

sports

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MEET THE PACK

Profiles of WolfPack athletes

MEN'S SOCCER

PHIL MCCLOSKEY

A sophomore on the Madison College men's soccer team, Phil McCloskey was the starting goalkeeper for the team last season. He allowed just 23 goals in 17 games for the 12-5 WolfPack, recording 101 saves on the season. His efforts earned him post-season recognition, where he was named second team All-North Central Community College Conference and to the All-Region 4 team.



McCloskey



Thompson

McCloskey was a three-sport athlete at DeForest Area High School, competing in soccer, tennis and swimming. The son of Sandra and Mark McCloskey, he is a liberal arts transfer major at Madison College.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

MORGAN THOMPSON

Morgan Thompson is a sophomore goalkeeper on the Madison College women's soccer team. Last year, she helped lead the team to an 8-4-2 record. Thompson recorded 115 saves on the season, the second highest total in school history. She played in 13 games, allowing just 18 goals. Thompson was named first-team All-North Central Community College Conference and All-Region 4.

A graduate of New Galarus High School, she was team captain as a senior. The daughter of Lori and Phil Thompson, she is a finance major at Madison College.



JACKSON CROSSEN / CLARION

Madison College middle blocker Courtney Gorum (9) waits for the serve during a match on Aug. 23 in Redsten Gymnasium.

FROM COACH TO PLAYER

Coaching helped Gorum see how much she missed playing

KELLY FENG
Editor in Chief

It started at a volleyball camp in the summer of 2022. It was an athletic skills camp where kids learned the ins and outs of volleyball and worked with experienced players. Courtney Gorum and Mallory Stone, two former UW-Madison players, coached together at a Badgers camp, teaching middle schoolers.

Stone had recently begun coaching volleyball at Madison College and approached Gorum with an idea.

"I was looking for an assistant coach. I asked her what she was doing because I knew Courtney wasn't playing. She was interested, and we pulled her along here."

In the fall of last year, they started coaching for the WolfPack women's volleyball team — Stone as the head coach and Gorum as an assistant.

Taking the job three weeks before the season, Stone's first year posed a few challenges, with four incoming players but no returners.

Without enough players during the practice sessions, both coaches filled in during drills, repetitions or as players. Gorum fit right in with the other players, blending well as a teammate and a leader.

Under Stone's coaching debut, the WolfPack was impressive. The coach and her team made confident strides with the program's first 20-win season since 2017, finishing with a 20-12 record.

Seeing how well Gorum played with the team, Stone developed the idea of Gorum's possible volleyball return.

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Women's soccer team ready for Division II

CLARION STAFF REPORT

Several unknowns are facing the Madison College women's soccer team this season.

First, it is making the move to NJCAA Division II, along with other WolfPack teams. The team had won four Region 4 Division III titles in the last six years.

Secondly, it has to replace 11 players from last year's team, which won a conference and regional title and posted eight wins. Gone are top scorers Madison Johnson, Lexi Kulow and Lize Foye who scored a combined 15 goals and had 12 assists.

Finally, it has an all-time high 16 newcomers to the team, many of whom will be called upon to play significant roles this season.

Coach Matt Schwartz, who returns for his eighth season leading the team, is excited about what the season holds. He has eight returning players, including four who received post-season honors last year, and sees a lot of talent in the incoming class.

Team captains Keirstin McHugh, a forward, Savi Pursley, a midfielder, and Peyton Yaun, a defender, will serve as team captains this year. They are joined by goalkeeper Morgan Thompson, who had the second highest number of saves in a single season with 115 last year.

"We have a great core group coming back this fall that will

» SEE **SOCCER** PAGE 12

Young, returnees provide experience to WolfPack

CLARION STAFF REPORT

Only six players with playing experience return to the Madison College men's soccer team, but they will provide a solid foundation for new Coach Logan Fye.

Leading the list of returnees is first-team All-American Gabe Young, who led the nation in scoring last year with a school record 25 goals. The forward was the Region 4 player of the year and conference MVP.

He is joined by all-Region 4 players Angel Gongora and

Phil McCoskey. Gongora, a midfielder, was named to the all-Region 4 team and all-conference team after posting four assists during the season. McCloskey started all 17 games last year and made 101 saves during the season.

Defender Adrian Henkovic returns after missing last season due to injury, and hopes to regain his all-region form from 2021.

Also returning are Joao Mendoca, a forward who played in 17 games and scored

» SEE **WOLFPACK** PAGE 12



ANDRES SANCHEZ / CLARION

Madison College's Gabe Young, right, led the nation in goals last year with 25. The first-team All-American was among four returning players who received post-season honors a year ago.

PLAYER

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But it was more of a bantering joke. Eventually, the imagined scenario became more of a possibility.

Stone started researching any playing eligibility for Gorum. As it turns out, eligibility was not an issue.

Because Gorum had never played for various reasons — being redshirted, undergoing COVID-19 and medically retiring, she had plenty of eligibility left. However, the qualification did not fall under the Division I NCAA umbrella, as her eligibility clock for Division I has run out.

The good news was she had plenty of time left with the NJCAA level, where she is allowed two years to play.

“I was like, I’ll do it — if it’s legal, why not? Coaching here made me miss it [playing].”

As an athlete, Gorum is also a student, taking courses in the Addiction Studies certificate program, enhancing the psychology degree she earned at UW-Madison.

Being away from the game since 2020 posed few challenges for Gorum. Already in shape, as a former athlete, she returned to the rigorous volleyball conditioning and training she learned from the Badgers.

Complementing her conditioning, Gorum’s muscle memory from volleyball helped launch her return.

Last month, she suited up and joined the WolfPack, playing a variety of positions. The excitement of returning, especially during the first game, allowed her to be present and have another perspective.

“It was fun looking back at it. I didn’t feel nervous. I didn’t think about it. I was most excited that I got to play again. Because I know a lot of people don’t get this chance.”

Being a coach has raised her volleyball IQ, and she uses that edge as a player and teammate. Through coaching, she realizes it’s very different on and off the court, allowing her to see from both sides.



JACKSON CROSSEN / CLARION

Madison College’s Courtney Gorum (right) and two teammates line up to receive a serve during a match on Aug. 23 in Redsten Gymnasium.

“I have that third-person point of view when I play now that allows me to identify systems. Or what other teams are trying to do to us to find their success.”

Her ability to recognize the other side’s game plan helps her with team communication. She can convey her perspective so her team can understand. She believes this point of view has made her a better player than before she retired.

Stone feels Gorum’s journey reflects their coaching collaboration, where Stone strategized, and Gorum encouraged team building.

“We balance each other really well. Courtney allowed me to do a lot of practice planning and coaching. Courtney was super relational with the kids,

which fostered exactly what happened. She was able to create good relationships and teach in a different way than what I was teaching,” Stone said.

If the early season indicates how the season will unfold, they have made the right move.

Consider the weekend of Aug. 18th, Gorum had 27 kills, helping the team to an upset win over No. 11 Illinois Central College, breaking the previous school record for kills in a match.

An idea planted by the coach made a reality by the player.

Gorum is grateful for her time coaching because of the added experience it has given her as a player. “It’s much more fun to see the whole game and help my teammates.”

Now, she’s breaking records.

SOCCER

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help carry their experience over to the new players,” Schwartz said in a news release posted on the athletic department website.

“We will be looking to Peyton (Yaun) and Savi (Pursley) to bring the edge to a rebuilding defensive unit that will be most likely featuring a number of first years.

“Kierstin (McHugh) will be invaluable up top for us, and hopefully can

continue to build on the momentum she finished last season with. Anytime you can return a goalkeeper is an enormous benefit to your program and Morgan is one of the best to mind the sticks.”

The team opened the season with a come-from-behind 3-2 road win over Oakton College on Oct. 18. McHugh scored the game winner at the 72 minute mark, her second goal of the game and the seventh of her career.

The other goal was scored by Camille Gilbertson, a freshman from Cottage Grove, early in the second half

to tie the game. Pursley had assists on the WolfPack’s first two goals.

Gilbertson is one of the incoming freshmen expected to contribute this season. She is joined by forwards Atziry Ocampo and Delaney Bracken, midfielder Emma Purcell and Logan Vollert and defenders Mirella Zielke and Alyssa Moore.

Madison College will open its home season on Aug. 26, with a match against Prairie State College at noon.

The next home game will be on Sept. 12 against Kankakee Community College at 3 p.m.

WOLFPACK

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two goals, and Naseem Jobeety, a defender who played in 15 games.

Madison College’s roster features 17 players who joined coach Fye as newcomers to the team. Fye spent the past 10 seasons with NCAA Division III Wisconsin Lutheran College, where he worked his way up from graduate assistant to associate head coach.

Madison College finished last season 12-5 overall and won the North Central Community College Conference title for the second time. The team advanced to the NJCAA Midwest District Tournament, where it lost to Richland College, 4-0.

The season opens with a match against Prairie State College on Aug. 26.

The next home game for the WolfPack is Aug. 30 against Malcolm X College at 7 p.m.

MCSPORTS

Madison College schedules and results.

VOLLEYBALL

Schedule

- AUG. 18** at McHenry CC Opening Weekend Tournament, vs. Des Moines Area CC, **3-2 LOSS**; vs. Illinois Central CC, **3-1 WIN**
- AUG. 19** at McHenry CC Opening Weekend Tournament, vs. North Central Michigan, **3-0 WIN**; vs. Iowa Central CC, **3-0 WIN**
- AUG. 23** at home vs. Morton College, **3-0 WIN**, vs. Highland Community College, **3-0 WIN**
- SEPT. 1** at home vs. Triton College, 3 p.m.; vs. Joliet Junior College, 7 p.m.
- SEPT. 9** at Kankakee CC Triangular vs. South Suburban College, 1 p.m.; vs. Kankakee CC, 3 p.m.
- SEPT. 15** at Heartland CC Tournament vs. Rock Valley College, 4 p.m.; vs. John A. Logan College, 6 p.m.
- SEPT. 16** at Heartland CC Tournament vs. Parkland College, noon; vs. Heartland CC, 2 p.m.
- SEPT. 22** Madison College Tournament, vs. Lincoln Land CC, 2 p.m.; vs. Minnesota West CTC, 6 p.m.
- SEPT. 23** Madison College Tournament vs. Lakeland University JV, 11 a.m.; vs. Spoon River College, 3 p.m.
- SEPT. 27** at home vs. Bryant & Stratton College, 7 p.m.
- SEPT. 29** at Parkland College Tournament vs. Southeastern CC, 4 p.m.; vs. Lincoln Land CC, 6 p.m.
- SEPT. 30** at Parkland College Tournament vs. Parkland College, 11 a.m.; vs. Vincennes University JV, 3 p.m.
- OCT. 3** at home vs. Concordia University, 6 p.m.
- OCT. 5** at home vs. Kishwaukee College, 7 p.m.
- OCT. 14** at College of DuPage Triangular vs. College of DuPage, 10 a.m.; vs. Rock Valley College, noon.
- OCT. 20** Madison College Quad vs. Sauk Valley CC, noon; vs. Heartland CC, 2 p.m.
- OCT. 24** at Milwaukee Area Technical College, 7 p.m.
- NOV. 1** NJCAA Region 4 Tournament Quarterfinals.

MEN’S SOCCER

Schedule

- AUG. 26** at home vs. Prairie State College, 2 p.m.
- AUG. 30** at home vs. Malcolm X College, 7 p.m.
- SEPT. 5** at Rock Valley College, 3 p.m.
- SEPT. 10** at home vs. Illinois Valley Community College, 2:30 p.m.
- SEPT. 12** at home vs. Kankakee Community College, 5 p.m.
- SEPT. 16** at Black Hawk College, 1 p.m.
- SEPT. 19** at Milwaukee Area Technical College, 2 p.m.
- SEPT. 23** at Harper College, 2 p.m.
- SEPT. 27** at Bryant & Stratton College, 5 p.m.
- OCT. 3** at home vs. South Suburban College, 6 p.m.
- OCT. 8** at home vs. Moraine Valley Community College, 7 p.m.
- OCT. 10** at home vs. Joliet Junior College, 4 p.m.
- OCT. 14** at College of Lake County, 3 p.m.
- OCT. 17** at home vs. Triton College, 2 p.m.
- OCT. 25** NJCAA Region 4 Tournament Play-in Game.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Schedule

- AUG. 18** at Oakton College, **3-2 WIN**
- AUG. 26** at home vs. Prairie State College, noon.
- SEPT. 5** at Rock Valley College, 5 p.m.
- SEPT. 12** at home vs. Kankakee Community College, 3 p.m.
- SEPT. 16** at Black Hawk College, 3 p.m.
- SEPT. 19** at Milwaukee Area Technical College, 4 p.m.
- SEPT. 23** at Harper College, 4:30 p.m.
- SEPT. 27** at Bryant & Stratton College, 7 p.m.
- SEPT. 30** at home vs. Waubesa Community College, 1 p.m.
- OCT. 3** at home vs. South Suburban College, 4 p.m.
- OCT. 8** at home vs. Moraine Valley Community College, 5 p.m.
- OCT. 10** at home vs. Joliet Junior College, 2 p.m.
- OCT. 14** at College of Lake County, 1 p.m.
- OCT. 17** at home vs. Triton College, 4 p.m.
- OCT. 26** NJCAA Region 4 Tournament Play-in Game.



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