calligraphy

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One Team, Many Parts
(Inspired by I Corinthians 12:12-27)

by Sarah Peterson

A team is a unit, though it is made up of many players; and though all its players are many, they form one team. So it is with us. For we were all brought together by our coach into one team — whether Oregonian or Washingtonian, Idahoan or Alaskan, Coloradan or Montanan, Hawaiian or Hawaiian — and we were all given one purpose to achieve.

Now the team is not made up of one part but of many. If the keeper should say, "Because I am not the forward, I do not belong to the team," she would not for that reason cease to be part of the team. And if the substitutes should say, "Because I am not the leading scorer, I do not belong to the team," they would not for that reason cease to be part of the team. If every player were a forward, where would the position of keeper be? But in fact, the coach has arranged the players in the team, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they all played one position, where would the team be? As it is, there are many players, but one team.

The forward can’t say to the keeper, "I don’t need you!" And the leading scorer can’t say to the substitutes, "I don’t need you!" On the contrary, those players on the team that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the players we think are less honorable should be treated with special honor. And the players that aren’t as naturally skilled are brought up with the help of others, and even the skilled players can improve. But the coach has combined the members of the team and has given greater honor to the players who lacked it, so that there should be no division in the team, but that its players should have equal concern for each other. If one player suffers, every player suffers with her; if one player is honored, every player rejoices with her.

Now you are the Concordia University women’s soccer team, and each one of you is a part of it.