About the Program

- Luther has won 14 conference titles, most recently in 2007 and 2009.
- The Norse have appeared in the national tournament four times.
- Collectively, 82 players have earned 131 all-conference honors.
- Three Luther players have been named conference MVP.

- Fifty-nine student-athletes have been named to the Iowa Conference Fall Sports All-Academic Team.
- Three student-athletes have been named CoSIDA Academic All-Americans.
- Luther intercollegiate athletics began with the first baseball game on May 17, 1891, when the Norse beat St. Olaf 9-4.

Program Snapshot

Luther baseball has a rich tradition of success in the Iowa Conference. As we begin a new era, we will take into account our past success and push the program to new levels.

Luther baseball is a brotherhood that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Our success will revolve around character, hard work, and discipline. We will have the mindset that no team in the country will out-work us and we will play every day with passion and purpose. We will hang our hats every night knowing that we put forth a championship effort that day in the classroom, on the field, and in the community.

We will begin each year with a competitive 10-day fall practice schedule. Fall ball will focus on skill development, teamwork, and pushing ourselves to the limit in game action scenarios. We will strive to be in our best shape to play a competitive 40-game schedule that will begin with a southern trip in March, followed by a 28-game Iowa Conference schedule. Each year our goal will be to capture a conference title and qualify for the national tournament. Luther represented the IIAC in the national tournament in 2007.

We are in the midst of a new stadium project. This new stadium, combined with an already superb playing surface, will prove to be one of the premier facilities in the region. Already in place for our strength and conditioning program are the Legends Fitness Center and the Regents Center. The Regents Center is also used as our pre-season practice facility.

BRYAN NIKKEL, HEAD COACH
(563) 387-1590  nikkbr01@luther.edu

- Second year as head coach
- Took over the Norse baseball program after serving as the top assistant and recruiting coordinator at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D., the past four years
- During this stretch, Augustana produced four seasons of 30-plus wins, and made two NCAA II National Tournament appearances, and made four appearances in the NSIC Tournament, capturing the tournament championship in 2014
- 2007 graduate of Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU)
- Four-year letter winner as a catcher at SMSU and twice served as team captain
- Following his playing days Nikkel was an assistant coach at Southwest Minnesota State for three years (2007–2010)
- Has also served as head coach for the Marshall, Minn., American Legion baseball team for two years (2009–2011) and the Grand Rapids, Minn., VFW baseball team for three years (2004–2007)
- Has recruited and coached nine players who have signed professional contracts

2015–16
Outstanding Athletics Facilities

Outdoor Facilities
• Carlson Stadium—5,000 seats; football field; eight-lane, 400-meter polyurethane-surface track with two directional approaches for pole vault and all jumping events; two shot put circles; discus/hammer cage; and multi-directional javelin-throwing areas
• Twelve tennis courts adjacent to Carlson Stadium
• Irrigated practice facilities and soccer-only stadium equipped with dugouts, stadium seating with a capacity of 500, perimeter fencing, and lighting for night matches
• Irrigated baseball and softball diamonds with seating capacity of 500
• 2.5-mile on-campus fitness trail allowing home cross country meets
• Chipping and putting green with adjacent driving range

Indoor Facilities
• Three full-sized basketball courts with seating capacity of 3,000; also used for volleyball and wrestling competitions
• 4,250-square-foot Paul Solberg Wrestling Complex
• New state-of-the-art, 25-yard, eight-lane pool with separate one-meter and three-meter diving well
• 200-meter, six-lane polyurethane-surface track, with easily accessible elevated walkway allowing for up to 400 spectators
• Six tennis courts
• Year-round training facility for baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, and football
• 10,000-square-foot Legends Fitness for Life Center featuring cardiovascular-conditioning machines, free weights, weight machines, climbing wall, computer lab, and social area

Over a Century of Athletic Excellence
• 232 IIAC championships won by Luther
• 162 men’s championships
• 70 women’s championships
• 110 NCAA Division III national tournament appearances
• 22 Men’s All-Sport Championships
• 8 Women’s All-Sport Championships
• 19 varsity sports—largest sponsorship in the IIAC
• 28 individual national champions
• 321 All-America Honors
• 58 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans
• 28 individual national champions
• 1,800 All-Academic honors earned since 1993 (3.5 GPA or higher on 4.0 scale)

Luther Quick Facts
• Four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Lutheran church (ELCA)
• National affiliation: NCAA Division III
• Conference affiliation: Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Luther Quality
• Our retention rate is the highest in the Iowa Conference.
• 12:1 student/faculty ratio
• A Phi Beta Kappa chapter recognizes academic excellence. (Few colleges in the United States can claim this distinction.)

Luther Students
• Luther has 2,400 full-time undergraduate students from 40 states and 61 countries—the largest student body in the Iowa Conference.
• Luther is not a suitecase college—nearly all of our students live on campus and stay over the weekends, engaging in numerous campus activities.

Luther Education
• Luther delivers a liberal arts education, teaching critical-thinking and lifelong-learning skills.
• All Luther students participate in distinctive, hands-on learning: internships, research, study abroad, student teaching, or service learning.
• Luther graduates have excellent placement rates—about 98 percent of graduates are employed, enrolled in graduate school, or engaged in an internship or volunteer service within eight months of graduation.

Luther Financial Aid
• Ninety-eight percent of students receive financial assistance.

Admissions contact: (800)458-8437, admissions@luther.edu
Athletics contact: (563) 387-1575, www.luther.edu/sports