

THE VIEWER

MVNU'S STUDENT NEWS SOURCE



MILLER

FRESHMAN | GK



Miller's Soccer Success and Journey

by Henry Shobert

MVNU women's soccer goalie, Hannah Miller, recently set the team's single-game save record with 21 saves against Cardinal Stritch University. When Miller blocked a barrage of shots during the game, she remarked that she had no idea what exactly she was accomplishing. She said, "I didn't realize at all that I had broken the record. I was getting frustrated, and coach had to pull me aside and talk to me about it." Cardinal Stritch kept Miller alert as they took 42 total shots with 24 on goal. MVNU fell to Cardinal Stritch 0-3.

While Miller has shined this season with the Lady Cougars, she explained that her soccer future hasn't always appeared so certain. She mentioned, "I wasn't sure if I was even going to play [in] college. It was never something I thought much about." Her decision to attend MVNU came relatively late, as she made her commitment in March. She exclaimed, however, that she was content with her decision. Before her career at MVNU began, Miller said that she started playing soccer at Ashland Soccer Association at around 4 or 5 years old.

Though the Lady Cougars have had their ups and downs this year, Miller spoke optimistically about the remainder of the season. She said, "We still haven't lost at all on our home field yet. We're going to continue to grow and get better from here on out."



Erica Gasser and the Road to Recovery

by Faith West

MVNU Volleyball's Erica Gasser has been the center of attention this season following her well-timed return to play after tearing her ACL in April of 2021. When asked how it feels to return for her senior year after missing the 2021-2022 season, Gasser responded, "It definitely means the world to me to be back." She expressed her excitement to be able to play with her teammates again and take on a more active role this year. While Gasser is excited for the remainder of this season, the process of recovering from such an extensive injury was no easy task.

For Gasser, recovery was a mental challenge just as much as a physical battle. When reflecting on her initial diagnosis, Gasser recalled feeling heartbroken because she never imagined something so life-changing would happen to her. However, this feeling did not last long due to the outpouring of love she received from her coaches, teammates, family, and friends leading up to and following her surgery in June of 2021. "I still had so [many] people supporting me even when I was injured," she stated. "That's a big reason I got through it because God put those people in my life."

After her surgery to repair the torn ligament, Gasser immediately began physical therapy which occupied the remainder of her summer. She explained that therapy was three times a week and the appointments often lasted two hours or longer. She recalled that the exercises were very physically challenging, but the experience taught her to appreciate the small goals that would eventually lead to greater progress.

Overall, Gasser believes recovering from her ACL injury has been the most difficult time in her life, however, God taught her a very important lesson along the way. "It taught me that I'm more than just a volleyball player and that my identity is in Christ," she stated. "He wanted me to see there's more to life than volleyball."

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Held Together: Journeying as a Community This Year

by Cat Dugan

This academic year, the MVNU Campus Ministries team invites everyone in our community to intentionally walk alongside and support each other. Rev. Stephanie Lobdell, campus pastor, welcomes all students, those with faith and without, to be a part of the chapel experience this year as we trust ourselves to Jesus, by whom all things are held together.

“Too often, we lose sight of things beyond ourselves. I want to challenge students to see God as small and near as well as big and transcendent. At the intersection of those seemingly contradictory truths is the person of Jesus,” she said. Lobdell invites students to embrace this paradoxical concept.

At this mystery-laden intersection, Lobdell seeks to permit us to engage the tension we all experience — between faith and doubt, hope and terror, strength and frailty, great potential and profound lack — trusting Jesus meets us in the discomfort. “As a pastor to every student here, I strive to engage students who know and love Jesus, and also those students unaffiliated with a religion, those with only a tangential connection to the Church, and even those who are antithetical to faith,” Lobdell said. “I want every student to know that

the Campus Ministries office will hold space for their joy, doubts, fears, and insecurities. All of those pieces of us are held together by the person of Christ, and so we can bring our full selves into that space.” Lobdell will bring a vast array of worship styles to chapel this school year. “I want to encourage students to ask the question, ‘How can I participate?’” Lobdell said. “Do you write poetry or prayers? Are you willing to read scripture? Do you play a unique instrument? Is there a way that you could contribute to making that space reflective of our community?” Throughout the year, Mark Owens and his worship team will incorporate new artistic styles, including spoken word and classic hymns, to connect with more students. Lobdell’s goal this year is to create a chapel experience that is reflective of our community.

Adding discipleship options for the secular, Lobdell herself will lead a group in conjunction with Held Together’s message of unity. “We have a ton of life groups focused on pouring into and discipling people who are in relationships with Jesus and want to grow,” Lobdell said. “I want to create a safe space for people who have doubts, have never been to church, and are no longer connected to a church. As their pastor, I want to show these people that they belong with all their questions and doubts.”



CH₄ Stadium: The Process

by Ben Alexander

The MVNU Athletic Department, along with the City of Mount Vernon, decided it was time to build a new soccer and lacrosse stadium. The name of the stadium is CH₄ stadium. The name is based on methane, a component of natural gas. Ariel Corporation, which makes gas compressors, was one of the major donors to the stadium. There is more information about this on the plaques as you walk into CH₄ stadium, which explains the meaning of the stadium. You will want to come to check it out.

MVNU Athletic Director Chip Wilson said that the CH₄ stadium would last a long time due to the field conditions and fundraising efforts. “... the priority was going to be a high-quality field that could provide a surface that could hold both soccer and lacrosse teams.” Wilson also said that the addition of lacrosse made it necessary to have a turf field, and that led to fundraising efforts.

How long did this take? It took three years to complete, and they did it in two phases. Describing the phases, Wilson stated, “During phase one construction, our men’s and women’s soccer teams played at the Mount Vernon High School field, and this lasted one season. Phase two began about two years after the completion of phase one. The construction for phase two lasted approximately one year. I am thankful for the teamwork that took place, which allowed our teams to continue practicing and competing on the field during phase two construction.”

Wilson was also excited about the new features of the stadium. “CH₄ Stadium is the home of our men’s and women’s soccer and lacrosse

teams,” he explained. “It consists of a 500-seat stadium, four locker rooms, a beautiful press box and platform for streaming, concessions, public restrooms, field lighting, and storage. There is also a newly paved parking lot to help with spectator parking.”

What can fans expect differently from CH₄ Stadium to the other stadiums on MVNU’s campus? Wilson has the answer. “Field lighting is probably the major difference to our other outdoor space,” he said. “Because we have multiple teams using this space, field lighting allows for practices and games to extend after sunset.” That means fans can see the action better, and the athletes can practice longer so that the Cougars have a better chance at competing for championships, making CH₄ Stadium a win-win situation for everybody.

CH₄

