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# WNCC SPECTATOR

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## National competition excitement

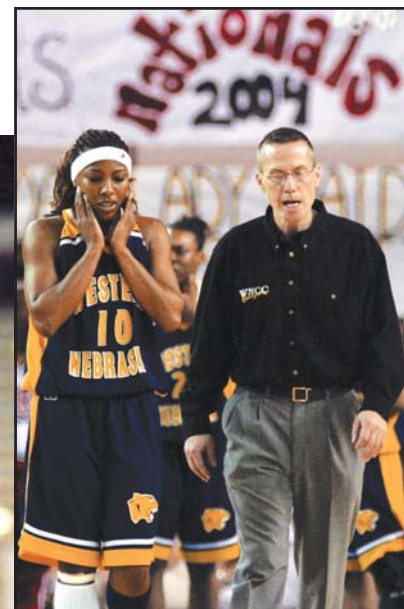
### Women's basketball finish 6th at nationals

BY NATALIE MILLER  
Staff Reporter

The Western Nebraska Community College Women's Basketball team wrapped up their season placing 6th in the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan., March 20. The Lady Cougars went 2-2 in the tournament, playing four days in a row.

Looking back, the season started a little rough for the ladies, but they were able to pull together and finish the season with a 23 game winning streak, including their sweep of the Region IX Tournament. The Lady Cougars entered the NJCAA National Tournament as the number 9 seed on the heels of a record back-to-back Region IX championship.

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MARK REIN/SPORTS INFORMATION

(Inset) The sign (Nationals 2004) says it all as women's basketball coach Dave Harnish and sophomore Crystal Harden walk off the court during a game at nationals. It was the team's second straight trip to nationals. (above) The WNCC bench chants "Defense" during the 5th/6th place game against Three Rivers Community College.

## WNCC has new award winner in forensics team

BY TAMARA SIMMONS  
Staff Reporter

Move aside basketball, softball and track; there is a new award-winning competitive team at Western Nebraska Community College this year whose members train to think logically and communicate effectively.

The Forensic Speech Team in its first year at WNCC has just returned victorious from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Novice National Championships held at the University of Houston.

According to Terry Rogers, coach of the speech team, the team went up against students from some of the top schools in

the country, including University of Houston and University of Miami. There were three divisions based on the number of entries and not the size of the school. The speech team was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division.

Rogers compares a speech tournament to a track meet, saying "they won the points as a team."

He went on to say that you have shot putters and sprinters and you wouldn't want a shot putter to do the work of a sprinter.

Rogers' wife, Cindy, is a volunteer coach for the team helping to individually train each member. Rogers said of his wife "she really stepped up to the plate" when I was not able to be there.

Each member of the team spends at least 1 to 2 hours a day in research, writing and processing.

"Their preparatory work is done before they even go to the tournament," said Rogers. "They must be familiar with current events."

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