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Community members come together to discuss how to better the community
Devon Abler / Dakota Student

Grand Forks community come together to foster new ideas.

Madison Feltman
Dakota Student

Last Wednesday, the greater Grand Forks community was invited to join in on a promotion of community conversation at the Longest Table. The event was put on by the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region and the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals, drawing a crowd of 717 people, including around 100 volunteers, 22 of which were UND students. In January 2018, Governor Doug Burgum visited Grand Forks in order to promote his main street initiative. After the Knight Foundation pre-

sented a grant of \$40,000 from their Donor-Advised Fund at the community foundation for the Longest Table, Becca Bahnmitter, executive director of the Community Foundation, and Becca Cruger, president of the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals, were inspired and the planning process began. From there both Cruger and Bahnmitter assembled a team of diverse community members that were passionate about the impact that the Longest Table could have on Grand Forks. "Needless to say, setting up 750 feet of table and 750 chairs was not a quick or an easy task," Bahnmitter said. "However, our team was thrilled with the result

and the enthusiasm that the community displayed." The event on Wednesday began with a meal which was prepared and catered by Hugo's Marketplace. From there, attendees were randomly assigned seating along N 3rd St. Each table was comprised of residents from all age groups and walks of life, which included a table captain who lead the group in conversation. After registration closed, the event went into full swing as speakers Dana Sande, president of the Grand Forks City Council, and James Leiman, with the North Dakota Department of Commerce, expressed the importance of the Longest Table and urged community members to

speak up, share their opinions and pitch their ideas. "The Longest Table is very important because everyone is invited to participate," Sande said. "Serving the community is a team sport and we are all urged to play. The Longest Table is also important because it demonstrates that if you want to do something and to lead in our community, Grand Forks gives you the opportunity to do so. If you have an idea and if you want to make a difference, you can do that here." Community members were then urged to take a quick survey about their view of Grand Forks before starting a conversation with their team about the city. Table captains guided

their groups through questions about the improvements of Grand Forks, what the future of Grand Forks might entail and once again urged everyone to speak up about their ideas. The event came to a close as attendees took another identical survey to see if their opinions on the city had changed. "The response to the Longest Table indicated to me that despite the divides that are evident across our nation and around the world, our local community is seeking opportunities for intellectual connection and civic engagement," Bahnmitter said. "With just a month of promotion, this event sparked real interest and enthusiasm." The response to the event has been felt city-wide and will continue to unravel with time. The city is also providing the funding for Longest Table micro-grants that support Gov. Doug Burgum's Main Street Initiative.

"The response to the Longest Table indicated to me that despite the divides that are evident across our nation and around the world, our local community is seeking opportunities for intellectual connection and civic engagement,"

Becca Bahnmitter,
Executive director of the Community Foundation

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Technology shortages

UND Math Lab dealing with major computer shortages



Trevor Alveshere/ Dakota Student

Sasha Leibel
Dakota Student

As the 2018-2019 fall semester gets underway, students enrolled in math classes find it hard to fit in three hours a week in the math lab, which is needed to pass their classes, due to lack of enough computers or finding the right time to go. Students who are enrolled in math classes are required to attend class once a week for 50 minutes, the other days you are supposed to spend in the math lab or at home. But what if there isn't enough computers or the times don't work for you? Alyson Pascuzzi is a teacher at UND who teaches Math 103 and requires her students to spend time in the math lab. "There are 20 desktop computers available to use in the mall and 20 laptops students can use upon request," Pascuzzi said. "We very rarely run out of laptops to handout. Students are also told when they enroll that there is additional MALL time". The math lab is open Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday 9am-4pm and Sunday 4pm-9pm. But, what if you have a job? Work-study? It becomes hard to fit in these three hours that

"I have class during the same time as the math lab hours so it's hard for me to get in the hours required,"

Jenna Peneueta-Snyder, Math Student

are needed every week. Jenna Peneueta-Snyder a math student in Aly's class tells us how hard it can be to get in the required math hours. "I have class during the same time as the math lab hours so it's hard for me to get in the hours required," Peneueta-Snyder said. "But I try to fit in the hours whenever I can, I usually try to do an hour." The math lab can hold up to 120 students but the max is 130 students. According to Jenna, students have been told they can't be in the math lab due to it being too full. So, what if that was the only time you could go and get your three hours in only to be told there's no room? Although these problems seem to be getting fixed, students still struggle to find time to get their three hours in.

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UNPOPULAR OPINION: Red Pepper is Garbage



Trevor Alveshire/ Dakota Student

Red Pepper, for most UND students, is seen as a staple in the Grand Forks college experience.

Bobby Feaster
Dakota Student

For those of you that are currently standing while reading this, please sit down because I do not want anyone to get hurt. Red Pepper is not that good. I know most of you are probably shocked, but it is the harsh truth.

I have been in Grand Forks for four years now and ever since I got here, everyone and their mother has been telling about how amazing Red Pepper is. I was pretty

skeptical at first. A taco place that also serves sandwiches, that's an odd combination. But I was new and I wanted to take part in the local delicacies, so I ventured over to the Red Pepper to have my first taste of it and boy let me tell you, colossal disappointment.

I am not saying that the food is bad and although I haven't indulged after a night of adult beverages, I can see the appeal of that food at that time. What I am saying is that

going to Red Pepper for a regular meal is borderline criminal. I cannot fathom how anyone in their right

in Grand Forks and has been around forever, and more important than the food is the good times that students

brain. Humans have the unique power to train themselves that something is great even if it is terrible and I

stand for it any longer.

I have yet to meet someone brave enough to admit to me that Red Pepper isn't all that it's cracked up to be and yet here I stand before you all speaking my truth. I will stand alone on this hill if that's what it takes, but I look forward to hearing from some of you other brave souls who feel the same.

Red Pepper for a regular meal is borderline criminal.

Bobby Feaster, Columnist

mind can honestly say that the 'Red Pepper is the best that Grand Forks has to offer.'

Good God the experience alone of watching the employees cut your food out of a plastic bag, place it on a paper plate and 'cook' it in the microwave ought to be enough to turn away any self-loving person. Not to mention the fact that the white sauce ingredients are mostly milk and pepper.

One day, when the future generations have advanced, people will have to admit to their off-spring that they used to eat at a place that cut food out of plastic bags and they proclaimed to love it. Our children will look at us with shame and disgust and wonder how it is that we survived long enough to have children.

On the other hand, I do understand that Red Pepper is an institution

from all generations remember having, then capping off the night at Red Pepper.

That phenomenon is something that I love about the human

believe that is what has happened with Red Pepper and now it is an epidemic and everyone accepts that the Red Pepper is some amazing restaurant and I will not

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A reaction to Nike's latest campaign featuring Colin Kaepernick

Bobby Feaster
Dakota Student

Nike released their newest ad campaign with Colin Kaepernick as the lead spokesperson. The main slogan of the campaign is, “Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything. Just do it.”

Colin Kaepernick has been a lightning rod ever since he decided to sit for the National Anthem. For those of you that only remember Kaepernick kneeling, he started out his protest against police brutality and the murder of young black men by sitting on the bench during the National Anthem of football games. To Kaepernick’s credit, he spoke with a former Navy SEAL and former NFL player about his protest and the Navy SEAL suggested he kneel during the anthem because that action is more reverent and respectful than sitting on the bench.

The issues that Kaepernick was/is protesting are noble and they are admittedly issues. I believe that the issues get vastly overplayed in the media, but one wrongful death of

anyone by a person of power is too many, and I think we can all agree on that.

Back to the Nike ad, and I question whether Kaepernick has sacrificed anything. The obvious answer is that he ‘sacrificed’ his NFL career but in actuality he decided to value his social justice stance as being more important than his career and that is a noble act. Those of you that are firmly on Kaepernick’s side will argue that he is being a saint by valuing the issues more than his paycheck and that no one should lose their job for standing up for what they believe in. I firmly agree, no one should lose their job for standing up for their beliefs. But in all actuality Kaepernick did not lose his job for his values, he lost his job for being too large of a distraction in an industry where distractions are cancers, and cancers can ruin a season, and a ruined season means people are getting fired.

The professional sports industry is all about working together to achieve a common goal and all of the parts of

the team believe that the group is more important than the individuals. And the main component of that is making sacrifices for the success of the group. That is why Kaepernick lost his job. Not because he believes in fighting for the social issues, but specifically because he caused too large of a distraction, and he made the issue about his personal beliefs and his personal protest and management felt like they could not be successful as a group with that large of distraction around the team.

Not to mention the fact that Nike is likely paying Kaepernick millions of dollars for this ad campaign, it is hard to believe that Kaepernick has ‘sacrificed’ anything. Kaepernick’s fatal mistake was not sitting for the anthem, it wasn’t kneeling for the anthem, in fact his largest flaw was continuing to kneel for the anthem and not using the outrage and sparked discussion to try to fix some of the issues he was protesting. Kaepernick was never able to leverage his ‘protest’ into any sort of actual change.



Photo Courtesy of Creative Cloud

Colin Kaepernick is the face of Nike's most recent campaign

Let’s not forget that Kaepernick admitted to not voting in any of the recent elections before his infamous protest. Add on to the fact that Kaepernick wore pig socks to practice after his initial protest that were meant to mock law enforcement. When you gather all the information and create your own opinion it is hard to feel bad for him for losing his job, and it is even harder to believe that he was ever interested in actually creating change. Kaepernick did a great job of sparking conversation and creating massive outrage, but he failed at

leveraging his protest into any sort of real change, and that is a shame.

The biggest shame about this whole incident is that the Kaepernick issue has become a political issue and everyone sides with their party lines. As mentioned above, any wrongful death committed by a person in power is too many. There are lots of changes to be made by everyone on both sides, and sadly I don’t know if that will ever happen now that this has become a political issue. What’s even worse is that an NFL Quarterback with a large platform probably

could have instituted some serious change, but because Kaepernick decided to stick with his kneeling protest and never institute any actual change he no longer has that same powerful platform. But, fear not! Because the great all-powerful Nike has decided to give him a new platform and those of you that love the United States of America have respectfully burned all of your Nike gear, and those of you that haven’t must hate America.

Robert Feaster is a columnist for Dakota Student. He can be reached at robert.feaster@und.edu

Happily never after...

A different look at traditional marriage

Quinn Robinson-Duff
Dakota Student

The concept of marriage is all but obsolete and unnecessary. Not love, I’m not saying that. Love is something that is powerful and meaningful. However, marriage is a legal contract that binds two partners together, forever. In today’s society, marriage is more likely to end in divorce. It has been shown that 50% of couples that marry end up divorcing. Partners rush into marriage prematurely without grasping a proper understanding of who or what they desire in a married companion. Someone exciting to date may not be the same as someone to marry. Sure, chefs, pilots and musicians

may seem attractive but it’s important too that these professions require long work hours and may be away from home the majority of the year.

Because a vast amount of marriages end in divorce, there is a tendency for people to have the mindset of “Oh well, if it doesn’t work out, we can get divorced.”

What partners may not realize is that marriage is a serious legal contract. Partners will sign the contract without even having a full understanding of what the consequences may be if it does not work out. Marriage is the most legally significant thing a person can do other than dying, yet partners do not consider this. They spend more time planning the wedding than fully

understanding what kind of legal contract they are signing. Marriage needs to be a serious thought over decision because it can change a person’s life forever, for the good or for the bad.

Marriage is something people can be pressured into, whether it be age, family status or even having a kid together.

Being forcefully married to someone will not condemn a happy marriage. You will not be able to get to know your partner thoroughly and everything will be rushed.

With that being said, if you love someone, why marry them? Why waste the time, money and possible legal difficulty ahead? If two people love each other

marriage is not going to change that. You don’t need marriage to signify love. Sure, it can be a beautiful thing and if you make that commitment and it works out, great. But a legal contract should not be the only indicator of love. Love is so much more than marriage.

Marriage should not be something you do because

you get your partner pregnant. If you date someone for two months then knock them up, don’t marry them right away just because you will be having a kid. Look at alternative options. Going into marriage when two partners have been together for such a short amount of time will fail more than often.

At the end of the day before you commit yourself to marriage take a step back and ask yourself if this is really what you want and if this is really who you want it with. Honesty is the best policy.

Quinn Robinson-Duff is a columnist for Dakota Student. He can be reached at quinn.robinsonduff@und.edu

Because a vast amount of marriages end in divorce, there is a tendency for people to have the mindset of “Oh well, if it doesn’t work out, we can get divorced.”

Quinn Robinson-Duff, Writer



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Family Fun

at Grand Forks Street Fair

Molly Andrews
Dakota Student

Food trucks, games and much more lined the streets of downtown Grand Forks this Friday and Saturday. The roads were closed and many people lined them to check things out and grab a bite to eat. Live music and sweet smells filled the air. This was all thanks to the Grand Forks Third Annual Street Fair.

There were many different food trucks that all had lines of people waiting to order. Some had classic fair food and others were authentic cuisines from around the world. The wind carried these smells all around Grand Forks on Saturday.

Not only was there great food, but there were also fun games for kids and families to play. Different cornhole games were lined up next to each other and children were doing flips with bungee cords. There was a blow up pool filled with water where people could go in plastic balls and run into each other.

There also was a farmers market in the Town Square on Saturday where multiple local people were selling things they had made. There was salsa, jewelry and honey to name a few. Picnic tables lined the outside and many people sat and enjoyed each other's company.

Sandy Moen and Sue Schaumerg were some of



A busy weekend in downtown Grand Forks, The town square was filled with vendors selling all kinds

the individuals that were sitting and enjoying the food and sunny weather.

"It's relaxing," Schaumerg said. "And of course the food is good."

Schaumerg enjoys looking around at the vendors and the crafts. She also expressed how

she works fairly close and could hear the music from her office and how that got her excited to go.

Even if it is just to grab some food with a friend, the street fair was a nice place to be able to sit down and catch up.

"I think the sense of

community is good and being out with others," Moen said.

Events like this can bring people together. Everyone is there with a shared interest in the town in someway so it is a great opportunity to meet new people and run into some

people you might not have seen for awhile.

"You get a lot of people out that don't usually go out," Schaumerg said.

She said it was nice to go and see some familiar faces she doesn't always get to see. Both Schaumerg and Moen expressed how they had attended the Street Fair in previous years and they are both planning on going again.

They also talked about the change in downtown and how many new things such as the street fair are happening and it is having a positive effect on Grand

Forks. They were happy to see that spaces are finally being used and filled with people.

The fun didn't just happen during the day. At night, there were concerts and many people went out to dance and listen to the music.

Overall, the Downtown Street Fair seemed to bring a lot of people to the downtown area of Grand Forks where they enjoyed each other's company.

Molly Andrews is an A&C writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at molly.andrews@und.edu



Quinn Robinson-Duff/ Dakota Student

Family friendly games were offered during the fair for children and even their parents to enjoy.

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Metallica Drummer, Lars Ulrich, performing at the Alerus Center September 9, 2018. Photo Courtesy of Metallica

Iconic rock band, Metallica leaves its mark on Alerus Center in Grand Forks

Devon Abler
Dakota Student

Grand Forks experienced the Metallica World Tour on Saturday night. Spectators were treated to an outstanding performance by the four band members. Guitarist James Hetfield, drummer Lars Ulrich, lead guitarist Kirk Hammett and bassist Robert Trujillo brought an infectious energy to the Alerus Center stage that had the crowd headbanging by the first song. The night started off with comedian Jim Breuer taking the stage. Sharing experiences

crowd’s energy to a new level by putting together a chant. After a tantalizing 15 minutes the show began. “Are you feeling good tonight,” James Hetfield said. “Cause we are here to take you to another level.” Beginning with the song Hardwired, the four musicians were determined to provide excellence. Ulrich played the drums with a precision that only comes from 37 plus years of practice. His off beats were perfectly timed to the beat and he navigated the ever changing time signatures with ease. There was a small

For new Metallica fans, they would not have been able to detect that Trujillo was not an original member of the group. He and Hammett played in complete sync with one another during a soloistic duet. Trujillo built a strong relationship with the crowd, feeding off of their energy and bringing his own personality to the stage as well. Everything was a live performance. In a society where so many things function on technology, this band has prided themselves on performing everything live. Not only does this continue

and “The Sandman.” Throughout the entire night, the sound waves reverberated through my chest making this experience not just an audible experience, but also a physical experience. “I know I speak for my bandmates here, but we are so blessed

and grateful that every single one of you are here,” Hetfield said. Metallica delivered a show that was suitable for all ages and provided not only an audible and visual experience, but a physical experience as well. 37 years of music making left the crowd with a musical

experience that will be difficult to beat. For those interested in concerts, visit the Alerus Center website for ticket and show information.

Devon Abler is the A&C Editor for Dakota Student. She can be reached at devon.abler@und.edu

“I know I speak for my bandmates here, but we are so blessed and grateful that every single one of you are here.”

James Hetfield, Metallica Guitarist

that he has had working with metal bands, Breuer kept the crowd in good spirits while waiting for the show to start. Breuer received word that a wedding was taking place at the same time as the concert. Asking the crowd if it would be okay, he went and brought the newly wed couple, Donald and Jenna Haugen to the stage. They celebrated their first dance as a couple while the crowd cheered them on. Founded in 1981, Metallica has been performing throughout the world for 37 years. Hetfield, Ulrich and Hammett are founding members of the group and Trujillo has been part of Metallica for the past 15 years. Before the crowd was subjected to metal awesomeness, Breuer brought the

technical difficulty towards the middle of the set when Hammett’s guitar was not attached to the audio system. Instead of apologizing for the longer intro, Hetfield took a moment to remind everyone that they are still humans. “We’re still figuring this shit out,” Hetfield said. “We’ve been together for 37 years and you’d think that we’d have this put together.” As the night continued, musicianship only increased. Hammett played with precision at a speed that made it almost impossible to detect each individual finger. While the genre was metal, Hammett brought emotion and passion to his solos. For the past 15 years the band has been graced with the bass skills of Robert Trujillo.

to hold the band to a high performance standard, but it is a value that is being passed on through generations. People of all ages were present at the show. From individuals labeled by the band as old, to children as young as four years old, the Metallica family is one whose roots will not be dying out in the near future. “We’ve been around for 37 years and we’ve seen a lot of stuff,” Hetfield said. “Even fuck ups like me are welcome in this family. I look out here and I see all ages at this show which is amazing.” After three hours of live music, the band closed out the show by playing an encore comprised of the songs “Battery,” “Nothing Else Matters”





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SMALL VICTORIES IMPORTANT IN LOSS TO No.9 WASHINGTON HUSKIES

Alex Kelly
Dakota Student

UND Football lost against a tough Washington Huskies team on Saturday evening in Seattle. While the score was not close (45-3), nobody could have expected the Fighting Hawks to come out on top against the 9th ranked team in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and many outsiders predicted it to be worse.

UND's defense played well and held a high-powered offense full of NFL talent to just 17 points in the first half. The final point differential of 42 was even enough to cover the spread in most Las Vegas sport books, so those who had enough

faith to gamble on the Hawks were rewarded.

Despite the loss, UND is still in good shape as losses to FBS schools usually do not hold too much weight against smaller schools in the rankings.

Moving forward, this Saturday's matchup against the Sam Houston State Bearkats could be the most important game of the year for UND.

"We've had this one circled on our calendars," linebacker Jake Rastas said.

Sam Houston State is currently ranked 4th in the nation in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and a win over the Bearkats would skyrocket UND in the rankings.

Keep in mind, since

UND is acting as an independent team this year, they must receive an at-large bid to qualify for the playoffs since they cannot win a conference championship. This

either. Star running back John Santiago's production thus far has been on par with the high expectations for him. Even in a big loss on Saturday, Santiago

necessary to take their game to the next level. Although many fans were impressed with UND's effort against the Huskies, he saw the game as more of a

in a postgame interview. "We didn't get the result we wanted."

Aside from the offense's potential, the defense has been playing relatively well and might even see senior defensive tackle Tank Harris return to the lineup after missing the Washington game due to injury.

Overall, the Washington game could be beneficial to UND even in a loss. Playing against the size and speed of the Huskies on the road was a great way to prepare for a very good, but not better, Bearkats squad.

"Just looking at it from a captain's perspective, we played hard but didn't play to our potential,"

John Santiago, UND Running Back

means they need to prove themselves to voters, and what better way to do that than to upset a perennial powerhouse on the road.

A win is definitely not out of the question

rushed for 139 on just 18 attempts, averaging 7.7 yards per carry.

Santiago is also looking forward to Saturday's game as an opportunity to prove that this year's team has the talent

stepping stone to getting where the team should be on a weekly basis.

"Just looking at it from a captain's perspective, we played hard but didn't play to our potential," Santiago said

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The Final Five

The remaining senior class gets ready for their last season

Kyle Kinnamon
Dakota Student

For many, October 6 may just be the start of another North Dakota hockey season, but for five seniors this marks the beginning of their final season playing for North Dakota. These five seniors plan to continue the tradition of showing the young players how to play North Dakota hockey by working every other player on the ice. They have shown the North Dakota faithful what they can do in their previous seasons but now it's time to leave their final impression.

The "Newcomer"

Nick Jones was welcomed to North Dakota at the start of his junior season in 2017-2018, transferring from Ohio State University to better his game here in North Dakota. The change of scenery was exactly what Jones needed after putting up only one goal and five assists in 29 games for Ohio State.

In just his first year at North Dakota, Jones led the team in goals with 15 goals in 34 games. Jones had the highest shot percentage on the team with 24.2%, almost 10% higher than Austin Poganski, who was second on the team with 15.1%. Jones was second in points with 30 on the year, behind Christian Wolanin who had five more points in 40 games. Jones was tied for second in power-play goals with Shane Gersich who both boasted five power-play goals. In major scoring categories across the board for UND, Jones either led the team or was barely behind players who are now making a name for themselves in the NHL. Needless to say, North Dakota quite

possibly could be the best thing to happen to Jones' hockey career.

The Remaining Four

Coming into the 2015-2016 season, North Dakota brought in an impressive 11 freshmen who were all looking to showcase their talents for the North Dakota fans. Those 11 freshmen all had a decent shot to play due to the

"These five seniors plan to continue the tradition of showing the young players how to play North Dakota hockey by working every other player on the ice. "

Kyle Kinnamon, Sports Writer

vacant lineup spots left from the previous senior class and those who left to fulfill their dreams to play in the NHL.

Out of those 11 freshmen, only four are left here at UND playing in their senior season. Those four are Rhett Gardner, Hayden Shaw, Joel Janatuinen and Ryan Anderson; the other seven players left for various reasons such as transferring schools or playing in the NHL. The remaining four can only wish the other seven from their class the best in their endeavors as they look to win North Dakota its ninth NCAA National Championship and the second NCAA National Championship of their careers.

Rhett Gardner

The Canadian forward has been a staple in the North Dakota lineup since his freshman year. He has learned from his older teammates, such as former captain Austin Poganski, about doing whatever is

necessary for the team to win. Gardner had plenty of games his freshman year to showcase his skill, not only to the North Dakota fanbase but to NHL scouts as well. Gardner had a pretty good 2016 some would say, putting up 11 goals and seven assists for 18 points en route to a National Championship. He was then drafted by the Dallas Stars 116th overall

and Paul LaDue. His father, Matt Shaw, is also the coach of the power-play and defensive core. Shaw has had every tool at his disposal to become the defenseman he is today. In Shaw's 100 career games, he has put seven pucks in the back of the net and 20 helpers for 27 points for North Dakota. Shaw's willingness to learn, and now to help teach is a major contributor to him wearing an "A" for the first time this season.

Joel Janatuinen

The "Fantastic Fin" was the first Finnish born player to play for North Dakota, showing the North Dakota faithful how recruiting overseas can payoff. Janatuinen has been the player to quietly do his job over his time at North Dakota. Janatuinen has played the game how it should be played,

maybe too well at times. Janatuinen has almost gone under the radar at times over his career at North Dakota, always being in position and making very few errors. While some fans might not notice him at times, coaches do notice and appreciate a player who is always in position and can be relied on to make the simple plays. Janatuinen has scored 18 goals and 23 assists for 41 points in his career at North Dakota. Janatuinen's ability to always be in position will be a huge asset to North Dakota this season.

Ryan Anderson

The walk-on goalie from Roseau has not played much for North Dakota over his career. Coming in as a freshman into a deep goalie group, Anderson looked to make the best of the situation. Anderson

has learned from great teammates such as Cam Johnson and now volunteer assistant coach Matt Hrynkiw.

Coming in as a walk-on makes it hard to get ice time, but Anderson still comes to practice every day ready to help the team succeed. Anderson has helped to make everyone else on the team better during practice even though Anderson has not played a game for North Dakota. Anderson's time at North Dakota has been pretty good for walking on to a team with great goaltending already. Not many walk-on players get a NCAA Championship ring their freshman year.

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Madison Overby
Dakota Student

The University of North Dakota Women’s Soccer team has had a strong opening to their 2018 fall season. They went undefeated through the first five games of the season and just suffered their first loss against Bemidji State on Sunday, who narrowly came out on top by one goal.

Senior goalie from Chaska, Minnesota, Olivia Swenson, is a name that you’ll hear a lot when discussing the early success of this year’s team. She has produced five shutouts out of their six games thus far.

The stats show Swenson can do more than hold her own in the net, but she is quick to pass the credit to her defenders and the other seniors.

“Our success has definitely come from our defending,” Swenson said. “We have the best back line that I’ve ever seen and we defend like champions. If we get it done defensively, then usually offensively it falls into place. It helps that we have a lot of senior leadership this year; they’ve made an impact so far.”

Most of the team stayed on campus over the summer to continue practicing together.

“Individually and as a team we’ve been preparing all spring and summer for this season,” Swenson said. “I love being here in the summer because



Trevor Alveshere/ Dakota Student

Olivia Swenson protecting the net during a home game against Minnesota Duluth this season.

it helps improve our team chemistry. We do a lot of fun things together. We also practice all spring in order to prepare for the fall season and it’s all coming together.”

The season continues rolling with the team

other Summit League teams. The team is looking forward to getting a true test of how they stack up against their competitors within the conference.

The soccer team finished last year with

South Dakota State in Brookings, South Dakota.

The biggest obstacle the team has faced so far is just the fatigue that comes along with the rigor of the season.

Last week, UND played three games

Chris Logan does not think that will continue to be a problem.

“Sometimes we just decide mentally that we’re tired,” Logan said. “Today, you could tell.”

Staying in the game mentally will

the Summit League brings is that there’s less travel, which will be easier on the team. Swenson commented that with less time on the road it makes it just a little bit easier playing away games.

Swenson has confidence in her team that they will continue to improve throughout the season and hopefully postseason as well.

“I think the biggest thing our team wants to do better is to be more consistent and to continue playing well,” Swenson said. “So far, we’ve had great success and if we can continue that, it’ll be hard to beat us this year.”

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Olivia Swenson, UND Soccer Goalkeeper

heading to Louisiana on Tuesday to face Grambling State.

After the next three games, UND will spend the last eight games of regular season play against

a Big Sky Conference berth just out of reach. This year, the goal of the team is to make it to the Summit League Conference tournament which will be hosted by

within a week. By the third game against the University of Minnesota Duluth the team was just tired.

However, in a post-game interview last Tuesday, head coach

be important for the team as the schedule doesn’t slow down going into the final games as well as the start of the conference tournament.

One advantage that



Trevor Alveshere/ Dakota Student