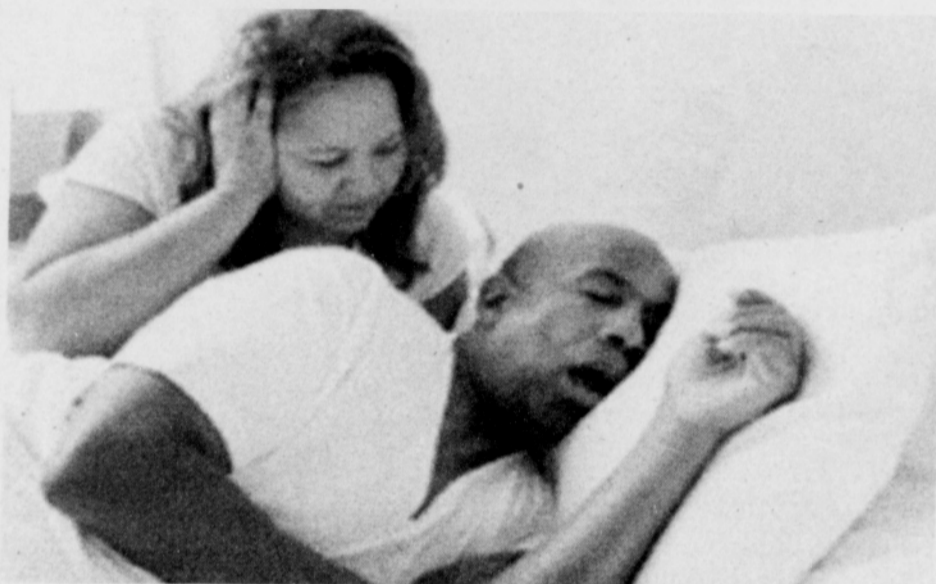


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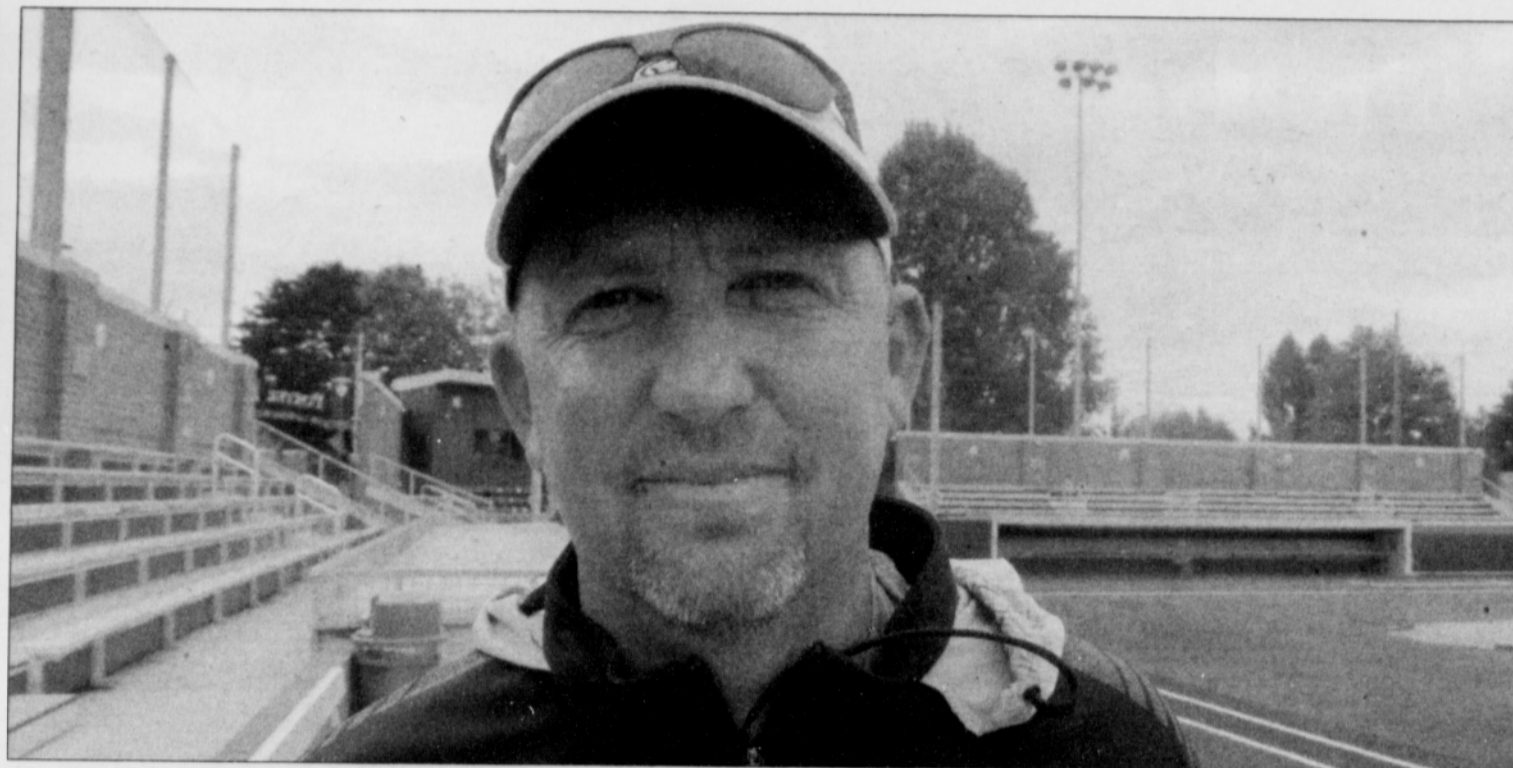


PHOTO BY MIKE BIVINS/PORTLAND OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Long time Concordia Soccer Coach Grant Landy, with the northeast Portland school's first NAIA championship under his wings, guides his team to another winning fall season. The Cavaliers must defend their title before the university moves into NCAA Division II next season.

Inserting Themselves

continued ▲ *from front*

Westmont College played host to then No.1 ranked and defending national champion Concordia. In a performance showing that their prior season's championship was no fluke, the Cavaliers again walked away with the W—their national #1 ranking intact. Although the Cavaliers finally saw their 29 match winning streak put to an end by the College of Idaho on Saturday, the Cavaliers are still the NAIA team to beat.

One of the more important aspects of moving to NCAA Division II is the larger scale of their new conference. Rather than just compete with teams from the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, Concordia will be regular competitors with British Columbia's Simon Fraser University, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Anchorage among others. For Cavaliers goalkeeper Olivia Brock it will be "exciting to go even further...to play."

Concordia's move up also brings

with it the prospect of more exciting non-conference soccer games against Division I cross town rivals such as Portland State and the University of Portland. While the Cavaliers played these schools in the past, they did not count towards either teams' standings, and according to Concordia's Sports Information Director Jason Dormeyer, would hurt an NCAA team's strength of schedule if not deemed an exhibition game.

The disadvantage to schedule strength will be lessened, however, with the Cavaliers ascent to Division II. With that, Dormeyer says Concordia hopes to continue to develop in-state rivalries, particularly with U of P as their campus is only a few miles from Concordia.

With their current record, the Cavaliers are making their trek towards a second consecutive title look easy. But if you look a little closer at their opponents you will see that the non-conference games the Cavaliers scheduled this season have been no cake walk. The

Cavaliers own wins over 3 teams ranked in the top 25 nationally, as well as a 1-1 draw with the #5 ranked Vanguard University.

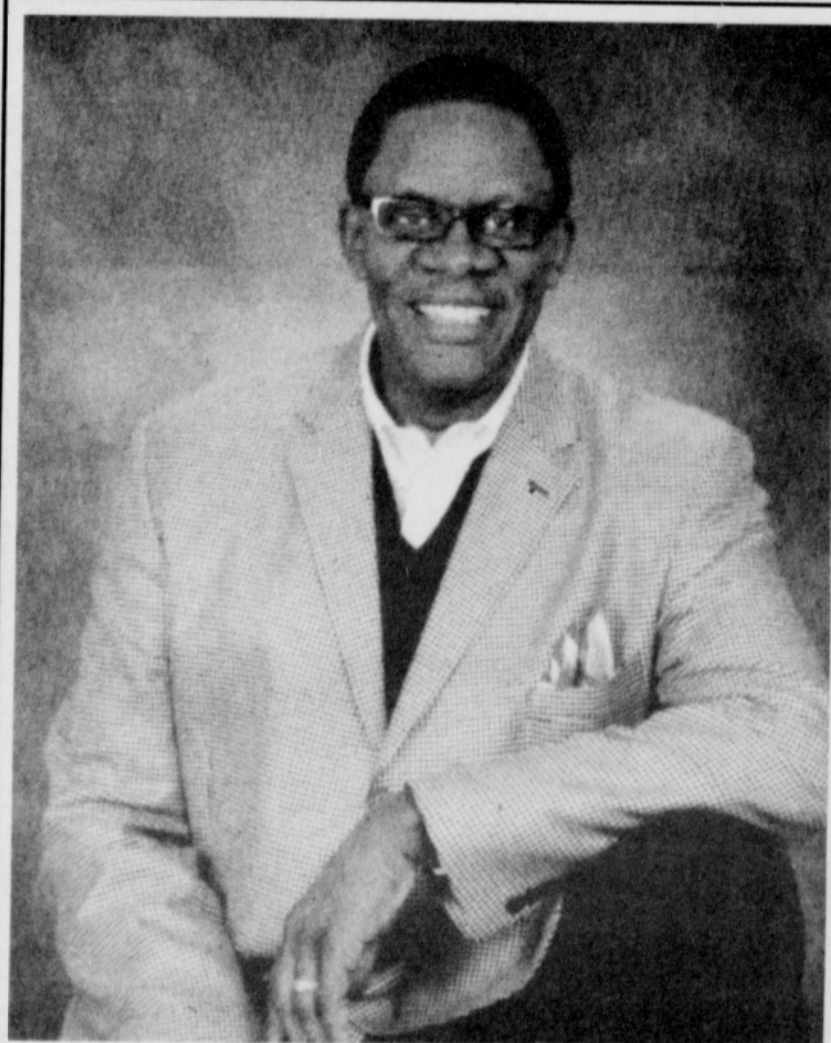
With the Cavaliers so used to winning, and their 2014 campaign off to a remarkable start, one can't help but wonder if the Cavaliers will go on to repeat as national champions again.

Although Landy says his players "aren't really thinking about that right now," he says they are focused on "getting better from game to game."

How will the Cavaliers will fare against the stiffer competition brought to the table by the Great Northwest Athletic Conference? Landy wagers that the competition will be tougher on a consistent basis, but thinks that as long as the Cavaliers bring their A game they will be competitive.

The Cavaliers will next be in action at their stadium, Tuominen Yard, on Friday, Oct. 10 at 4 p.m. against cross town rival Warner Pacific.

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