Syria. They have for a long time made it clear that military intervention by the West would make the conflict much bloodier. The Chinese and Russian government have noted that the conflict in Syria is to be resolved by the people of Syria, not outside powers.

President Obama made his stance pretty clear when he addressed the issue and stated that there would be enormous consequences if we start seeing movement on the chemical weapons front or the use of chemical weapons.

The Chinese government noted this statement to be “dangerously irresponsible” and the Russian government noted that a military intervention would lead to a vicious civil war in response to President Obama.

Both Russia and China have repeatedly stated that “foreign crusades” are not the answer to subdue the conflicts that are rising in the Middle East. They have also warned about a cease-fire and U.N. led mediation is the best possible way to deal with the trouble in Syria.

In the midst of what is going on in Syria, the United States has repeatedly asked the Russian and Chinese governments to negotiate with Assad. Regardless of it all, Russia and China show their unswerving support to the current Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad.

The conflict of opinion between the world powers has elongated any sort of mediation in Syria; several Security Council resolutions to recognize Assad are still pending and it looks as if the international community is powerless to help Syria. The question of whether Syria is actually planning of using chemical weapons or not will only get answered if they actually use them.

Even though the United States claim that they are certain of the existence of chemical weapons in Syria, the international community, especially China and Russia, will make sure that no military intervention is implemented unless and until there is concrete evidence.

**Mitt Romney: Energy independence by 2020**

Plan would lessen federal oversight and expand domestic production

Wesley Riehth

World News Co-Editor

Presumptive GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney unveiled his plan for American energy last Thursday, speaking to a supportive crowd in Hobbs, New Mexico. Pledging lower consumer prices, increased private sector growth, a return to American independence by 2020, and a possible $500 billion in additional Gross Domestic Product. However, the nonprofit Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in a report requested by Paul Ryan, showed distinct disparity in government revenue figures. It stated that 70% of the nation’s oil and gas production, most of it through drilling and opening the rents would increase government receipts to an estimated $150 billion—far from the figure presented by Romney.

The U.S. currently produces about 15 million barrels of oil domestically per day, a figure that would have to increase by anywhere from 8-12 million barrels to reach the need for imported energy by 2020. Romney makes clear that the extra energy is available, but Americans must be willing to go after it. His plan calls for, among other things, significant increases in natural gas production, most of it through the controversial method of horizontal fracturing, or fracking.

The Obama campaign has criticized the plan heavily, citing that it favors dirty, unsustainable fossil fuels instead of new, clean-energy industries. “Romney (cites) wanting to keep giving billions of dollars in tax subsidies to the big oil and gas companies and recklessly open new areas for drilling, but turn our backs on increasing energy efficiency and developing our clean, homegrown energy sources. That’s not a recipe for energy independence,” said Lisa Smith, an Obama campaign spokeswoman.
Weber's beauty, joy, and wonder

California sculptor brings unique cardboard artwork pieces to DePree Art Gallery

Discover summer 2012's buried musical treasures

Leigh Clouse

Many popular radio stations engulflined listeners in a tidal wave of Carly Rae Jepsen and Justin Bieber this summer, their songs becoming the soundtracks to barbecues and trips to the beach. Yet, many artists released albums that have not received as much radio play (besides handily public radio and niche stations). That is not to say these records are unworthy of wider recognition, as many provided some solid summer jams. Here is a list of five noteworthy albums that stood out this past season:

1. Jack White
Blunderbuss

If White Stripes fans were worried about the quality of Jack White’s first solo album, Blunderbuss, their fears are no more. Top (from left to right): Jack White, Blunderbuss; Glen Hansard, Rhythm and Repose; Sigur Rós; Valtari; Bottom (from left to right): Santigold, Master of My Make-Believe; Cold Specks, I Predict a Graceful Expulsion

Recommended Tracks: "Sixteen Salines," "Love Interruption," "Fame," "Freak Like Me" and the Karen O-backed "Golf." But, quiet tunes such as "The Keepers" and "The Rot's Gone" are also biting with their wit.

Recommended Tracks: "Disparate Youth," "The Keepers"

2. Santigold
Master of My Make-Believe

Santigold (née Santi White) has been producing music for several years (her first album came out in 2008), but her sophomore album Master of My Make-Believe shows that she is a master of her craft. Santigold’s songs bring together a dance-worthy mix of African beats, dance rock and punk made razor-sharp thanks to her social commentary-infused lyrics. Santigold is at her spunkiest on songs like "High Hope."

Recommended Tracks: "Disparate Youth," "The Keepers"

3. Glen Hansard
Rhythm and Repose

Featured in the indie movie Once, which produced the Academy Award-winning song "Falling Slowly," Glen Hansard has struck out on his own with his first solo album Rhythm and Repose after playing with The Frames. His voice is as sweet as honey, even in the most mournful tracks like "High Hope."

Recommended Tracks: "Disparate Youth,

4. Sigur Rós
Valtari

Sigur Rós has been around the block in their almost 20 years in the music business, but time has not taken away the Icelandic group's ability to create mind-blowing, beautiful rock music. They have hit gold once again with their sixth studio album Valtari. Lead vocalist Jónsi's ethereal voice soars above the band's blend of guitars, piano, percussion and accompanying string instruments, transporting listeners to far-off dreamscapes.

Recommended Tracks: "Vulnicura," "Varmárustrætur"

3. Cold Specks
I Predict a Graceful Expulsion

Recommended Tracks: "Make-Believe," "A Love Story"
GET INVOLVED! WRITE FOR US!
Email anchor@hope.edu if you’re interested or want more info.
That's the way it is

Madalyn Muncy
Co Editor-in-Chief

Elena Rivera
Co Editor-in-Chief

You have become something unstoppable: a community

The start of a new school year always reminds us of why we chose Hope College, and all the things we love about it and missed while we were away. Watching the freshmen move-in on Friday from our office window in Martha Miller brought back all the emotions and memories from our move-in day three years ago. There was so much shopping in and orientation weekend that helped to introduce us to Hope’s community. Our OA groups, our dorm neighbors, our roommates...everywhere we looked there were welcoming, friendly people who wanted us to be a part of the larger community at Hope.

Community is a word that many use to describe Hope. Being inclusive and welcoming is something we do with pride. The endless array of strangers saying “hello” in passing or the smile on their faces, or the respectful greeting of our visitors passing our way in the Pine Grove are unique qualities that, on the surface, make Hope seem like a different place, a special place. There are so many things we do well as a community at Hope, but there are things we need to strengthen and cultivate. We need strong people with visions to continue reforming and reshaping this community into something that reflects who we are and what we stand for collectively.

Delving deeper into the Hope community requires action and commitment. It requires us all to make a conscious effort to participate in all our community has to offer. On a small scale, that means joining clubs and organizations that spark your passions and interests, or making the time to go to special events and lectures even though you might not know a lot about the subject. That means volunteering to participate in Images, or Dance Marathon, or Nykeda, or Pull, even if you’d rather be sleeping sometimes.

On a larger scale, that means letting your voice be heard on issues that are important to you. Do you think that Hope needs to bump up its environmental efforts? Start a group, sign a petition, and rally the troops to help make our efforts as a community better. If it doesn’t exist, create it. If it is being talked about, bring it up. If it needs to be updated or recreated or reintroduced, make it so. It’s not an easy task, but it’s an integral part of being a member of the Hope community.

The Anchor is an important part of this community. It’s our forum for sharing our ideas and opinions. It belongs to you, to all of us. So write a letter to the editor or send in a story idea or come be a part of our stuff. There’s a way for everyone to get involved in your voice and opinions. Here is my recipe for getting rid of the summer-into-fall blues. Stir the songs together into a lovely mix and enjoy.

Madalyn and Elena are going to tell you what they want: what they really really want.

Scribbles

Alex Brennan
Voices Editor

An open invitation

Well, Hope College, it’s that time of year again. Holland will wake up to a few thousand extra people and professors will dust off their textbooks. The same thing happens every year, but this semester let’s think about starting off differently. Let’s start by telling people that they are awesome, sharing memories, and embracing friends we haven’t seen in months. It’s time to share our admiration publicly. And for the freshmen, it’s time to dare to be yourself. Let yourself get caught up in the excitement and make new friends.

Over the summer, I was introduced to a very intriguing idea. While most people have heard the phrase “pay it forward,” lesser known is the Blue Ribbon phenomenon. The idea is simple. Each person starts with three blue ribbons. They give each ribbon to one person that has made a difference or an impact in their life. The recipients then pass on their ribbons to someone else in an endless cycle of encouragement.

This isn’t just about having an opportunity to thank someone, it’s a chance to tell everyone that you respect them. This is an opportunity to create a kinder, more caring world. This movement, if we let it, could spark and catch fire, spreading even beyond the confines of Hope’s campus. Take the time to consider where your ribbons will end up. Maybe a professor mentor offered you a smile when you most needed one. It could even be someone who you don’t know personally. It doesn’t matter what your reasons are, just that you are able to communicate them to whoever receives your ribbon.

When I discovered this movement, I wondered who I would give my ribbons to. After some thought, I figured out exactly who would receive my three and why. One of them probably has no idea that she has affected my life in a significant way. We roommates freshman year, which was nerve-wracking, especially because I had never shared a room in my life. Even though she was probably just as nervous as I was, she made me feel welcome in my own room. Her constant encouragement has stuck with me, even three years later. It’s the silly things that I remember, that made me laugh. She didn’t know it, but her love for God and her faith have given me hope many times.

So Catlin Trice, expect a blue ribbon from me very shortly. This year I want people to know that they are appreciated; I want our campus to be alive with encouragement and compassion. My blue ribbons will soon have homes with Catlin and two of the other people that have impacted me. If you want to join the blue ribbon army, there will be ribbons for you to pick up outside the Anchor office in Martha Miller. This has the opportunity to thrive on campus. Join the party and pay it forward!

Alex likes pina coladas and getting caught in the rain.

Tunes to live by

Leigh Clouse
Arts Co-Editor

As we, Hope College students, make the slightly painful transition into fall and once again get used to all of the classes, exams, papers and general stressors that come with the territory, it is sometimes impossible to find a silver lining amid the general bemoans of the day. It is at these times when it is most important to sit back and take a breath, to remind yourself that these difficulties shall pass. For me, slapping on a pair of headphones and listening to music is the perfect remedy for a case of academic melancholy. Here is my recipe for getting rid of the summer-into-fall blues. Stir the songs together into a lovely mix and enjoy.

Leigh’s like a bird, the only flies away. She has no home, we’ve lost her soul. Please contact the Anchor with information regarding its whereabouts.

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Behind enemy lines

Somewhere imbedded in the heart and mind of every young man is the desire to make a name for himself, to leave his mark on the world, to have an impact. I was no exception. Although my desires may have been somewhat different than most, I grew up in rural Southwest Michigan, the childhood experiences that I remember most center around a farm.

If choosing a college to attend was akin to pulling teeth (it was), trying to decide a career was far more painful. Choosing a college was actually easier. I was a twenty-something farm boy who spent the majority of my life in the direction of a half-mile, and I placed myself into a demographic where everyone, including my state's legislature, talks about the GOF nominating, the ineffectiveness of federal bureaucracy, and the irrelevance of neoclassical economic theory when applied to foreign relations.

The more I thought about it, the more I wondered why I had put myself into this atmosphere, voluntarily. What was my motive? After spending four monotonous years on Capitol Hill, what have I gained? I suppose part of my motivation stems from the childhood notion of success. I had lost a front porch to call my own. The other half might be a part of me that needs to really see what this world has to offer, almost to discover and conquer, and DC looked like a good place to try that out. To be sure, my time in Washington has pointed to many, any means. I'm truly confused that the experiences I've gained there were not only unique, but will serve me well in the future. It's probably a good thing I left the state I felt so comfortable and safe in to experience another distinctly complex country we all call home. I've also learned to think differently about the future, something that might have taken a lot longer to elaborate on had I not experienced the city. My stock is valued by monetary gain, the sticker price on my convertible, or the number ofфондс I invest in. I sincerely hope not. From my observations, Washington's favorite pastime is not baseball, football, or even election season—It's defining a future. Every job is a step up, every experience another weapon in the arsenal. The good, the bad, and the ugly: I considered it. I found myself concerned that there was no one being able to be the punchline.

Wes thinks you're pretty funny when you get yourself into a situation you're funny when you get yourself into a situation that you're funny when you get yourself into a situation that you're funny when you get yourself into a situation.
New tennis complex and improved football stadium ready for play

Madalyn Muncy

This academic year, Hope College, along with the Holland community, welcomes a new tennis facility and a vastly improved football stadium. The VanderPoel Heeringa Tennis Complex completed construction and opened officially in June, while the Holland Municipal Stadium underwent much-needed facelift.

Roasting 12 courts and elevated seating, the $2.159 million facility is named after Earle Vande Poel (’35) and George Heeringa (’36), who were doubles partners at Hope during the 1930s.

The courts provide an excellent venue for tournaments and compliment the DeVwit Tennis Center, the six-court indoor facility where the Hope tennis teams and tennis academy were previously housed.

According to Greg Maybury, director of Hope’s physical plant, the college consulted various other facilities across the country in order to find a design that worked best for the college.

“The facility is functional for both collegiate and summer tennis. Compared to even Division I and II schools, the facility is top notch,” said Maybury about the new courts.

The facility was used this summer by the Hope College Tennis Academy, which was attended by 450 players spanning kindergarten through 12th grade. Hope tennis players are eager to start practicing on the courts themselves.

Leah LaBarge (13) has been on the courts throughout the summer and believes that they bring a new dimension to Hope tennis.

“It’s important to have an outdoor facility because a lot of our key matches are outdoors. We need to be able to compete against the elements, taking our game to the next level,” said LaBarge.

The courts will be available for public use between programs. A dedication is planned for Saturday, Sept. 22.

While tennis season isn’t until spring, football season is just around the corner and the Holland Municipal Stadium received its various improvements just in time.

Most notably, an artificial turf field and upgraded Musco lights have been installed in order to provide a better playing experience. Not visible to the naked eye, in order to properly install the new turf, the underground of the field was completely redone as well.

Crews began work on the stadium after classes ended at the college. Work was completed in August in time for football practices to begin.

The college decided to attempt to acquire the stadium over a year ago. According to Maybury, despite the change of ownership, Holland Public Schools will have access to the stadium free of charge.

“The city has agreed to sell the stadium and the sale was officially approved by the council last Wednesday. However, there are a series of meetings that have to take place in order for Hope to take ownership. We are expecting to take official ownership in November,” said Maybury.

Besides new turf and lights, the stadium received other aesthetic upgrades, such as repainting the maroon parts of the stadium blue and the installation of a brick wall around the perimeter.

“Those changes are just the beginning of what is expected to be a series of on-going upgrades to the stadium as Hope takes on full ownership. Fans can enjoy the stadium for the first time on Community Day on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. when Hope plays North Park.”

Senior soccer player pleased with pre-season, has high hopes

Elena Rivera

This year the Hope College men’s soccer team is all about redemption. Unconsciously knocked out of the Elite 8 last season in a challenging match against Ohio Wesleyan, members of the team are focused on bringing home a national championship this year.

Sitting down with Jason Muller (13), a senior midfield player from Petoskey, and last season’s leading scorer, he discussed his goals for his final year on the team, the bonds he has formed with his teammates, and his own Hope journey.

Muller, a political science major who spent last spring studying off-campus in the Washington, D.C. honors semester, was initially attracted to Hope because of its soccer program, but he soon discovered that the college had more to offer than sports.

He found that he loved everything about Hope, from the people to the way he could live out his faith on campus. He formed strong bonds with his fellow soccer teammates. “It’s nice to have a group of guys to hang out with on and off the field,” he said.

While this year’s roster is short a couple of instrumental seniors, Muller is optimistic about the large group of freshmen that joined them for pre-season practices this past weekend.

He describes the pre-season atmosphere as very competitive this year, and saw a solid group of freshmen hopeful push themselves to their limits.

For Muller and the rest of the team, this year is all about improving performance and winning that national championship.

Muller thinks that winning a championship isn’t out of reach, and is a “pretty realistic” goal for the team that they have set up this season.

He knows his own freshman experience as a player was shaped by “coming in and playing behind seniors and stronger players” and learning from their technique and guidance.

Muller can see that same learning happening with freshmen on the team even in pre-season workouts.

This past Saturday, Aug. 25 was the culmination of their pre-season training, the inter-squad blue/orange scrimmage, an active way to start the season.

Looking to the future, Muller would enjoy working in Washington, D.C. in the short-term, because of the abundance of opportunities there, but his heart really lies in Michigan.

This “midfield maestro” hopes to leave men’s soccer at Hope with a spotless reputation, and, with an incredible pre-season to come, it seems like he is on his way.

Last season the Dutchmen finished 5-5-4 overall and 10-3-1 in the MIAA. The 17 wins were the most tallied by the men’s soccer team since 2005.

The team kicks off their season against Depauw, Ind., on Friday, Aug. 31, and their first home game in Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. against Aurora, Ill., as part of the Bergma Memorial Tournament.

Picture courtesy of Hope PR

This Week in Sports

Saturday, Sept. 1

Cross Country

Bill Vancleef Invitational at Ridgepoint Church at 10:30 a.m.

Football

vs. North Park at 1:30 p.m.

In Brief

Cross Country Teams Ranked Regionally

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association released the national rankings for the NCAA Division III pre-season national poll, ranked 22nd.

The Flying Dutch have had an appearance in the NCAA National Championships the past two seasons.

Both cross country teams hosted the first meet and on Sept. 1 at Ridgepoint Church in Holland beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Volleyball Ranked High Nationally

The American Volleyball Coaches Association released national teams for the NCAA Division III poll and the Flying Dutch are ranked eighth overall.

Hope is coming off a 25-7 season and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament, where they were eliminated by rival Calvin.

Calvin has been ranked third in the nation in the pre-season poll.

Calvin and Hope are picked to finish one-two, respectively, in the pre-season MIAA polls.

Calvin won the conference last season while the Dutch finished second.

Hope will host the NCAA Division III regional finals at DeVos Fieldhouse on Nov. 15-17.

The Flying Dutch’s first match is set for Sept. 1 at against Mt. Union, Ohio.

Football Has First Scrimmage on New Turf

The Flying Dutch took part in their annual spring scrimmage on Saturday at Holland Municipal Stadium. It was the first action that the new synthetic turf experience and Hope football fans showed up to cheer on the athletes. Every player stepped on the field for a chance to impress and get a feeling of the improved facilities. Admission was free and 25-cent popcorn was being sold. The teams are coming off a 3-3 season overall, including a 5-1 record in the MIAA. The first game of the 2012 season is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 1 at 1:30 p.m. against North Park at Holland Municipal, which is part of Community Day.