Final candidate visits campus
Presidential Search Committee to announce finalists today

DAVID SATRE
THE DAKOTA STUDENT

The sixth and final UND presidential candidate, Nagi Nagana
than, visited campus earlier this week.
Naganathan has been the dean of engineering at the University of Toledo since 2003 and under his leadership the college has achieved record breaking enrollment for the past 10 years. Naganathan believes he can foster this type of success at UND due, in part, to accomplishments such as this.

"It is not a job; it is a responsibility. It is a lifestyle, and one of the important things is being relevant to the community."
Nagi Naganathan
presidential candidate

"When something is successful, it is truly successful only if the people who are contributing to it are able to say with conviction: I had something to do with that success," said Naganathan, referencing his philosophy of what creates a successful program.
Naganathan received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the National Institute of Technology at the University of Madras, India; his master's degree in mechanical and industrial engineering from Clarkson University in New York; and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Oklahoma State University.

SEARCH: PAGE 6

More than 50 years of teaching

LUCAS AMUNDSON
THE DAKOTA STUDENT

It takes a long time to make a difference. Some people spend the better part of their lives improving the lives of others.

Gordon Iseminger has taught history at UND since 1962, making him the university’s longest-serving faculty member.
Iseminger grew up on a farm in South Dakota. He worked on

HISTORY: PAGE 2

Wise talks anti-racism at UND

Tim Wise spoke on racism at the Chester Fritz Auditorium on Monday.

Beyer, Andert
launch campaign

SEAN CLEARY
THE DAKOTA STUDENT

Students at UND are involved in a variety of organizations during their time at the university and Brandon Beyer is certainly no exception.
He recently announced he is running for UND student body president, citing his involvement on campus as one of the reasons that prompted him to run.
Beyer, who is originally from Fargo, is studying investments and honors at UND and will be graduating in May 2017.
He is currently the treasurer for student government, a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and active in the Student Management Investment Fund.

“T’ve tried to branch out and get involved in things outside my comfort zone.”
Brandon Beyer
student body president candidate

“I’ve tried to branch out and get involved in things outside my comfort zone. As an investments major, you have a predefined skill-set, and I wanted to expand that to different areas. That’s why you get involved in student government and you run for positions like this,” he said.
Beyer said it was this involvement in campus life that made him interested in running for student body president.

Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Sandra Mitchell introduced Wise at the event.

WISE: PAGE 3

Nagi Naganathan was the sixth and final UND presidential candidate to visit UND’s campus.
the farm until he was drafted at age 20 to serve in the Korean War. When he returned home, he had a GI Bill he didn’t want to go to waste, so he enrolled at Augsburg University, 20 miles from home.

His plan was to study music. He had been a church pianist since age 13. He didn’t know if he would finish his degree, and if he did, he figured he would direct a high school golf club or go back to work on the farm.

That’s when he discovered he could major in history.

“As I think back, the kind of reading I did as a kid — and I read voraciously — was what I would now identify as history,” Iseminger said. “I was interested in history long before I knew there was a discipline called history.”

He continued to practice music and paid for some of his college expenses by giving piano lessons. He had six students. The going rate at the time was $1 per half-hour.

In the summer after Iseminger’s freshman year, the head of the history department returned from a trip to Germany, and he needed someone to type a manuscript for a book he was writing.

“That was known as a crack typist,” Iseminger said. “I had a clerk’s job when I was in the service, and the typesetter I used was a Remington.”

Iseminger was hired to type the manuscript. That September Iseminger went to his employer’s home to have dinner with him and his family. That’s when he met the young German woman the family had hired as a domestic helper. A few months later, Iseminger and the young woman were engaged. They were married in 1958 and are still married today.

Iseminger went on to receive a master’s degree from the University of South Dakota and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

As he changed since Iseminger began teaching at UND. He said it was nothing in 1962 to ask an undergraduate student to read 3,000 pages in a semester and write a 35 to 40-page research paper.

“I can’t ask my graduate students to do that today,” Iseminger said.

He said many students today don’t have the same work and study habits students did then. Many young people also come to college unprepared and with a lack of some fundamental skills, according to Iseminger. For example, he said there is no longer as much time spent on learning composition, parts of speech and spelling.

This is why he emphasizes writing in his classes. He has a list of 20 or 30 words never to use in an essay, and he’s still adding to the list. He encourages students to be economical with their word choices.

“If I buy something that costs a dollar, I want it to be worth a dollar,” Iseminger said. “When I review a paper, I want the best word the student can get on that word.”

Many young people also lack an understanding of basic history, according to Iseminger. He said history is important because it gives us a better understanding of where we’re going.

“History is kind of the window into what’s happening around us. It’s one thing to know what’s happening in the news; however, it’s another thing to know what has happened in the past to help us today,” Iseminger said. “Iseminger rides a bicycle to campus year-round. It’s a two-speed bike.”

Gordon Iseminger
history professor

Schwans that belonged to his son in ’67 or ’68. When his son moved on to a 16-speed, Iseminger kept the green bicycle he describes as “built like a tank.” Two years ago, Iseminger rode the bicycle when the temperature was minus 45.

“It was kind of tough pedaling, but I got here,” he said.

The Isemingers have three children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

“I would do this for nothing,” he said. Iseminger believes he still has a lot to give UND.

“I’m still directing these, I’m still publishing. I’m still doing a lot of research and I’m still, I think, reasonably effective in the classroom,” he said.

Others continue to recognize Iseminger’s contributions, as well. He received three awards in 2015. He received the Larry Rowen Renneke Award for contributions to the Northern Great Plains History Conference. He received the Joseph S. Height Literary Award from the Germanic charters Russia Heritage Society for an article he wrote. He also received an award from the Center for Western Studies for work in preserving the culture and traditions of the Great Plains.

Behind Iseminger’s home is a nearly empty lot with nothing but a lift station made for moving sewage. Soon after he and his wife moved into their home, they started planting trees and flowers on the lot. One day a neighbor stopped and asked why they were doing this. Iseminger replied, but perhaps explains his longevity at UND.

“I told him, ‘Because I want the world to be a better place when I leave it than it was when I came in,’” he said. “And that’s what I’m trying to do now.”

Lucas Amundson is the features editor for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at lucas.amundson@und.edu
“These are the conversations that can truly change society.” Mitchell said, highlighting the importance of having an open discussion on race.

In the first half of the 20th century, it was legal to deny racial minorities access to housing, voting rights, and jobs. Wise said the creation of the Federal Housing Administration, the GI Bill and the Homestead Act has limited racial minorities to live in urban burrows and Native American reservations. However, since the end of segregation, new colorblind laws have been enacted to prevent racial inequality in housing. These laws now bar common practices such as redlining.

Color blindness offers a seemingly simple way to deal with race, according to Wise. If individuals and institutions don’t notice race, then they cannot act in a biased manner.

However, shutting our eyes to the complexities of racism does not make them disappear, according to Wise. He believes racial differences that are openly discussed is a better avenue than ignoring race completely.

Wise spoke about racism both as a systemic and personal problem in today’s society.

“We see race (as a personal problem, not a systemic one),” Wise said. “It’s easy to think past racism when you don’t have a racist bone in your body, but it’s short-sighted to not believe in the systemic discrimination that is thriving today. Those who think systemic racism is no longer a problem might say, ‘We’ve had a black president for eight years, so why do we need to continue to talk about racism?’”

Wise cautioned this type of logic. With the same reasoning, Wise said you could say you’re not sexist because you’ve been married to a person of the opposite sex for the same length of time. Since Obama has been in office, close to 30 percent fewer Americans describe race relations as good, according to a New York Times poll.

“We ignore the historical significance of racism,” Wise said.

According to Wise, the past has molded our subconscious preconceptions about a race. It’s quite easy to recall multiple stereotypes about each race. Even though people may not believe in the stereotype, people can subconsciously start to accept them.

“We’re a part of the problem,” Wise said.

To those who are eager to learn more about Wise’s work, he recommended his book “White Like Me” as a book that a majority of North Dakotans should be able to relate to.
Boushee wins best in show at student art show

Bill Rerick
The Dakota Student

The annual Juried Art Show opened this past week. Students could enter artwork they have done in the past year to try to get in the show to possibly win a coveted award.

Best in Show was awarded to an awesome work of art. The piece creatively incorporated sculpture, music and painting into one. The artist, Jesse Boushee, is a friend of mine who I often chatted with in the art department during late nights and weekends. He had been diligently working on the piece for a full semester. I have been excited to see the finished result ever since he explained the concept. When it was finished it blew me away.

Boushee’s Best in Show piece was a homebuilt guitar with 18 strings that could be used to disperse paint, thus producing a piece of visual art.

Jesse Boushee’s many-stringed homemade guitar doubles as a painting tool.

Bill Rerick
Cartoonist

In my opinion, generally the awarded work has an edge over its contemporaries. Something about it makes it stand out and maybe speak a little louder.

I highly suggest visiting the show in the Hughes Fine Arts Center. Take time to address your own thoughts on juried shows and the way they play out. Maybe think about how you would award the art.

Most of them were astonished their least favorite submission was chosen. One friend explained how he entered his fifth piece last minute, and he was almost upset that it got in the show. I like that piece, but he was frustrated his presumably better work was excluded over this one. The one that got in was even given an award, to his surprise.

People often ponder the mystery as to how the awards were dispersed. Was it the most beautiful work or possibly work that took the most effort? Maybe it took little effort, but showed the artmaking process. I suppose jurors take into consideration dispersing the awards across the various mediums.

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Bill Rerick is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at rerickwil4@gmail.com

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Bill Rerick is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at rerickwil4@gmail.com

Search conclusion

Bill Rerick
The Dakota Student

The UND presidential applicants’ visit to campus over the last month have provided some insights into the nature of communication and leadership.

It’s extremely difficult to cut through platitudes in a relatively short interaction with candidates. Obviously each candidate wants similar things, to increase student outcomes, boost the prestige of the university, have an excellent faculty and staff, etc.

Seeing these things and actually achieving them are two distinct things. While we should expect someone who wants to be president of the university to say them, it doesn’t mean they actually have what it takes to get it done. Fortunately, at this stage in the selection process, the applicants have demonstrated the abilities and knowledge they possess through their past work and more in-depth conversations with the search committee.

The visits were illuminating however, in learning something about the communication style of each of the candidates. It seems like the ideal style is a balancing act: Inspiring but genuine, simple yet articulate.

How the candidates communicated was really the fundamental takeaway for the general UND community from the visits. The university deserves someone who not only has a deep understanding of the inner workings of higher education policy, but who also has the ability to communicate these ideas with the community in a concise way.

That being said, a leader of any large institution should not be expected to know everything all the time. They should, however, be the sort of person who understands that leadership takes both collaboration and decision-making abilities.

While these may sound like buzzwords, the point is that leaders should have an understanding that they need members of their team to help them make specific decisions, but they should also be someone who is able to digest important information quickly and inspire confidence with their decisions.

While we should expect a president to be smart and experienced, equally important is their ability to create a vibrant and dynamic university environment through transparent communication and common sense action.

An effective leader keeps their ears and eyes open to the needs of their community and promptly act to address these needs when necessary. This means not only being reactive to problems, but proactive in ensuring the university is perpetually on a path towards progress.

The university has faced its share of issues over the past several years, and it will undoubtedly encounter obstacles in the year to come. We need a president who can tackle and address these issues with a clear mind and level head.

After reading through the resumes and meeting the applicants, I believe we have several candidates who would do a fantastic job of leading the University of North Dakota as president.

While I will abstain from making any particular endorsements, I have confidence the search committee shares many of the values which have been expressed here and highlighted as important by faculty and staff throughout the process.

By the time the next issue of this paper prints, the SBHE will have chosen the next president of UND. While no process is completely perfect, the University of North Dakota should be optimistic as the presidential search nears its final chapter.

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Sanders’ free college plan has merit

AMINA CHINNELL
THE DAKOTA STUDENT

In the midst of the presidential race, one presidential hopeful’s plan for education seems promising.

Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders has a plan that would make public universities tuition-free. While the plan itself is exceptionally helpful for minorities, who make up the lower-attenders of college, it also helps to bring down the overall debt of university students.

Sanders’ proposed plan would be able to knock out tuition costs for students attending public schools and universities. And although the benefits seem to be directly affecting public institutions, there are work study jobs that could be created to help with financial strains.

When a student takes a loan out they oftentimes pay processing fees, meaning some of the money they need is taken away before they are able to get any. Sanders seeks to cut out that aspect of how the government profits from loan lending.

His plan has a lot of essential races. If he uses students and potential students in mind. Cost keeps a lot of people away from being able to attend educational institutions or keeps them indebted to their loans.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average debt load and duration of debt repayment stands at roughly 21 years. That is not only a long time, but it also acknowledges the hardships that many students have to pay back way more than they initially owed after two decades of interest accumulation.

To those who value higher education opportunities, it’s important to find ways to make Sanders’ plan a reality. If we can’t find a way to take the price tag and put it somewhere, then it just remains a long dream.

Sanders’ goal does include taxing wealthy families to help students with their loans. Many more people would benefit from free education than those who would pay higher taxes.

If passed, it would mean more students would gain interest and want to attend college. Young blacks are the least likely to attend because of the cost. Sanders’ Plan will in an article published on a similar topic it was suggested that, “If the share of African Americans completing college was the same as for whites, then there would be an additional 331,034 African Americans with bachelor’s degrees this year.”

That is a tremendous number for one group of minority students. But even so more the average number of college students could also jump per state depending on costs.

While this plan, like many others, has some holes to fill, the idea is that more people could go to college and thus increase their earning potential in the long term. I think this plan is something that should be considered.

Bernie Sanders believes all students deserve the opportunity to receive an affordable, quality education.

Photo courtesy of freedomworks.org

Moving to Canada if Trump is elected

BECK DEVINE
THE DAKOTA STUDENT

For some, hearing Donald Trump’s name is enough to make a person fear for their life. When this man first stated that he would run for president, I laughed. I saw his statement as a joke and thought that other people would do the same. However, his misogynist, xenophobic and racist comments are getting him further in the presidential race.

What does this say about our country? I used to joke about moving to Canada if he won, but now I am serious about moving there. This country doesn't feel safe with all the people supporting Trump. Canada would be a great place to live with their healthcare, cost of college and a happier life for the LGBT community. Let me tell you about the different areas in Canada that might sound appealing and safe.

Do you like nature? If so, British Columbia might be for you. You can not only escape from Donald Trump’s bigotry, but you could also escape for the weekend at different provincial parks. Mount Robson Provincial Park is one of the largest parks that have wonderful views of the mountains and camping opportunities.

If you are looking for a more environmentally friendly place to live, Vancouver, British Columbia, might be the place for you. This city has been working hard on helping the environment.

They have increased green jobs in the area and are working to lessen the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. The list of what is helping is long so, Google it and check it out sometime. Vancouver also has a diverse art community, so if you are not into hiking or other outdoor activities, it is still a great place for the arts.

If you are seeking a safer place to live because you are part of the LGBT community, Toronto, Quebec City and the surrounding area might be right for you. The cobblestone streets bring a certain charm to the area. Also, if you love fresh bread and coffee, this place is full of it.

Of course, there are a lot of places in Canada to move to. Realistically, it would be hard to afford a lot of these places (trust me, I have been looking after Trump’s advances on Super Tuesday). I think that is why we have

Photo courtesy of cbc.ca

If Donald Trump is elected, I would consider living in cities such as Vancouver, Toronto and Quebec City. to stop Trump. I definitely don’t want a man who talked about the size of his penis on national TV to be our next president. We need to stop thriving on ignorance and become more empathetic. America, it is time to come to your senses. We can’t have this man as a president.

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Amina Chinnell-Mateen is a staff writer for The Dakota Student. She can be reached at aminakins101@gmail.com
Nagi Naganathan spoke at an open forum Monday about the experience he would bring to UND if chosen to be president of the university.

“I can see how the president of an institution could lead a transformation that even takes it to a different level of excellence.”

Nagi Naganathan candidate for UND president

larger stage at UND, and he also noted UND’s accessibility and quality, which he believes can set UND apart from the rest.

“One of the things that is most appealing to me is how the university is placing emphasis on both accessibility and quality. I strongly believe these two should not be mutually exclusive qualities,” Naganathan said. “I can see how the president of an institution could lead a transformation that even takes it to a different level of excellence.”

Naganathan gave an anecdote about the level of excellence of Harvard and Yale, and how UND can be modeled after these examples.

“Every student going to Harvard or Yale does not become the president of the United States, but every student thinks he or she has the possibility,” Naganathan said. “It is almost developing that mindset of success. People should never think that someone cannot measure up. If you know your stuff, and you can walk with a quiet swagger.”

Naganathan emphasized he would like to bring these values to a

State University.

The cooperative work experience program at the College of Engineering at Toledo was used by Naganathan as an example of the specified success he has achieved.

Many people were skeptical of the program at its inception. Since the creation of this program, the university has been able to achieve almost 17,000 placements and an average compensation for students of roughly $17/hr.

“That is an idea of something collaborative, transparent and scalable.” Naganathan said. “That entire organization is self-sufficient. Our students went with me to the board meeting to support a fee because they knew the value proposition in this initiative. Accessibility is not simply how much you pay, it is what is the net value proposition.”

Naganathan continued, addressing that some costs of education should be seen as investments. “The cost of the education is minimized by the opportunities and the earnings associated with these positions,” Naganathan said.

He went on to outline how accessibility and academic value are more complex than simply low tuition costs.

Naganathan said he would like to bring these values to a

“People should never think that someone cannot measure up. If you know your stuff, and you can walk with a quiet swagger.”

Naganathan emphasized he would like to create an environment where upon a student’s graduation “it doesn’t matter who is sitting next to them, they can hold their own.”

Naganathan exemplified the excellence he has created at the College of Engineering at Toledo University, pointing out that in the early 1990s more than 50 percent of engineering students did not become second-year students. Today, roughly 85 percent succeed in becoming second-year students. He attributed this to the combined effort of the engineering department coming together under his leadership.

Naganathan made unity another point of emphasis in his presidential pitch. “One person cannot do it alone. It is about bringing the organization together,” said Naganathan. “Everybody can say they have something to do with that success, and I think that is important for sustainable success in any organization.”

Naganathan said in order to achieve sustainable success in any organization, everybody involved should be able to say that they had something to do with it.

As a first generation American who immigrated to the United States from southern India, Naganathan has lived in many different areas throughout his life. He mentioned his time spent in upstate New York, Oklahoma and Ohio as reasons why he would be able to adapt to an unfamiliar North Dakota.

“It is not a job, it is a responsibility. It is a lifestyle, and one of the important things is being relevant to the community,” Naganathan said. “They would say, in Toledo, I am one of the most engaged deans in terms of how I am connected to the community.”

Naganathan also emphasized there needs to be a connection between plans and action at the university.

“Whenver you take an initiative in a comprehensive university like the University of North Dakota you should not only have an idea,” Naganathan said. “That idea must be implementable, scalable and collaborative so that many people will participate in making that idea or that initiative successful.”

There will be a meeting today in which the Presidential Search Committee will choose at least three candidates who will be sent to the State Board of Higher Education. The SBHE will convene on Tuesday to make the final decision as to who will be the next UND president.
The UND men’s hockey team experienced a lot of success during the regular season but must stay grounded in the playoffs.

**Figuring out what went wrong for women’s hockey**

**ALLYSON BENTO**
**THE DAKOTA STUDENT**

Another season is in the books for the UND women’s hockey team, but it is also another year that UND Coach Idalski and his squad did not win a title. Looking back, there are many reasons why the Fighting Hawks are not in the NCAA tournament right now.

The Hawks battled adversity this season but fell short often when trying to sweep opponents in the second game of a series.

“Well, I think our inconsistency and probably our inability to consistently score hurt us the most as the season progressed,” Idalski said.

Even before the season began, the Fighting Hawks were starring down the barrel of a difficult year. UND dealt with a multitude of injuries to important players such as Shelby Amsley-Benzie. While fans never want to see players get hurt, this influx of injuries gave the freshmen of the team new opportunities to get real experience on the ice and contribute to the team.

“I thought our younger kids developed,” Idalski said. “It was unfair some situations we put them in when you have a couple out of the lineup. It accelerated the fact that some of those kids had to play bigger roles than you would normally want.”

The challenges that occurred during the season were magnified in the playoffs for UND as the stakes were higher than ever. Unfortunately for the Hawks, their downfall was because they could not generate scoring opportunities and were unable to play at the level of their opponents.

“Scoring would have been great,” Idalski said. “I just thought Minnesota played well. Shelby was terrific. We had some opportunities and we didn’t cash in on them.”

The Fighting Hawks played with high caliber competition such as Wisconsin and Minnesota to all season and showed that they could win against said teams.

However, in the playoff set- ting, the struggles that plagued the team came to light such as having a single line producing the majority of the team’s scoring.

“There were other opportunities earlier for us to get to that game,” Idalski said. “Sometimes it’s a bounce here, bounce there. I thought we played well; we have been doing that.”

UND coach Brad Berry said, “But I go back to the NCHC and the parity within our league and again, you look from all eight teams, they are all very similar in nature. They have a lot of skill, they’re ultra competitive and there’s a fine line between winning and losing, and again we gotta drill down on the details to have success.”

Recently, success has not been hard to come by for the Fighting Hawks.

As a team, the Hawks were able to claim the NCHC regular season championship and the Penrose Cup. A sweep of Western Michigan also moved the team to No. 2 in the national polls.

This week was also a highlight for individual players.

Brock Boeser raked in the awards this week. The freshman was selected as the NCHC Player of the Week, NCHC All-Rookie Team and the All-NCHC First Team to go along with leading the conference in goal scoring with 25.

**UND goalie Shelby Amsley-Benzie celebrates in game.**

**Photo by Nick Nelson/The Dakota Student**

“Will he have the same kind of success next year where they’re going to play to be the starter down the stretch?”

Boeser is one of the young men that Boeser has helped along the way to success.

“I think the best case scenario, he’s a first-round pick,” Boeser said.

Idalski added, “We have faith in Lexi.”

“We have faith in Lexi,” Idalski said. “Lexi’s a good goaltender. At the end of the day, Shelby won the games and grabbed that opportunity.”

The standard for hockey at UND is always that of excellence. And while the Fighting Hawks may have fallen a bit short of that standard, there is reason for hope in the next year.

**Fellow lineman Drake Caggiula joined Boeser on the All-NCHC First Team, while goalie Cam Johnson and defenseman Troy Streyer were selected to the All-NCHC Second Team. Forward Nick Schmalz and defenseman Paul La-Due rounded out the awards with All-Conference Honorable Mentions.**

While all the accolades are a positive thing, a challenge for UND will be able to stay grounded this weekend.

If the Hawks are able to beat Colorado College this weekend, the team will advance to the Frozen Faceoff on March 18-19 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Regardless of the team’s performance in the NCHC tournament, the team will participate in the NCAA hockey tournament on April 7 in Tampa, Fla.

**Alex Stadnik is the sports editor for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at alex.stadnik@und.edu**

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**Balancing accolades and expectations**

The UND forward Brock Boeser received many awards this week.

**ALEX STADNIK**
**THE DAKOTA STUDENT**

March may be synonymous with basketball to many college sports fans, but in Grand Forks, March is all about the UND men’s hockey team and the ensuing playoff tournament.

First up for the Fighting Hawks is the start of the NCHC Playoff. Because the team had a stellar regular season, the Hawks were able to wrap up the top seed in the NCHC tournament.

Being the No. 1 seed has its perks such as playing the first playoff series at home against the lowest seeded team in the conference, Colorado College.

**Photo by Nick Nelson/The Dakota Student**

Colorado College was the only team this year to force a tie with UND at the Ralph Engelstad Arena.

The two teams each scored five goals a piece but UND needed a last minute goal from Rhett Gardner to force overtime. UND would eventually win the shootout to take the extra points.

This time around, both players and coaches realize that no game this time of year can be taken lightly.

“Well, I think basically we strive to play in the NCHC playoffs, in the selection committee’s eyes, we are a top four team and for the most part I think we are on the list,” Idalski said.

Fortunately for the Hawks, their stakes were higher than ever. Unfortunately for UND, they still have work to do.

Idalski said, “I thought Minnesota played well. You kind of do a review of everything,” Idalski said. “You sit down and look at how things went and what is going on with the players coming in. Rest is necessary for the team that goes all out all season to restore the body and mind. They take a little time off.”

Idalski added, “Then starting back after spring break, we start training heavy with all the returning players to get ready for next season and develop them strength and conditioning wise.”

The way the Hawks ended the season is disappointing, but saying goodbye to players can be an even harder task. While it is tough seeing any senior player graduate, the team has to say goodbye to Benzie, one of UND’s best goaltenders in school history. Her shoes will be tough to fill, but someone has to do it.

“Shelby was terrific. We had some opportunities and we didn’t cash in on them.”

While not without highlights, the Hawks’ season will be remembered for injuries and inconsistencies.

**Photo by Nick Nelson/The Dakota Student**

The Tigers enter this weekend’s series, which is best of three games, with an overall record of 6-27-1 and are limping into the playoffs, losing nine straight games.

While Colorado College seems to be an easy draw, the playoffs are a new season and UND cannot take any team for granted.

“The Fighting Hawks took care of business against the Tigers this year, but it was not always without difficulty,” Idalski said.

Colorado College was the only team this year that UND Coach Idalski and his squad did not win a title. Even before the season began, there has been in the past for UND’s best goaltenders in school history. Her shoes will be tough to fill, but someone has to do it.

“Her shoes will be tough to fill, but someone has to do it.”

Due rounded out the awards with All-Conference Honorable Mentions.

“Lexi was terrific. We had some opportunities and we didn’t cash in on them.”

The Fighting Hawks played with high caliber competition such as Wisconsin and Minnesota to all season and showed that they could win against said teams.

However, in the playoff setting, the struggles that plagued the team came to light such as having a single line producing the majority of the team’s scoring.

“There were other opportunities earlier for us to get to that game,” Idalski said. “Sometimes it’s a bounce here, bounce there. I thought we played well; we have been doing that.”

UND coach Brad Berry said, “But I go back to the NCHC and the parity within our league and again, you look from all eight teams, they are all very similar in nature. They have a lot of skill, they’re ultra competitive and there’s a fine line between winning and losing, and again we gotta drill down on the details to have success.”

Recently, success has not been hard to come by for the Fighting Hawks.

As a team, the Hawks were able to claim the NCHC regular season championship and the Penrose Cup. A sweep of Western Michigan also moved the team to No. 2 in the national polls.

This week was also a highlight for individual players.

Brock Boeser raked in the awards this week. The freshman was selected as the NCHC Player of the Week, NCHC All-Rookie Team and the All-NCHC First Team to go along with leading the conference in goal scoring with 25.

**Fellow lineman Drake Caggiula joined Boeser on the All-NCHC First Team, while goalie Cam Johnson and defenseman Troy Streyer were selected to the All-NCHC Second Team. Forward Nick Schmalz and defenseman Paul La-Due rounded out the awards with All-Conference Honorable Mentions.**

While all the accolades are a positive thing, a challenge for UND will be able to stay grounded this weekend.

If the Hawks are able to beat Colorado College this weekend, the team will advance to the Frozen Faceoff on March 18-19 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Regardless of the team’s performance in the NCHC tournament, the team will participate in the NCAA hockey tournament on April 7 in Tampa, Fla.

**Alex Stadnik is the sports editor for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at alex.stadnik@und.edu**

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UND pitcher Zach Muckenhirn running off the mound during his freshman season in 2015. He has yet to give up an earned run this season.

**Zach Muckenhirn is UND’s secret weapon**

In the early season, the UND pitcher has yet to give up a run and teams are taking notice.

**Adam Gunderman**

**The Dakota Student**

UND junior Zach Muckenhirn started off the season with a bang. He gave up only three hits in his complete game shutout of No. 12 ranked USC.

"A top ranked team is never easy, especially when UND was far from being one of the top 25 teams in the country. They have the facilities and resources to be a perennial powerhouse."

"I was pretty confident going in because of the preparation we'd had in the weeks before," Muckenhirn said. "I just knew once we got on the field, it was our first time this year, the guys would be ready to play."

Although playing the big name schools poses a big obstacle it is something Muckenhirn and the Fighting Hawks look forward to.

"It's a lot of fun. When you get to this level, the goal is to play teams like that," Muckenhirn said. "Any time you get a chance to play big programs that big, it's really exciting. If we are to get to a regional, those are the teams we have to beat."

In his next start, he continued to pitch quality innings, giving up no earned runs in eight innings of work against Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Muckenhirn’s rate line for the season so far is an impressive 1.77 ERA, zero earned runs, 21 strikeouts and only two walks.

After the game against USC, he was named National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Division I Pitcher of the Week.

Last season, in eight of Muckenhirn’s fourteen starts, he gave up three runs or fewer. Of those eight, six were quality starts, or when the pitcher gave up three or less runs and went at least five innings.

After stringing together two shutout starts in late April and early May last season, you could see the potential of the left hander.

Like many baseball players, Muckenhirn has been playing the game most of his life. Since baseball is a game of repeated failure and small details, most players start young.

"I started playing baseball when I was ten after playing tee ball," Muckenhirn said. "I started as an outfielder but also mixed in some pitching."

Because it is too cold and there is usually snow in Grand Forks, the Fighting Hawks always begin their season on the road. This can take a toll on the team.

The weather also affects how the team practices. They have to practice inside, which creates a plethora of issues, such as rough hanging roofs, not enough room to practice inside, which limits the team's ability to practice.

"It doesn't give us the opportunity to practice on a field, there are certain things that are limited," Muckenhirn said. "I kind of like it. We own it. This is who we are. We are the guys who have to practice inside. We aren't the guys who get nice weather all year round. It kind of puts a chip on your shoulder."

The team has gotten off to a rough start after its two upset wins against powerhouse USC. In the final game of the series against the Trojans, they came back from a 5-1 hole to make it 6-5, but fell after USC scored a run in the 7th and 9th inning each.

Since the USC series, UND has yet to win another game. Despite Muckenhirn’s strong start against the Crimson Tide, the Fighting Hawks fell to Alabama three games in a row.

The team still has high expectations and is not overly concerned by the recent losses.

"I see this team competing for a WAC championship," Muckenhirn said. "Based on what I've seen so far, I think we'll have a real shot at it."

The baseball team's next game is at 3:00 p.m. March 11, in Lawrence, Kan., as the team takes on the Kansas Jayhawks. The first home game is April 8 against Seattle University.

Adam Gunderman is a sports writer for The Dakota Student. He can be reached at adam.gunderman@und.edu

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**Schedule**

**BASEBALL**

UND @ KANSAS 3:00 p.m. 3/11 KU

**M HOCKEY**

UND VS CC 7:37 p.m. 3/11 UND

**M TENNIS**

UND @ MONTANA ST. 2 p.m. 3/12 MSU

**SOFTBALL**

UND @ FAIRFIELD 8 a.m. 3/13 CLEARWATER