Even Year triumphant in epic Nykerk

Popular author shares her perspective with students

Mikella Bryant
Guest Writer

Shauna Niequist, a West Michigan lover, revisited her “home” on Nov. 2 as she spoke to Hope College students about her book “Bittersweet.”

Niequist was brought to Hope College by the SIB sorority to speak as an author, Christian and mother. Niequist has written two books and is now working on her third.

The evening began with her introducing herself. She truthfully stated that she had wanted to stay at home that night with her husband and child but realized she, “forgot how meaningful it is for me to speak at these kinds of events.”

Her introduction was brief; she spoke mostly of her upbringing. She lived in Grand Rapids for six years and now lives in Chicago where she is a mother to her 4-year-old son, Henry.

Niequist went on to explain the night’s events. She said she would read some of her book but mostly wanted to have time for the audience to ask questions.

She read, “The idea of ‘Bittersweet’ is changing the way I live, unraveling and re-weaving the way I understand life.”

“Bittersweet” is the idea that in all things there is both something broken and something beautiful, that there is a moment of lightness on even the darkest of nights, a shadow of hope in every heartbeat, and that rejoicing is no less rich even when it contains a splinter of sadness.”

After reading the introduction, she read a chapter titled SAMe WHITE In DeO

James Nichols Co-Editor in Chief


There are an endless number of words to describe the 76-year-old tradition that is Nykerk; a performance that is both a bellwether and an intermission for the future. Nykerk’s full strength is a beautiful, that is both some-thing broken and something beautiful, that there is a moment of lightness on even the darkest of nights, a shadow of hope in every heartbeat, and that rejoicing is no less rich even when it contains a splinter of sadness.”

After reading the introduction, she read a chapter titled

Wanted: ‘Ribbons’ Statue stolen from Nykerk Hall

Meagan Dodge Staff Writer

Wanted: The marble statue titled “Ribbons,” which was taken from Nykerk Hall, the college’s music building. It is approximately 30” tall, white, curly and asymmetrical. An investigation is underway in search of this missing statue.

The statue was last seen on Saturday, Oct. 16. Maintenance personnel noticed the statue missing the following day around 9:30 a.m.

Once maintenance reported this missing statue to campus safety, they asked everyone in the building if they knew the statue’s whereabouts. Nobody had noticed the statue was gone.

Chad Wolters, director of campus safety, said, “Typically when something is added to people’s surroundings they notice the change right away, but when something is missing it takes a while for people to realize what is actually gone.”

Campus safety also checked card access to see if they noticed any unusual patterns. There was nothing to report.

They checked the rooms of students who had been in the building as well and the statue was not located. The statue was displayed in the main lounge of Nykerk Hall. The building had been secured and there was no sign of a forced entry.

Previously two marble sculptures have been stolen from Nykerk. One statue has been retrieved and put back in its previous location. The statue, titled “Donut,” was taken from Nykerk April 7. It was recovered later that month after a tip was received from a Holland woman who read a news story about the theft.

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Since the first statue was stolen the chairman of the art department has made efforts to secure the display of artwork. Thousands of dollars worth of art are donated each year to Hope. It is important that these works of art are taken care of and respected by the students.

In efforts to secure buildings
**CAMPUS**

**Nykerk 2010: Even and odd years please packed Civic Center**

- **NYKERK**, from page 1

out how they hide something like a helium balloon.” Jordan Ippolito, the even-year orator; kept spirits alive with her speech “Roots Go Deep,” a heartfelt, warming tale of friendships and their similarities to the majestic trees found around campus.

“I was thoroughly impressed with her confidence and what she had to say,” Converse said. “She definitely did a great job representing even year.”

Closing the competition was the 2013 play, “Don’t Let the Bed Bugs Bite.” An original creation centered on the ever-drowsy bed bug, Mary Carrier’s (’11) and Kara Weaver’s (’11) show combined huge performances with humor. After some deliberation and a video chronicling the journey up to that point, the time came for the judges to announce their decision. The shuffle of thousands of people to the front of their seat was the only thing audible in the packed gymnasmus.

“I had no idea who was going to win,” Converse said. “I thought odd year did a great job on all three events and I thought even year did just as well. I would have been content with either team winning. It was a strong competition; both sides presented as much as they could.”

With the announcement of their victory, the fresher side of the building erupted in cheer. Hugs were being passed out like candy at Halloween.

A stark contrast was visible on the sophomore side. Although hugs were provided, they were of consolation rather than joy. Tears filled the eyes of coaches, morales and girls alike as they came to the realization that for most of them, their Nykerk career was over.

Nykerk is a commitment unlike anything else. For those involved, Nykerk is more than just practicing for four weeks; it is eating, sleeping, breathing and living Nykerk for four weeks.

“Nykerk literally made me who I am today,” Rebhan said. “It’s changed every aspect of who I am. Nykerk is the thing that tied me to Hope. I absolutely love every single part of Nykerk.”

**Camera Under Consideration to Protect Campus Buildings**

- **CAMERAS**, from page 1

Cameras will be installed to help track down the offender.

If you or anyone you know has seen this statue please report it immediately to the Holland Police Department at (616) 355-1100, or Silent Observer at (877) 88-SILENT, or Campus Safety at 395-7779.

**Niequist Offers Wisdom on Life and the Writing Process**

- **AUTHOR**, from page 1

Niequist said, “Whatever it is I am grasping with white knuckles I know that is the place I need to grow. When I try to control, I ask this an opportunity to let go and to be transformed.”

Questions continued, hands raised. “Your first two books were memoirs, do you write in other styles?” another audi-ence member asked. Niequist explained how short form, narrative essays were the easiest for her; it was what came naturally.

The speech wrapped up with Niequist reading one more seg-ment from her book. In response to the speech, Elizabeth Meyer (’11) said, “I thought it was very honest and genuine.”
**Republican gain control of Michigan**

Amy Alvine
Snr Wuon

On Tuesday Nov. 2, former state Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland) won a seat in Michigan’s second Congressional district, a seat held by Pete Hoekstra (R-Hollander) for the past 17 years. Huizenga will be one of the 239 Republicans who will hold a seat in the House of Representatives this upcoming January; the Democrats have secured 185 seats.

Receiving 149,235 votes, Huizenga won the congressional race with 65 percent of the vote, compared to Democrat Fred Johnson’s 32 percent. In a conversation with the Holland Sentinel, Huizenga said, “It was a good, clean, hard fight… It was a battle of ideas, not a battle of she said/she said.”

After the election results were tallied and Huizenga received a winning majority, Huizenga talked with Fred Johnson, a history professor at Hope College. According to the Sentinel, both agreed, that “if both political races were battled like [theirs], the country would be in better shape.”

In regard to the election, Johnson said, “Bill is a very gracious individual. There’s no animosity between us. We just have two different perspectives on how [we would] solve the many problems facing our country right now. Like I tell my students, if there are things that you don’t like going on in... our government, then you are obliged as an American citizen to go and do something about it - and do our best.”

According to Tuesday’s voting results, the majority of Michigan voters sided with the Republican Party. The Republicans have been calling for change by having balanced spending and pro-business policies. Huizenga told the Holland Sentinel that, “House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi didn’t allow Republicans much of a voice in the process. This election gives Republicans a voice to actually be a party of the process.”

In support of this statement, Huizenga told reporters that the atmosphere in Washington, D.C. will be different with Democrats in control of the White House and Senate even though Republicans had major wins in both Lansing and Washington, D.C.

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Many analysts have said that neither of these examples in history can be a sign of hope for the President. Reagan hardly suffered a “shellacking” like Tuesday’s. Tony Harnden of the Telegraph explains that the 1982 Republican defeat shows that a mid-term setback is not a sign of hope for the President. Reagan had been a “shellacking” for the 1982 Republican defeat shows that a mid-term setback is not a sign of hope for the President.

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For the Republicans, the House of Representatives and Senate is expected to be controlled by Republicans.

Ego factor: Can Obama change after suffering ‘shellacking’?

Matthew Lee
Co-Editor

Nearly halfway through his term, President Barack Obama admitted on Sunday that he must make a “midcourse change” in order to win over a frustrated electorate and work with recently empowered Republicans. A while after an economic tour of Asian nations, Obama told college students in India that the midterm elections back home reflected the “right, obligation and duty” of people to express their unhappiness by voting out the incumbents.

In last week’s mid-term election Obama took a beating even though he was not on the ballot. Republicans won a majority of the House of Representatives and slightly diminished the Democrat majority in the Senate. Republicans also made huge gains in state legislatures.

Obama said he will not change his determination to invest money in education, infrastructure and clean energy at a time when the pressures in Washington are to slash spending. But he said the elections require him to make some midcourse corrections and adjustments.

Obama added that his “midcourse corrections” will depend heavily on talks with Republican leaders in the next couple of months.

This is something that I think every president needs to go through because… sometimes we lose track of the ways that we connect with folks that got us here in the first place,” Obama said toward the end of his post-election news conference, after reporters pressed him to go beyond his clinical descriptions of the disastrous election results and explain whether he felt responsibility or guilt.

“Now, I’m not recommending for every future president that they take a shellacking, like I did last night. I’m sure there are easier ways to learn these lessons. But I do think this is a growth process and an evolution.”

In a recent article, Politico asks an important question: Can Barack Obama change? Analysts consider this question as a central one for Obama’s presidency. Some analysts have said that this election is a punishment for the ways that we shaped the electorate and work with recently empowered Republicans.

While the economic results of the 2010 elections may be seen as a mid-term setback, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, among other presidents that experienced the same mid-term setback, have both gone on to regain support. Some analysts have said that neither of these examples in history can be a sign of hope for the President. Obama’s response was a “counterpunch from the center.” Successful bi-partisanship was Clinton’s biggest accomplishment during his presidency.

According to Tuesday’s voting results, the majority of Michigan supporters and skeptics alike, it was a battle of ideas, not a battle of she said/she said. “Now, I’m not recommending for every future president that they take a shellacking, like I did last night. I’m sure there are easier ways to learn these lessons. But I do think this is a growth process and an evolution.”

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Britain, France sign defense pact

A NEW DEAL — French President Nicolas Sarkozy, left, and British Prime Minister David Cameron, right, sign a defense pact on Nov. 2 that will last 50 years.

Iran agrees to talks

Iran made the latest move this past week in an ongoing saga over its nuclear program. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki announced on Sunday that Iran has agreed to attend new talks with the U.S. and its allies, discussing the controversial Iranian nuclear program.

Mottaki made the offer after Turkey, also suggesting that Turkey could be a potential host for the talks. Such discussions would be held between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group, a group composed of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany.

Several sanctions have been imposed on Iran to discourage such a weapons program. The U.N., enacted four sets of sanctions, while the U.S. and the E.U. have imposed their own penalties.

Iran is entitled to their reactor at Bushehr. Our problem is with their facilities at Qom and other places where we believe they are conducting their weapons program," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to reporters while at a meeting with Austria's foreign minister. Oct. 26. "Iran is entitled to the peaceful use of civilian nuclear power. They are not entitled to a nuclear weapons program.

United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany. These talks have been called for over a year, but Mottaki's recent announcement suggests that perhaps Iran is willing to negotiate.

Nearly two weeks ago Iran began loading fuel into the core of its first nuclear power plant in the southern city of Bushehr. U.S. officials worry that this action may lead, or may have already led, to the development of nuclear weapons.

“Humility is a great quality, and it’s one that people will respect. Ronald Reagan could be seen as a polarizing presence, but he also knew how to play humble when it was necessary. Where is President Obama’s self-deprecating humor? Kennedy and Reagan could both be very self-deprecating. People liked that.”

Last Tuesday a majority of voters voted against the Obama agenda and Republicans want to continue this success into the elections two years from now. It is much too soon to predict anything about Obama’s chances of re-election but his bipartisanship has, thus far, been proven to be nonexistent, and as a result he has left Democrats and himself exposed and vulnerable for the next two years.
Critic's Corner

No Age: Everything In Between

Los Angeles ambient punk duo No Age broke out of the gates and into indie prominence in 2008 with their second full-length album "Nouns." On their most recent release, "Everything In Between," singer/guitarist Dean Spunt and guitarist Randy Randall use the same wall of noise formula prominent on "Nouns," turning the vocals exponentially higher. The emergence of the vocals showcases Spunt's simplistic, raw songwriting and (almost) poppy melodies tucked within all of Randall's layers of noise. Impressively, No Age is just two people making such a tremendous amount of noise. Upon first listen, the noise can make No Age far from accessible, yet the heavy racket within each track can ultimately be more expressive than the lyrics. No Age is the latest trend on the lead single "Glitter." The drums maintain a drive throughout the song while Randall adds a guitar, like nails on a chalkboard, to complement the layers of distorted chords. The guitar and drums create a beautiful mess while Spunt desperately sings, "I want you bad underneath my skin."

The Avett Brothers: Live, Volume 1

The Avett Brothers are an American indie folk-rock band.

The Avett Brothers: Live, Volume 3

The Avett Brothers are a bluegrass band that is also known for their folk music. Their studio albums offer good pop songs with a hard folk twist, blending bluegrass and country music. Their second album, "Everything In Between," shows Spunt's sharpened skills in writing more distinguishable melodies to bring out the lyrics. The Avett Brothers are known for their unique sound and have gained a dedicated following. Their music is a fusion of different genres, creating a distinct and recognizable style. No Age's "Nouns" is a testament to the band's experimentation and creativity, showcasing their ability to create a wall of noise that is both chaotic and compelling.

Thanks to WTHS music directors Paul Rice, Laura Helderop and Aaron Martin for these awesome album reviews.

Novelist David Shields visits Hope Thursday

David Shields visits Hope Thursday, November 10, 2010

David Shields reaches across the boundaries between fiction and nonfiction. Many bookshops can be easily categorized in sections of a library or bookstore, but in Shields' latest book, "Reality Hunger: A Manifesto," he pieces together quotes from seemingly unending varieties of sources, creating a whole new genre. On Thursday, the Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series welcomes Shields to Hope College. Author Chuck Klosterman tweeted: "[Shields’ new book] might be the most intense, thought-provoking book of the last 10 years." In a review of "Reality Hunger," author Sarah Manguso said, "it provides an answer to the question: how do you write about the exhaustion of our culture, and obsessed by real experience, hardly any, are taking larger and larger pieces of the real world and using them in their work?" Shields' 600-plus samples appeared in NaNoWriMo and "Finding out the lyrics."

The Avett Brothers: Live, Volume 3

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Photos by Holly Enghouse and Katy Carlson
Layout and Graphics by Holly Enghouse

76th Annual Nykerk Cup
You’ve got questions? We’ve got answers.

Meet Tony. Tony is a sophomore at Hope College. Tony lives in Wyckoff. Tony calls Hope College his home. Tony doesn’t like to sleep with the dorm windows open. Sometimes Tony wears two different colored socks, but Tony doesn’t care. What Tony does care about is his future. You see, Tony has already declared his major and knows what he wants to do in his life. Tony has one problem though: he doesn’t know the next step he should take toward achieving his future career goals. We have one thing to help Tony, and that’s Career Services.

Career Services helps students take the first or next step on their journey toward achieving their future goals. One specific part of Career Services is that it can help students find internships that relate to what they would like to do in their future. There are a few things students need to understand before they run into Career Services and ask for help:

1. Finding an internship is the student’s responsibility.
2. The internship search is a process that takes time.
3. Career Services is here to help every step of the way in that process.

Take it from Hope College students who had the opportunity to get internships through Career Services:

“My internship was at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in the Navy Yard in Washington D.C., and I was an intern in the Biometrics and Forensics Department. My specific internship was exciting because I got to live in a huge city, which I had never done before, and I got to experience what it would be like to work at a full-time job. It was also very exciting to interact with the military, and see how the justice system worked for them, which I had never done before.” –– Amanda Gernentz (’11)

“For me, it’s hard to pick just one thing that was exciting about my internship. I guess it would have been the opportunity of meeting so many different talented musicians on a daily basis as they came into the recording studio. I left the internship with a better understanding of how a studio runs as well as gaining more knowledge on how to use Pro Tools and recording equipment in a professional studio located in a large city.” –– Justin Ferens (’11) who was an intern at Cupit Music in Nashville.

If you need help getting started, are unsure of what to do next, need help finding an internship or would like extra assistance deciding your career path, contact the Office of Career Services at careers@hope.edu, visit their website at hope.edu/student/career, or call 616.395.7950.

“I went into the Home Depots and simply built camaraderie with employees. I got to know people and understand the way in which they go about their business. As long as you like what you are doing, any business...” -- Christopher Jackson (’11) who interned with Universal Forest Products and traveled to different Home Depots from Ludington to Benton Harbor.

Shane Kwapis (’11) is an engineering major and chemistry minor. Kwapis interned at Optera as a screen durability tester and humidity and temperature experimenter. Kwapis also worked at Breitburn Co. as an engineering intern where he mostly worked independently. Some advice from Kwapis: “It’s never too early to look for internships. Don’t wait until your junior year to begin looking. Be willing to put yourself out there sooner rather than later.”

As a communication major and French minor, Lauren Bell (’11) had the opportunity to intern at Herman Miller last summer. Bell’s participation on the education team at Herman Miller allowed her to bring her college insight into specific projects. Bell’s advice for students who are considering an internship: “Be sure you can commit the necessary time to the internship.” Bell added, “Don’t think you’ll succeed right away. Success takes time.”

Rebecca Currey (’11) had the privilege of working at Haworth Inc. as an architect and design marketing intern. Currey was a mediator between two venues: Haworth products and the end-user of Haworth products. The work Currey did at her internship involved visualizing ways to present products for potential buyers. One of Currey’s favorite parts of being an intern at Haworth Inc. was to see the full manufacturing process. Currey’s words of advice for students are: “There are two ways to go about an Internship: complacency, where you do what they hand you and being proactive, where you seek out projects and challenges. Don’t be afraid to ask for more and seek out opportunities. Be proactive.”
Paradoxical perspectives

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Correlation does not equal causation

Fact: during the summer months, the number of people who eat ice cream increases. There is also an increase in the number of deaths that occur by drowning. But if you told the average person that eating ice cream will cause them to drown, they’d probably think you’re crazy. Similarly, it’s just as absurd to say that the annual result of one Hope College tradition is based on the outcome of another.

Let me say this loud and clear: The results of Nykerk are not dependent on the results of Pull. This has never been true, it was not true this year, and it will never be true. Why, you ask? Because the events are completely and entirely independent of one another.

I’m sure there are quite a few people rolling their eyes, but hear me out. Since the 1936 Pull (the year that Nykerk was started), the sophomores have won 52 times, the freshmen 19 times, there have been three cancellations and two draws. Nykerk did not start tracking the winner until recent years since the more competitive nature is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Nonetheless, I do not believe that the judges are consciously or sub-consciously aware of the results of Pull when judging Nykerk. I personally have not seen the judging sheets, but I am aware that a set point system exists for each event; also, each coach receives a copy of the Nykerk constitution, which outlines the criterion used to judge each event.

I also firmly believe there are two specific reasons that the results of Pull and Nykerk are so readily compared. First, both events involve even vs. odd; each group is comprised of under-classmen coached by upper-classmen. Second, the two events take place within four weeks of each other. If either competition took place during second semester or if Nykerk occurred before Pull, I’m willing to bet fewer comparisons would occur.

Claiming that even year won this year’s Nykerk because they lost Pull is as ridiculous as saying that odd year won Pull because Dance Marathon raised more money than Relay for Life. Pull and Nykerk are apples and bananas: related by nature, but sources of different types of sustenance.

I want to strongly encourage the student body to view each and every activity at this college as independent. I started hearing the, “Oh, they only won because they lost Pull,” line my sophomore year when the class of 2012 won Nykerk. Based on the last four years, it’s certainly easy to make a case for this, but I find it very hard to believe that there is a massive conspiracy theory going on. And quite honestly it comes down to this: If each song girl, play girl and orator puts forth her absolute best effort on Nykerk night, why do we let ourselves be defined by which class wins? Why do we assume that the results are “rigged” to make one class feel good for losing an entirely separate event? I’ve always heard that Nykerk is about reaching beyond the constraints of even vs. odd.

As a campus, let’s rise above the urge to automatically associate the two events as one. Be proud of all the participants, the 300-some students involved in Nykerk gave one heck of a show on Saturday—hands down the best competition since my freshman year. And next year when the class of 2015 arrives, let’s make sure they know that Pull and Nykerk are about so much more than winning or losing.

Karen would like to thank my friends on executive board for putting up with my constant questions about all things Nykerk throughout the last two years. Your patience is amazing.

Correlation does not equal causation

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief
I don’t like animals

I spent most of high school working in a pet supply store. When someone close to me would get a new puppy or kitten, I would go out and purchase Supplies Plus, they would usually scoff and say, “But you hate animals!" to which I would answer, “I don’t hate animals, I’m just not good with them.” My retort was at least partly true. Truthfully, I spent the better part of my childhood disliking animals. I just didn’t understand why people would spend so much money on dog or toy when humans were starving just around the block. Or why people would continue to feed their 16 barn cats while they were on food stamps.

Customer after customer would ask me about my own pets; most of the people that worked in the store had their own personal zoos. I would reply that my parents wouldn’t allow them. It didn’t bother me that I had to grin and bear it at the crazy, stinky cat people. I had to stifle a giggle when a woman asked if I’d like to see a picture of her son and pulled out a wallet-sized photo of her black lab.

Why were animals so wonderful? Why were customers complaining about their dogs eating better than they do? Why did people think I was a vet? I tried and tried, but alas, I never understood until I met Ralphie.

I found him by chance on a local rescue’s website. My mom, sister and I rushed to the pet store hosting this rescue’s pet adoption day. Upon first meeting him, I instantly knew that we couldn’t leave him. He was sitting in his crate, thin as can be, with a sad little face that just ached for love. We held him and walked him and played with him, then took him home. We were now a family of five.

My family hadn’t had a dog for a long time. The last dog we had died when I was in third grade. My dad wouldn’t let us have any more pets until my younger sister Candace got a fish a few years ago.

We rescued Ralphie in May. He was a 6-pound, 1-year-old miniature daschund that needed a lot of love. And he got it. Having four people dote on him day after day, Ralphie became a happy little dog, always giving kisses and wanting to play tug-of-war.

After spending the summer training and playing with, love, most of my issues cleared up. I now understood that a little breathing, furry four-legged creature could bring a person more joy than I’d ever known. Even though my friends started calling me a “crazy dog owner,” I played mother to Ralphie not only because someone had literally thrown him away, but also because it made me happy.

When I came home in September after being at school for at least a month, Ralphie was the first to greet me, jumping up and down, licking my face and peeing a little in excitement. I cried him like a baby and let him go to town. I missed it.

Mandaly Muncy says that mom’s stuffing at Thanksgiving dinner rocks her face off. She’s also looking forward to the snow.

I have had to stifle this feeling 100 times over since meeting him. My mom is the one who really wanted him, but when we stand up again, it’s OK to be proud of those green smudges that can’t be brushed off. They are a reminder of what we’ve learned.

I’ve grown to know people from all over the States, Argentina, the UK, Greece, Iceland, Chile, Germany, Denmark, the Pacific Islands, Japan, China, Malaysia and even a guy who works in Antarctica. Each person has a different perspective, each person has a different story.
Wide receiver Kyle Dietrich ('11) will represent Hope College in the Division II/III All-American Bowl on Dec. 18 in Minneapolis. Dietrich holds two football records at Hope: single game reception yardage and all-time leading pass receiver in yardage, which he achieved on Saturday in the Dutchmen's loss to Adrian. Dietrich's appearance will be the first time a Hope player participates in a post-season game since 2004.

MIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Volleyball
Kara VandeGuchte ('11)
Middle Hitter

Volleyball
Greer Bratschie ('13)
Setter

Soccer
Aaron Thompson ('14)
Punter

David Whitaker ('12)
Defense

TEAMS HEADED TO NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The volleyball team and men's soccer team have both qualified for their respective NCAA tournaments. The volleyball team capped 26-4 regular season with a 3-0 sweep of Calvin in the MIAA tournament finals Saturday, qualifying for the national tournament for the third time in as many years. Though Hope tied Calvin for first in the MIAA in men's soccer, Hope received their first NCAA bid since 2006 because of their two earlier victories over the Knights.

High expectations for Hope women

James Nichols
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Losing a championship game is one of the hardest things to get past in sports. If you are coach Brian Morehouse and the Hope College women's basketball team, not so much.

After losing by six points to Washington University (Mo.) in the Division III national championship, the Flying Dutch are looking forward to another great season. Ranked second in the nation going into the season, expectations for the team are inevitably high.

"I am most looking forward to building stronger relationships with all the girls on the team," co-captain Carrie Snikkers ('11) said. "I have so much fun every season with the girls; it makes practice go by so much quicker. We have so many talented girls on the team that it is fun to learn from my sister and become a solid team on and off the court."

"Expectations can't get much higher than the national championships game," Morehouse said. "When you talk about expectations, it's managing those expectations. We have a high pre-season ranking but we need to understand the marathon type of season we have."

This season, the Hope roster is chock-full of returning letterwinners. Twelve out of the 15 roster spots are occupied by returning letterwinners.

"I want to see the student body, faculty and staff come out and support them," Morehouse said. "I want to know if there are things a student wants to see that would make it better for them. We value input. We need the people on campus' respect so they will want to attend our games. I'm always open to suggestions as to how we can make this a pleasing experience for people on campus."

Overall, Morehouse stressed the loyalty of Hope fans the most, emphatically stating, "We have the greatest fans in America. No Division III team has fans like us. Hope is an incredible place to coach and play!"

"I think it simply speaks to the tradition of our program that we're ranked that high, and that we have several returning players. That's what rankings tend to be; they look at what you did last year and they look at what you have coming back. We're humbled to be ranked that high, that's for sure, and we have high expectations and I think they'll meet those," Neil said.

The Hope men have a highly experienced team, with no freshmen on the varsity lineup and 11 returning letter-winners. This level of experience will be necessary to survive tough early season stretch of games. Seven of the first 11 contests for the men's basketball team are on road against quality opponents. Neil outlined the mentality that his players will be working with as they press through these early games.

"Every time we play we should be better than we were the time before, and we're going to treat every single game like it's an NCAA tournament game. We have to come out and be prepared and we have to execute our game plan every time."

IN BRIEF

DIETRICH TO PLAY IN ALL-AMERICAN BOWL

Wide receiver Kyle Dietrich ('11) will represent Hope College in the Division II/III All-American Bowl on Dec. 18 in Minneapolis. Dietrich holds two football records at Hope: single game reception yardage and all-time leading pass receiver in yardage, which he achieved on Saturday in the Dutchmen's loss to Adrian. Dietrich's appearance will be the first time a Hope player participates in a post-season game since 2004.

SHOWING OFF FOR THE CROWD— Nate King ('12) goes toward the rim during the Hope Madness dunk contest.

Chris Russ
Assistant Sports Editor

Hope College's men's soccer team have both qualified for the MIAA and posting 21-8 overall records in both of the past two seasons.

However, this year the Dutchmen look to retake the conference under the new-found leadership of Matt Neil. Neil takes over for Glenn Van Wieren, a Hope legend who retired after having led the Hope basketball program for 33 seasons.

Neil, who has been with the program since 1985 as an assistant coach, was asked if there would be any significant changes now that he is at the helm.

"Not particularly, what we've been doing here has been working. There are just some subtle changes. I'm a big believer in the motion offense and so we're trying hard to learn that. But no, I think our philosophy is pretty much the same. We want to be tough defensively and we want to push the basketball."

When explaining the team's goals for the season, Neil emphasized two aspects of the game: defense and rebounding, that would be essential for the team to focus on. Hope's potential for an exceptional season is underscored by its inclusion in two Division III pre-season polls in which they are ranked 14th and 17th.

"We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season. We have a high potential for an exceptional season.