

Western Nebraska Community College

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Scottsbluff, NE

COUGAR CB BEAT



No. 11-ranked
softball team
ready to go

Page 11



*Taking in the
Winter
Olympics
Page 4*

Playing as a team

Cougar men's basketball team gelling at the right time

The WNCC men's basketball team are on a 3-game winning streak and they are doing it with just 10 players in uniform.

The Cougars, after suffering a sub-region loss to North Platte 81-60, have re-found their form in capturing three straight victories.

The streak started with an 63-59 win over McCook Community College followed home wins against Casper 73-67 and then a key sub-region victory against Northeast Nebraska 57-53.

Against McCook, WNCC played a pressuring defense and it worked. After both teams were tied at 29-29 at halftime, The Cougars moved in front by nine points at 46-37.

WNCC coach RussBeck said that his team stayed strong and executed down the stretch.

"We wanted to play a lot of ball pressure because we saw [against North Platte] that during a stretch we had a lot of ball pressure and it was really disruptive," he said. "So, we came out and gave them a lot of ball pressure. They had a hard time running the things they wanted to run. We just did a better job of controlling the tempo of the game. We knew down the stretch they were going to make a run, but we were able to weather the storm and knock down some shots."

That same type of ball pressure worked wonders against a talented Casper squad, and the big key in that contest was rebounding as they out-rebounded Casper 52-39.

"It doesn't always matter how big you are. It matters about staying in a stance, turning and locating a man, making sure you know your defensive assignment and making sure you are boxing out," he said. "We played a lot of zone at their place [back in January] and the problem with zone is sometimes we don't identify who we need to box out. We played predominately man tonight except



for a few possessions and we actually knew who we needed to box out and track down that rebound."

That night, the Cougars had plenty of players step up as three players finished with double-figure scoring. Brylle Kamen led the way with 18 points and 12 rebounds, followed by Geddes Robinson with 17 points and Francisco Cruz with 14 points.

That win gave the Cougar men confidence heading into a big sub-region contest against Northeast Nebraska. The last time these two squads met, Northeast used a buzzer-beater to clip the Cougars 78-76.

Saturday afternoon, the Cougars put together a defensive contest, while using an 11-0 to end the first half to post the 57-53 win.

Beck was extremely with pleased with the defensive effort that his team showed. The Cougars forced 16 turnovers and out-rebounded the Hawks 42-35, including getting 27 defensive boards.

"We did a good job defensively, especially down the stretch," he said. "They got an offensive rebound off a missed free throw and that is when we have to honker down and just get a rebound. Overall the rebounding was good."

WNCC and Northeast were definitely
Continued on next page >>>>



(top) WNCC freshman Joe Stock brings the ball up the court during their sub-region game with Northeast Nebraska on Feb. 13.

(above) Brylle Kamen dunks the ball during WNCC's 57-53 win over the Hawks.

Cougar men gelling

From the Cougar Vault

<<<<< Continued from previous page

hooked in a defensive stalemate in the first half as the Hawks held a 21-20 lead with four minutes to play in the opening 20 minutes. That was when the Cougar game picked it up another notch, going on an 11-0 run that was highlighted by a Cruz 3-pointer and four buckets by Kamen for a 31-21 halftime lead.

"You win games by the way you start and finish halves," Beck said. "We really got fired up with our ball pressure and it lead to easy baskets for us."

The Cougars bounced back, going on a 10-0 run of their own, highlighted by a Kamen dunk and field goal to push the lead back to 42-32 with 4:14 to play. After Northeast fought back, slicing the lead to 52-48, Kamen stole the ball and slammed it home for a 54-48 lead.

Northeast came back, slicing the lead to 54-53 as Jayvin Stevens grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw and put it back in the hole with 26.1 second to play. WNCC added a single free throw by O'Rion Hughes with 19 seconds to play. The Hawks then missed a 3-pointer from the corner and Joe Stock was fouled with six-tenths to play

to seal the win.

Kamen and Robinson had huge games in the paint for the Cougars. Robinson finished with six rebounds, while Kamen had eight. Beck said that Kamen's energy on the court keeps the team fired up.

"Brylle gives us great energy and emotion. Some people might misinterpret that at being selfish," Beck said. "That is what he needs to do to help the team and give us that energy and emotion because he really gets this team up. He had some good plays down the stretch. He is a talented player and glad to have him. If he plays that hard every game, we are going to be in the games."

Robinson and Cruz were the only Cougars to finish in double figures. Cruz pitched in 13 points, while grabbing nine rebounds in the win.

WNCC has just four more games left, including a Tuesday, Feb. 16 encounter with McCook followed by a sub-region showdown with North Platte on Feb. 24.

They will then wrap up the home campaign on Sunday, Feb. 28 against Northeastern Junior College before finishing the regular season on March 1 at Eastern Wyoming College.

Inexperience may hurt NWC's women's BB team

From the Oct. 26, 1979, college
newspaper, "Spectator."

Story by Jodi Leonard

Inexperience will be a major obstacle in the 1979-80 edition of NWC women's basketball will have to hurdle, according to Harvey Schmidt.

Of the 16 members of this year's team, only four are returning upperclassmen. Schmidt says Sophomores Sheila Merrigan, Kitty Gregoryk, Angie Morse, and Darcy Reed will have to teak the underclassmen "under their wing," because Schmidt is "counting on the underclassmen to give us a lot."

The biggest problem a freshman encounters when playing for NWC is "adjusting to the junior college styles of basketball," Schmidt says.

"They have to learn the game is more than dribble, jump and shoot," he said.

Don't get the impression, though, that a lot of complicated techniques are drilled into the girl's heads in the first few weeks of dress rehearsal. "We keep it simple — basic defensive strategy, getting out on the fast break, and getting in condition," the second year coach comments.

"Especially endurance," he continues. "Year in and year out, we're an exceptionally well-conditioned team. Last year, when we played with only a six-woman team, we were able to stay in most games because we were in good shape. Maybe we'll pick up a game here or there on conditioning."

The Cougars will be a little shorter height-wise than their opponents this year, but Schmidt says this can be overcome. "We'll be a little shorter, but we'll compensate with speed, composure, and endurance, of course. The big question that he couldn't answer, though, is" Can the women rebound effectively without height?

"I believe in a sound defense," Schmidt comments. "But to be honest, we really haven't decided on a defense and haven't really worked on one," he laughs.

There are rumors of dissension on other NWC sports teams this fall, but believe Schmidt when he says, "I don't have that problem. If they can't get along, or pout 'cause they don't start, or don't do what they're told, then they aren't going to play. And, surprise, they're having fun.

"As long as we have enough people to fill uniforms, we won't make any cuts ... we want everybody to get a chance to play to enjoy the sport for what it is, a sport."

"Gosh, we're just having fun playing basketball right now."



WNCC freshman Ritchie Mundende looks to pass while being guarded by an Otero player in January. The Cougars are 16-10 on the season so far.



The Olympic Flame glowing bright in the night skies of Vancouver, British Columbia. The Winter Olympics started Feb. 12 and will end Feb. 28 with the closing ceremonies. The Olympics are taking place in Natasha Dypchey's home country of Canada.

Taking in the Winter Olympics

WNCC student assistant softball coach Natasha Dypchey was in awe over the the Winter Olympics which are currently being held in her home Providence of British Columbia.

Dypchey, from Surrey, British Columbia, went home last weekend to absorb some of the pageantry of the event.

"This was my first Olympic experience," Dypchey said. "In Canada the Olympics are a big thing. There is one channel that is dedicated to the Olympics and only runs olympic coverage all day. It was a memorable experience and I want to go and see as many

as I can."

Dypchey was there for the weekend and didn't watch any of the events. What she did experience was the atmosphere of the games.

"My best memory was taking in all of the events and seeing all of the people and being in the atmosphere for the Olympic games," she said.

Dypchey, who lives an hour from Vancouver, said the closest event to her house is just 30 minutes away and that is the long track speed skating competition.

Just being in Vancouver during the

event was history in itself.

"The Olympics were amazing," she said. "There were so many people everywhere and everyone was in great spirits and willing to just have a conversation with anyone."

Dypchey said that they went to all the country pavilions, including having their picture taken with Russian sailors.

"We went to all of the pavilions for each country," she said. "Some of the major countries host places that show you a bit of their own culture and they have food and give out free scarfs and pins, so that was pretty cool.

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The Olympic Village in Vancouver, British Columbia, that student softball assistant coach Natasha Dypchey saw when she went home over the weekend to watch a little bit of the Olympics.



Taking in the Winter Olympics

Each province of Canada also has their own pavilion, too.”

The other thing that stood out for Dypchey was seeing the Olympic flame.

“Seeing the outdoor Olympic torch was the coolest thing that I saw,” she said. “Also the Russian pavilion was pretty cool because they are hosting the next winter Olympics. They had a lot of exhibits to show what their country is doing to prepare for the next winter Olympics.”

The Winter Olympics opened Feb. 12 with the opening ceremonies and will run through Feb. 28 with the closing ceremonies. In the mean time, there are a lot of people from athletes to media outlets to spectators that have come to Vancouver to watch the epic event.

“There are just over 2 million people in and around the city of Vancouver,” she said. “The media was out in full force and they were everywhere you looked, just like the police and security force.”

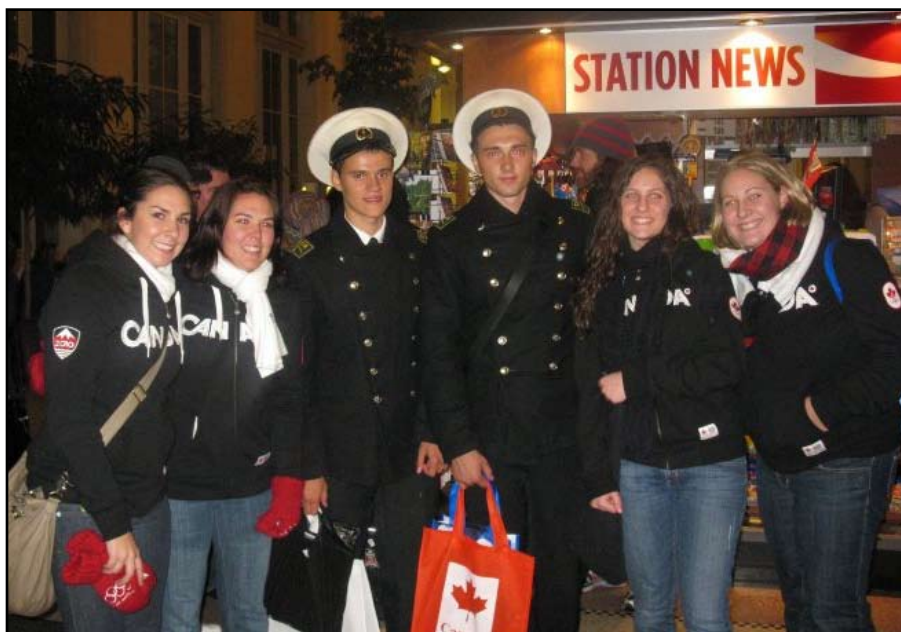
The Olympic games started, however, with tragedy as 21-year-old Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili died on a training run on Friday, Feb. 12. There is a memorial wall for Kumaritashvili at the luger site and there is a lot of heavy hearts over the death.

“I never saw the actual memorial on the mountain and by the track in which he died at,” she said. “But when the news came out everyone was devastated and it was hard to think about it.”

With Vancouver holding such a worldly event, there definitely are some bad things that come out of the event. Besides all the people, tickets for a lot of the events start around \$75 and higher. Also, there are people that are against the Olympics.

“The Olympics are supported by almost everyone,” she said. “There were a few protesters that were from the east coast of Canada that are against the games, but other than that everyone has been very very supportive and are in high spirits. It is one big party down there that everyone is celebrating.”

Dypchey actually was glad to have the opportunity to witness the Olympic experience even though it was just for one weekend — she had to return to WNCC on Monday since the Cougar softball team in which she is a student assistant coach opens their season on Feb. 17.



Natasha Dypchey (far right) and her friends get their picture taken with some Russian Sailors that were at the Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.



(above) Natasha Dypchey and Josh Gruber, her boyfriend from Colorado, stand by the Olympic torches from the last Olympics in Turin in 2006 and the torch from this year's Olympic games in Vancouver. The two former WNCC athletes made a trip back to Nypchey's home country to Vancouver, British Columbia, to take in some Olympic action.

(below) Two of Natasha Dypchey's friends give the thumbs up with a mascot at one of the pavilions in Vancouver. Dypchey said just taking in the non-athletic aspects of the Olympics is worthwhile.



Region IX baseball, softball get new website

The Region IX baseball and softball teams will have a new website for scores, schedules and statistics this season. The new site is an attempt to make tabulating information faster and more efficient.

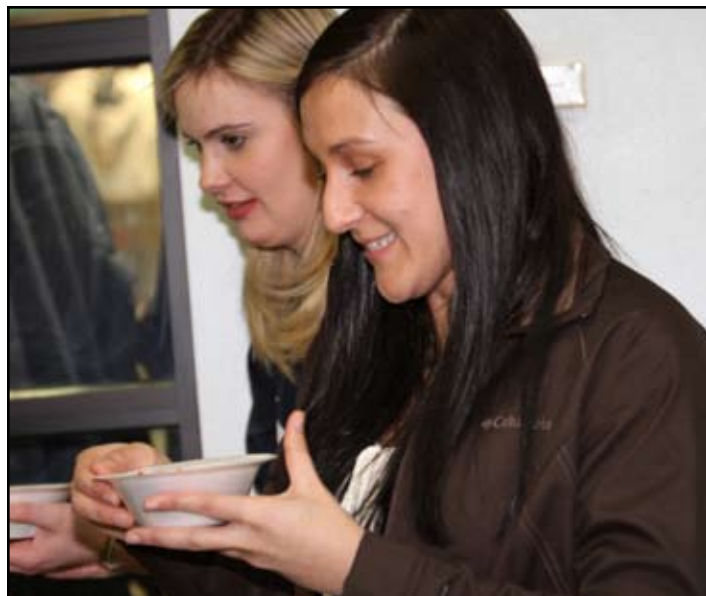
The new site is hosted by Home Team Online and each of the two sports has their own page off the new Region IX athletic page. The main homepage can be located at <http://www.htosports.com/REGIONIXATHLETICS>.

Once you get to that page, you have the option, at the top of the page, to go to either the baseball or softball page. Once on that respectful page, current standings, scores and upcoming games are displayed. If a person clicks on a team in the standings, they will be taken to that team's homepage on that site, where they can view rosters, schedules, stats, news, photos and even records.

The site is currently being tested to see how it works and if it would be worthy to switch basketball, soccer and volleyball to this site.

So far, it is easy to update, where you can update from anyplace there is an Internet connection.

Check it out and let me know what you think. Just email me at mrein@wncc.net.



Yummy chili

WNCC volleyball coach Giovana Melo helps out the Cougar softball team by eating at the chili feed the team held on Jan. 30 to raise funds for their season. In the background is Paulina Piegza. Over six roasters of chili was served during the day.

WNCC Athletic Calendar Feb. 14-March 13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16 Men's, Women's basketball at home against McCook	17 Softball away at Friends College J.V.	18 Softball away at Stelling College J.V.	19 Women's Basketball HOME against Lamar Baseball at Barton	20 Baseball at Pratt Lion's Club BB Youth Basketball Tourney
21 Baseball at Barton Lion's Club Youth Basketball Tourney	22	23 Women's basketball at Eastern Wyoming Class B Girl's District	24 Men's Basketball HOME against North Platte C.C.	25 Class B Girl's District	26 Class B Girl's District	27 Softball at Lamar Baseball HOME against Miles C.C. Class B Boy's District
28 Men's, Women's basketball HOME against Northeastern Colorado Softball at Frank Phillips Baseball HOME against Miles	1 Men's basketball at Eastern Wyoming Class B Boy's District	2 Class B Boy's District	3 Softball at McCook Baseball at Colorado State Club	4	5	6 Softball at Otero JC Baseball HOME against Trinidad Awana's
7 Softball at Garden City	8	9	10	11 Baseball HOME against Colorado State	12 Softball at Air Force	13 Softball at Trinidad Baseball at Lamar

Cougar women back on track

If ever the Western Nebraska Community College women's basketball team needed a win, Saturday was the day to get it.

The Cougars, behind a gutsy defensive performance late in the game, secured the No. 1 seed from the East sub-region in registering a heart-pounding 71-69 win over Northeast Community College. The Cougars are now 3-0 in sub-region play and 19-7 overall.

WNCC coach Dave Harnish definitely was feeling a little better about his team after Saturday's huge win.

"Definitely we needed win, especially losing three straight home games and ruined our confidence level, so from that standpoint it is huge," Harnish said. "This is a step forward and the girls have to feel a little bit better about it. From the second point, it seals up the number one seed from the sub-region, which is the first goal of the year. As much as we struggled, at least we won the games we needed to win in our sub-region. Clinching the number one seed will be huge going into the regional tournament. Hopefully in the next two weeks we can get things ironed out and get better for regionals."

Kelli Culver, the freshman from Colorado Springs, Colo., was just one of the many Cougars that stepped up their game. Culver finished with 11 points, but it was her two second-half treys that ignited the Cougars. Culver said it feels nice to win at home after three straight defeats on their home court.

"It is pretty big win because we have been on a losing streak for a long time," she said. "We needed this for our coach because he has been getting mad at us and we needed this to boost our confidence."

Definitely the Cougars needed a win of this magnitude, especially after losing three straight home games —Eastern Wyoming College 68-66, Casper College 84-79 and Otero Junior College 60-56. In fact, WNCC could have won all three of those home games, but cold shooting hampered the team.

Saturday afternoon, the shooting was a little bit better. But once again, the Cougars had to battle from behind. This time, though, the defense played tough down stretch for the win.

"We seem to do get behind every game where we dig ourselves holes like we did tonight getting down by eight or 10," Harnish said. "We have did that in every game and



WNCC freshman Tiffany Moorer drives to the basketball as a Northeast Nebraska player comes in to defend. The Cougars downed the Hawks 71-69 to secure the No. 1 seed from the East Sub-Region.

then we fight the last four and five minutes to get back into it. For some reason we struggle for 30 to 35 minutes in the game and then the last five minutes is the best part of our game. "

The Cougars definitely played some tough defense the last five minutes. They also hit some clutch shots. And, a lot of different Cougars had a hand in securing the East Sub-region championship on the afternoon.

Yuki Morimoto was the thorn in the Hawks' side on the day. The freshman from Tokyo, Japan, finished with 16 points and seven rebounds, but it was her rebound with 6.2 second left that sealed the win for the Cougars.

Up until that point, it was anyone's game. WNCC trailed by eight points in the second half on two different occasions, 48-40 and then later at 55-47. Both times it was a 3-pointer that stopped the Hawks' run. Culver ripped her second of the game with 16 minutes left. Then, Stormye Everett buried a trey to cut the lead to 55-50.

Everett's trey sparked a comeback that gave the Cougars the lead since midway in the first half. WNCC took the lead on a Culver 3-pointer, 57-56, with 8:34 to play. Northeast kept battling back taking a 66-63 lead with 3:30 to play on back-to-back 3-pointers by Sofie Lundberg and Christine Fischer.

The Cougars tied the game as Everett stole the ball and converted on a 3-point play. Then, with 1:38 to play, Amber Kistler stole the ball and found an open Tiffany Moorer to put the Cougars up 68-66.

Lundberg, who ignited for 36 points in the team's first meeting a month ago, drained a 3-pointer to put the Hawks back up 69-68. The game was defensive after that as Northeast missed a shot-clock beating 3-pointer with 18.3 seconds and Kistler was fouled with 14 seconds to play. The Bayard graduate, who converted both free throws to put WNCC up 70-69.

Northeast's Dawn Bonnell then drove
Continued on next page >>>>

Cougar women back on track

the right-side and missed an off-balanced lay-up and Morimoto came down with the game-winning rebound.

Culver said that last minute defensive pressure was crucial in the Cougar's 19th win of the season.

"That helped a lot [defense] with our motivation and helped us win the game" she said. "Our confidence rose a lot after this game."

The Cougars had three players finish in double figures. Morimoto led the way with 16 points followed by Everett with 14 second-half points, while Culver chipped in 11. The Cougars also got nine points from Thais Pinto and six points from Ariane Brown.

Northeast was led by Lundberg's 20 points and four 3-pointers, while Bonnell had 19 points and three 3-pointers.

The big key in the game was shooting, where the Cougars show 48 percent from the field and also blistered the nets from 3-point range, making 56 percent of the shots (5 of 9). WNCC also minimized their turnovers with 15. They also out-rebounded the Hawks 36-27 as Everett pulled down eight, and Morimoto had seven. Kistler finished with five assists and two steals on the day.

Harnish said the McCook game doesn't mean much in the sub-region race, but it means a lot in the team improving for the regional tourney in March.

"That game doesn't matter because we now have the number one seed guaranteed," he said. "Right now we have to focus on getting better the next two weeks. We need to take it one game at a time. We have four games left before regionals and we just have to get better and get ready for regional tournament."

After Tuesday's contest with McCook, the Cougar women will be home Friday, Feb. 19 against Lamar Community College at 7 p.m. They will then travel to Eastern Wyoming College on Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m. The Cougar women will wrap up the regular season Feb. 28 against Northeastern Colorado at 1 p.m.



WNCC's Kelli Culver jockeyes for position against Northeast Nebraska player during their game on Feb. 13. The Cougars defeated the Hawks 71-69 for their 19th win of the season.

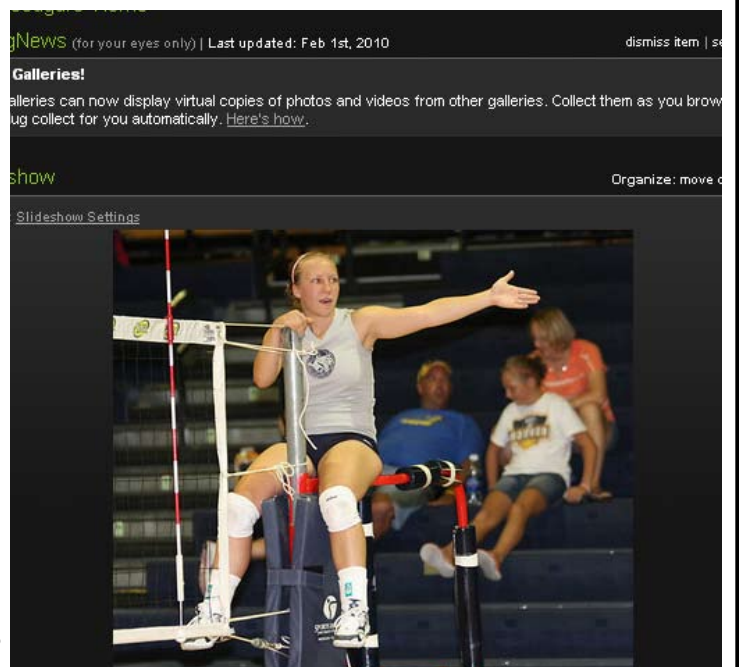
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For the latest in Cougar sports action, check out action photos on the web at wncccougars.smugmug.com

Also included on the photo album are other college activities and prep sports action.

So far, over 18,385 photos have been uploaded.

The photos can also be purchased for a very cheap price, starting as low as 33cents for a 4x6 print.



Baseball starts season 0-4

The WNCC baseball team received some strong pitching performances in their opening weekend, but came up short in its bid for wins last weekend.

The Cougars opened the season falling 7-6 and 5-3 on Friday to Garden City Community College. They then dropped a 14-6 and then a 5-2 contest to Garden City on Saturday.

WNCC coach Mike Jones said they played well on Friday.

““They were really good ball games to open up with,” Jones said. “I thought we got solid starting pitching in both games. We just got tired and panicked a little bit late in the games. We’ll definitely learn from that and make adjustments.”

In the opener, Armani Gonzalez pitched five solid innings to earn a no decision. Gonzalez allowed three runs on three hits. He struck out three and walked two.

















Offensively, four different Cougars had multiple-hit performances. Jason Sloan, Camilo Baldelomar, Oscar Rodriguez and Jared Baros all finished with two hits each. Baldelomar had a triple with a run batted in, while Sloan, Rodriguez and Baros each had a double. Baros knocked in three runs and Sloan drove in one.



WNCC's Jake Stutzman delivers a pitch during a practice session at Cleveland Field earlier this month.

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RANDOM COUGAR THOUGHTS

	Favorite Winter Olympic Event	Favorite M&M Color	How many songs are on your MP3	I would like to sing like	I look like
 Andre Marone Men's Basketball	Snow Boarding	Red 	180	50 cent	Kaka Soccer player from Italy 
 Kelli Culver Women's Basketball	Bobsledding 	Green	1,587 	Fergie & Jesus 	Big Bird
 Stormye Everett Women's Basketball	Ice Skating	Green	like 2,000	Mariah Carey 	An angel sent from Heaven
 Armani Gonzalez Baseball	Luge 	Blue 	2,500	An Angel 	Brad Pitt 
 Tim Beard Baseball	Bobsledding	Red	700	Aventura	Roger Clemens 

Baseball starts season 0-4

The Cougars finished with nine hits in the game.

David Castle took the loss on the hill out of the bullpen. The four runs he allowed were all unearned. Castle struck out one and allowed three hits.

In game two, Tim Beard gave the Cougars another solid start on the mound. He allowed just two runs on two hits in five innings of work. He struck out one and walked two in the no decision.

WNCC plated two runs in the top of the sixth inning to take a 2-0 lead, but Garden City erupted for five runs in the bottom half of the frame. The Cougars added a lone run in the top of the seventh.

The second day saw the team get behind the eight ball early in game one, including walking 12 batters in game one. They also held a late lead in game two before falling.

“Saturday’s games boiled down to starting pitchers. Rodil Martinez had a really bad outing where he had trouble throwing strikes and put us in a bad position in the first inning of game one,” Jones said. “We were able to come back offensively in the first game and got some runs and got the game close. The bullpen just couldn’t hold on and let it slip away late.

“The second game was much different. Julio Davila, even though he walked too many guys, he still did a good job. We were winning the ball game when he came out, unfortunately again, we went to the bullpen and it slipped away from us. All in all, game one was a struggle with a fight from the beginning, and game two was a much better time.”

Still, the season is early and there were plenty of positives to take from the opening weekend. Jones said the team will not hit a lot of home runs, but instead utilize its speed.

“This year looks like it will be a fun year. We have a group of guys that we enjoy coaching and are fun to be around. They like to compete but at the same time they have a lot of fun while they compete,” he said. “I really enjoy this team. We will be a team that will be focused on pitching and defense. I don’t think we will just outscore people.”

The one strength of the team is starting pitching.

“I think pitching will be a strength, and not just with our starting pitching, but the depth of our pitching staff overall,” he said. “We will be able to go to guys out of our bullpen and they will be solid pitchers. It is the depth that will make us really strong.”

Anchoring the pitching staff will be sophomores Armani Gonzalez of Miami, Rodil Martinez of Honduras, and Tim Beard of Australia. Jones these three will be carrying the biggest load. However, the bullpen is filled with talent as Julion Davilla, a sophomore from Puerto Rico, will get the start on the mound for the squad against Garden City.

After these four, there are a slew of other arms that will see plenty of action, including Gering’s Carlos Palomo. Palomo was the Gering American Legion’s No. 1 pitcher last summer and will be a major arm on the mound for the Cougars this year.

Other pitchers that will be counted on is David Castle of Guernsey, Wyo., John Bravard of Lyons, Colo., Sidney Jones of La Creiba Honduras, JC Morales of Miami, and Josh Parker of Australia.

“We can keep going through quality guys,” Jones said. “Even though these guys are not our starting pictures right now, they will be key for us.”



WNCC’s Josh Parker takes a swing at a pitch during a recent practice. The Cougar team are scheduled to open the home portion of their season on Feb. 27 and 28 against Miles Community College at Cleveland Field.

Jones said for this team to score runs, they will need to be creative. And one way is to take advantage of their speed on the base paths.

“Offensively, we look like a team that will be scrappy,” he said. “We are going to have to show a lot of discipline. We will have to stay within ourselves and try not to do too much. We are not going to have a powerful lineup and you are not going to see us hit a lot of home runs. We will be a team that will find ways to get on base, and then use our team speed to our advantage and create scoring opportunities.”

The Cougars do have a lot of returning players on the offensive side, including Elvis Garcia at first base, Oscar Rodriguez at second base, Josh Parker as an infielder/pitcher, catchers Jason Sloan and Shane Wade, and outfielders Jared Baros and Trace Marsden. Marsden is a Scottsbluff High graduate.

Jones said that with this type of talent, it should be a fun year.

“It will be exciting and the guys understand how we are going to play and how we are going to score runs,” he said. “Everyone is on the same page and understands what our philosophy is going to be to try to score runs. We are going to take a lot of chances and we are going to get thrown out some times. It will not always work, but we will be a team that will go for it and we will see what happens.”

The players can’t wait to get on the field to see just how they will fare this year. Last season the Cougars finished with a 25-29 record, including finishing second in the Empire Conference standings. WNCC fell in the first-round of the Region IX playoffs to Northeastern Junior College, who went on to win the regional tournament.

“The players are excited to get out and they want to go play,” Jones said. “I am happy for us that we get a chance to get out and play. I don’t care if it is a little cold, we just need to go out and play. We will make plenty of mistakes, but that is the way you learn. Let’s make mistakes and learn from them and come back to work on things.”

After back-to-back weekends playing contests in Kansas, the Cougars will open their home campaign on Feb. 27-28 at Cleveland Field when they host Miles Community College.

Ready to go

Cougar softball team ranked No. 11 in NJCAA pre-season polls

The Western Nebraska Community College softball team will be entering this season with lots of optimism as well as a target on their back.

The Cougars will open the season Thursday on a road trip to Wichita, Kan., as one of the nation's elite. WNCC is No. 11 in the NJCAA pre-season poll and it is an honor that Cougar coach Maria Winn-Ratliff embraces with honor.

"It is a huge honor for the program and the institution," Winn-Ratliff said. "No matter if we were ranked or not we continue to practice hard every day to accomplish our goal of getting better every day."

The pre-season recognition as the team's attention, but at the same time they know what it will take to be successful this season. Last year, the Cougars finished with a 42-18 record and a third place finish at the regional tournament. Two seasons ago, the Cougars made school history after going 54-10 and capturing the regional title.

WNCC is hoping to recapture some of that glory from two seasons ago. That journey begins Wednesday when they open the season in Wichita, Kan., Friends College junior varsity. The Cougars will then face Sterling College junior varsity on Thursday. The Cougars were scheduled to play Hutchinson and Butler Community Colleges on Saturday and Sunday, but the weather forecast scratched those games.

"I think we all are ready," she said. "It has been nice to get outside and actually practice on our field in January and February."

This year's team should be excited for the season. They return some key returners and some a talented freshmen class.

"This will be one of the faster teams that we have had and look to score a lot of runs with our speed," she said. "We are still working out a few kinks on the infield moving some players around and trying to get the right fit. We have been hitting the ball very well and should score lots of runs."

The one goal for this year's team is to win a second regional title in three seasons. WNCC will host regionals in March, and Winn-Ratliff said this team has the capabilities of achieving their goals.

"I think if we do the right things, anything is possible," she said. "It will take consistent pitching throughout the regular season as well as the tourney. Pitching is the key. This

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WNCC freshman Jordan Schloepflin takes a crack at a pitch during a recent practice. The Cougar softball team opens up the season Wednesday in Wichita, Kan.

Meet a Cougar

O'Rion

Hughes

Freshman

Aurora, Colo.



High School Sports: Basketball, track

College Major: Automotive

Siblings: Amanda Hughes, Ronald Hughes

High School Honors:

◆ All-star team junior and senior year; He was a varsity starter.

More about O'Rion

◆ O'Rion started playing basketball in the fourth grade in the rec league. His best quality is he is fun. He also said that if he could change places with anyone, it would be Michael Jordan because he is doing everything that he wants to.

Favorites

Food: Anything good

Drink: Sweet tea

Magazine: Motorcycle & Slam

Cartoon Character: Sonic

TV Show: 70's Show

Ice Cream Flavor: Cookie Dough

Cougar softball team ranked No. 11 in pre-season polls

season should be exciting because this group is fun to watch and loves to play.”

Pitching definitely will be the big key for this year. WNCC graduated Kelsey Garner from a year ago, but return a very diverse pitching staff that are fighters in the circle. This year staff can go five deep, including returner Stephanie Townsend from Roosevelt, Utah. Taylor Anderson is a transfer that had a strong fall season. The other three pitchers are freshmen, including Jordan Schoepflin of Arvada, Colo., Brittany Enterline of Tracy, Calif., and Ashton Hughes of Regina, Saskatchewan.

“Our staff is very different in the looks that they give teams,” Winn-Ratliff said. “We return Stephanie Townsend who saw some action last year for us and really came on strong in the region tourney. Taylor Anderson is a transfer who threw really well for us this fall. Ashton Hughes is a versatile player and will not only find time in the circle but at various positions on the field as well. Brittany Enterline started a little slow but has made huge adjustments and has been pitching very well for us. Jordan Schoepflin is a fireball and will provide innings for us in the circle and as well on the infield. To start the year we will not have a 1, 2, 3 we will most likely have four of our five pitchers playing at the same time. We are very lucky with their versatility both defensively and offensively.”

The pitching talents are only part of a talented squad. The Cougars also return last year’s freshman of the year Katelyn Groves of Bluffdale, Utah. Groves set the season home run and RBI record last season, as well as tying the career home run record with 17 dingers. Groves, who played primarily first base a year ago, will probably be making the stitch to third base this season.

Other players that will be seeing action on the infield this season will be freshman Jacqui Cappuccilli, of Las Vegas, Nev., along with sophomores Tonya Atencio of Denver, and Brittany Chacon of Broomfield, Colo. Hughes, Townsend and Schoepflin will also see action at the corner positions.

Sophomore Adena Hagen of Birch Hills,



WNCC sophomore infielder Katie Groves goes to put the tag on Tonya Atencio during a recent practice. The No. 11-ranked Cougars will open up the season this weekend with games in Kansas.

Saskatchewan, will anchor the outfield for a second straight year. Also seeing outfield action will be sophomore Megan Burditt of Los

Alamos, N.M., along with new faces Allie Alverson of Toole, Utah, and Amanda Saldivar of El Paso, Texas.

The catcher position will have the most inexperience with the of Alyssa Hickey at semester.

“Losing Alyssa Hickey at the break has put some pressure on our new catchers, but they have been working hard every

Ratliff said. “We have 3 newcomers behind the dish Cappuccilli, Hughes and Megan Bourdon (Duck Lake, Saskatchewan). Like our pitchers they give us a different look as well. Each one of them is very unique.”

Winn-Ratliff said each player will be counted on during the season, especially with a roster of just 14 active players.

“I think all 16 members of our team are key players. We are going to rely on all of them at given times,” she said. “I expect them all to practice and play hard every day and don’t want any surprises on who is key or came up big because they all should be ready for that.”

After this weeks season openers, the Cougars will get into Region IX play when they face Lamar Community College on the road Feb. 27. WNCC will play their home debut on March 26 against Lamar Community College.

“I think all 16 members of our team are key players. We are going to rely on all of them at given times. I expect them all to practice and play hard every day and don’t want any surprises on who is key or came up big because they all should be ready for that..”

— Maria Winn-Ratliff
Softball coach

day and getting better every day,” Winn-

Alumni Corner

Alumni information just received

Maggie (Sharp) Rembao (1990-92) — Maggie played basketball for Dave Harnish in the early 1990s. She is now a stay at home mom while doing daycare in her home. She lives in Loveland, Colo., and had been married for 11 years. She has three kids, Cameron is 17 and a junior at Loveland High, Tatum is 11 and is a 6th grader, and Avery is 8 and is in the 3rd grade.

Colin McGrane (2004-2005) — Colin played baseball at WNCC as a walk on in the fall of 2004. Since WNCC, Colin has been very active in baseball coaching. He was an assistant coach at Benson's Legion program in Omaha in 2006. In the spring of 2008, he was an assistant coach at Sierra Vista High in Las Vegas, Nev. He then was the head coach of the Legion program at Sierra in the summer of 2008. He is currently the assistant varsity coach for infielders/hitters at Liberty High in Las Vegas, Nev., and head legion coach of the Las Vegas Patriots (Liberty High).

Nimroy Cannon (1976-78) — Nimroy played on the team with Dave Harnish when Ron Brillhart was coach. He is originally from Indianapolis and still lives there. Nimroy is the materials manager for the The Surgery Center of Carme. He has two daughters ages 29 and 26 and three grandchildren. He added that he and his wife have been together for 23 years.

Alumni information received previously

Beth (Elliott) Lanoue (1987-89) — Beth played volleyball for the Cougars from 1987-89, helping them to the national tournament in 1988. Beth now works for State Farm Insurance in Tracy, Minn.

Danielle Smith (Stott) (1995-97) — Danielle played at WNCC from 1995 through 1997. She currently is a stay at home mom of three girls. She also coaches freshman basketball at Loveland High School. She lives in Ft. Collins, Colo.

Silvia Oliveira (2000-02) — Silvia played for Coach Chris Green from 2000-2002 where she graduated with an associates degree. She then went to BYU-Hawaii to play volleyball and graduating with a degree in kinesiology exercise sports science. She is now working for Princess Cruise Lines as a Youth Counselor and traveling the world.

Sean "DY" McGee (1986-88) — Sean "Dunkin' Youngster" McGee played for the Cougars in the late 1980s was considered a crowd favorite with his high-flying dunks. After graduating from WNCC, he went on to play at the University of Alaska Anchorage with a degree in education. He has been teaching elementary education for 17 years in the Washington D.C. Metro area.

David Cashman (1970-72) — David played basketball for the Cougars from 1970-72 on the Cougar Palace court that was only a few years old. David now works for John Deere IS Project Management in Illinois.

Rashaun Broadus (2002-05) — Rashuan played for the Cougars under Rob Brillhart in the mid 2000s, where he averaged 14.8 points per game in leading the team to a No. 1 national ranking. He went on to play at BYU and is now playing professionally in Europe. Last year he played in Romania and this year he hopes to be playing in the first division in Greece.

Amy (Mitchell) Teets (1997-99) — Amy played volleyball for the Cougars on the 1997 and 1998 teams under head coach Michelle Gomez. She is now a freelance graphic designer in St. Louis.

Tom Georke (1990-92) — Tom played for the Cougar men's basketball team from 1980-81. He was also on the tennis team at the college as well. Tom is now teaching 7th and 8th grade math at St. Thomas More School in Centennial, Colo.

Dodi (Heim) McCloud (1980-82) — Dodi played on the women's basketball team in 1981 and 1982. She moved to Nash-

ville, Tenn., in 2003 and is working for Nashville YMCA and also the Nashville Wraps. She also worked for Bass Pro Shops and while there, she met someone that she played against in college. She relates the story, "There was this real nice lady that introduced herself to me and we became great friends but the cool thing about it is that she played for McCook Community College but she is originally from Minnesota. I am originally from Nebraska. She also played in the years of 1981 and 1982. We both were point guards, therefore we would have had to have been up against one another so the point is...one...it's a small world...and two...there's a God given reason for certain paths to cross!!! True story and she is an awesome person and friend!"

Brooks (Ehler) Talkington (1991-92) — Brooke played volleyball for the Cougars under Coach Michelle Gomez. She is now a physical education teacher in Scottsbluff and is married to Shane. They have two kids, Brayden (13) and Tate (5).

Peggy Johansen (1980-82) — Peggy graduated from Bayard high school and played for women's basketball for Harvey Schmidt. She also wrote for the college newspaper the Spectator and went on to have a broadcasting job. She is now a civil rights investigator for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Development in Miami.

Christy (Johnson) Torrens (1995-97) — Christy Johnson played volleyball for WNCC from 1995 - 1997, graduating in May of 1997. From WNCC she was offered a full-ride scholarship to Eastern Kentucky University. ECU is a DI program within the Ohio Valley Conference. Unfortunately, all of my credits transferred as electives so I lost 55 of my 62 credit hours by transferring to ECU. Although they were willing to keep me on the roster and continue to pay for 3 more years of my schooling, I decided it was time to go back home. So, Christy went back to Denver and started working in the professional world while taking some time off from school. Eventually, I put myself through college and graduated in March of 2007 with a BA of Science in Interior Design. I am currently attending Indiana University - Purdue University in Indianapolis and working on a Master's in Technology with an emphasis on Facilities Management. Christy is recently divorced and living in Highlands Ranch, Colo., where she is a facilities manager for Comcast Cable. She said she thoroughly loves her career! Christy is now playing the sport again that she enjoyed when she dedicated her life to.

Roxanne (Rohn) Chintale (WNCC 1989-1990) — Roxanne played for volleyball for Michelle Overby-Gomez and is excited to see the volleyball program excelling. Roxanne was a setter when she played. She is now coaching at Meeker High School in Meeker, Colo.

Alejandro Barrientos (WNCC 2005-06) — Alejandro played for the Cougars in the 2005 and 2006 seasons, graduating with an associates degree. He is now attending the University of Wyoming in Laramie, pursuing a bachelor's degree in structural engineering, as well as working as a resident assistant.

Jackie Jensen (WNCC 1997-1999) — Jackie played for Harnish from 1997-99 helping the team to the national tournament. Jackie was a lively player, who ran the guard position. She later went up to Chadron State. Jackie is now living in Douglas, Wyo., and working as a food service manager for the Converse County School District.

Doug Chappell (SJC 1953-55) — Doug played basketball for the Scottsbluff Junior College teams from 1953-55. He played for Bob Conner his freshman year, helping the team to a 12-6 record, and then Roy Kisling his sophomore year as the team went 14-7. After college, Doug worked at Scottsbluff High School from 1957-1995 as a math instructor and later as a guidance counselor. He also was a part-time math instructor at WNCC for four years.

WNCC volleyball makes history with No. 1 ranking

Don't mind the little extra swagger the Western

Alumni Special

Nebraska Community College volleyball team now possesses when they take to the court.

That swagger is warranted after the Cougars vaulted to the No. 1 spot in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association rankings that were released Wednesday

morning. It is the first time the Cougar volleyball team has been ranked in the top spot. It is also the third time ever that a Cougar team has been ranked No. 1. In 2004, both the men's and women's basketball teams garnered the top spot with the men staying there for five weeks and the women just one.

"I think the girls are excited about the

ranking," WNCC head coach Chris Green said. "For me it really doesn't mean a lot. It is still early in the season and it is only the second poll that has come out. It would be better to be ranked No. 1 at the end of the season, but we are up there and if we keep winning I suppose we will stay at No. 1. That is a good thing that we control our

Continued on next page >>>>

Alumni Corner

Julie (Cook) Kuhlman (WNCC 1982-84) — Julie competed for the women's basketball team during the 1982-84. After WNCC, Julie transferred to the University of Wyoming and then started her teaching and coaching career at Albin, Wyo. After two years at Albin, Julie moved to Glenrock where she was an assistant volleyball and track coach, and the head girls basketball coach. Julie is still at Glenrock, serving as the activities director as well as teaching PE. She is married to Mark, who is a math instructor at Casper College, and has two sons ages 13 and 8.

Travis Ottey (WNCC 2001-2003) — Travis played baseball for the Cougars from 2001-03. Travis came to WNCC from Australia. He is currently married and living in Perth, Australia, managing a picture framing company.

Roy Pedersen (SJC 1958) — Roy played football for the Cougars back in 1958, heling the team to a 3-6-1 record. He later went to Southern Nazarene University and prepared for his Pastoral Ministry, graduating in 1963. He has been the pastor of seven churches. He currently lives in Visalia, Calif. He has written a book, "The Gift of the Journey."

Nikki Marotta (WNCC 2003-2004) — Nikki played soccer on the school's first two teams, helping them to a 19-1 record in 203. She is now coaching Neosha County Community College in Kansas.

Adam Freeburg (WNCC 2000-2003) — Adam red-shirted for the Cougars 2000-2001 and then played in the 2001-2002 and the 2002-2003 seasons under Trace Bevell. He came to WNCC after a successful year at Southeast High School in Wyoming. He is currently in his third year teaching physical education at Gering High School as well as the assistant high school football coach, the head freshman boys basketball coach, and the sprint coach for the high school track team. Adam lives in Gering.

Rick Kinner (WNCC 1994-1996) — Rick came to WNCC after a heroic career at Scottsbluff High School. He graduated from WNCC in 1996 after two years of playing basketball and then accepted an athletic scholarship to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and played for two years in the Big West Conference. Rick set the Cal Poly record with eight 3-pointers in a game against University of Pacific. He graduated from Cal Poly with degrees in MIS and Criminal Justice. Rick has lived in San Francisco for five years, working for software companies Peoplesoft and Oracle. He now lives in Paris, France, since 2005, working for Business Objects and SAP. Rick currently enjoys the arts, improving his French and visiting regions in Europe. He said he enjoys spending time with parents, who still resides in Scottsbluff and brothers living in Vermont.

Christina (Petty) Westyn (WNCC 1997-99) — Christina played for WNCC from 1997-1999. After WNCC, she went to Chadron State and played for two years. Christina is now a teacher and she is said she is almost done with her master's degree. She currently lives in Denver and is a single mom with two kids.

Krystal (Williams) Pryor (WNCC 2003) — Krystal or Kri-ter of what many people called her, played for Rick Carpenter on WNCC's first women's soccer team that went 19-1. After leaving WNCC, Krystal continued playing soccer at the College of Saint Marys in Omaha, where she also ran cross country, winning the conference meet, regional meet and placing 13th at nationals. She graduated from CSM in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in pre-law. She is currently the lead litigation paralegal for a large law firm here in Omaha.

Jennifer Kaan (WNCC 2001-2003) — Jennifer played volleyball for Chris Green for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons after being an standout athlete at Crawford High School. She then went on to Colorado State University where she got her degree in Apparel Merchandising. Jennifer then moved to Las Vegas in 2005 and works at MaxMara at the Palazzo.

Georgann (O'Neill) Martinez (WNCC 1992-93) — Georgann played high school sports at Wheatland, Wyo., and then played volleyball for Michelle Gomez from 1992-1994. Georgann is now a Mortgage Loan Officer and Assistant Vice President at First State Bank in Wheatland.

Simon Kerle (WNCC 1988-89) — Simon played for Soupy Campbell back in the late 1980s. Simon is now living back in his home country of Australia.

Brian Trivette (WNCC 2001-2002) — Brian played baseball for the Cougars on their inaugural team. He is now married, living in Leesburg, Ga., where he is teaching 8th grade and coaching baseball at Lee County High School.

Riley Parkinson (WNCC 2006) — Riley, who played for the Alumni Corner Cougars in 2006, is now on a mission for the The Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, serving in the Florida Tallahassee Mission. He will be released from the mission in May 2009, and plans on playing college baseball again. He graduated from Mountain Crest High School in Utah in 2005.

Josh Kupfner (WNCC 2004-06) — Josh played baseball from 2004-06 and is in the process of finishing up his degree. he is working for Level (3) Communications.

Brenda (Schwarzkopf) Pszanka (WNCC 1990-92) — Brenda played volleyball for the Cougars from 1990-92 as a middle hitter. Brenda still stays involved in Cougar and area sports. She is currently a third grade teacher at Northfield Elementary in Gering. Shelly (Donahue) Yank (WNCC 1977-79) — Shelly was the Cougar mascot Cougars during the late 1970s.

An alumni page is getting started on the Cougar Athletic webpage and a complete listing of what the former athletes are doing will be on that page. So, if you are you a former Cougar player, please let me know what you are doing now and any other other information. You can email me at mrein@wncc.net or even connect with me through Facebook. I will be posting past photos through there in the near future.

Meet a Cougar

Michelle Glaze

Freshman

Brighton, Colorado



High School: Brighton

High School Sports: Basketball and softball

College Major: Criminal Justice

Parents: Linda & Michael

Siblings: Brooklyn, Nick, Ashley, Trevor and Sherri.

Honors in high school: Her senior year at Brighton was filled with state appearances as the softball and basketball teams made state. She also earned all-state in both sports, and was named the Athlete of the Year.

More about Michelle

◆ Her most embarrassing time in basketball was in the 6th grade when she made two baskets for the other team.

◆ She would like to be a SWAT member, but will settle for a police officer.

Favorites

Food: Wings

Ice Cream Flavor: Vanilla

Sports Team: Broncos

Clothing Store: Buckle

WNCC volleyball makes history with No. 1 ranking

own destiny.”

For freshman Kendra Schauermaun, the ranking is still a shock.

“Honestly, it is almost unbelievable. But it feels really good to be able to say that we are ranked No. 1 in the country,” the outside hitter from Windsor, Colo., said. “However, at the same time, it won’t mean anything unless we play up to it and keep it. To do this, we will have to remain level-headed and just play our own game no matter who the opponent is.”

Stacie Meisner, a Gering High graduate who has been part of a winning tradition for the Bulldogs all through high school, knows that they can’t too excited.

“It’s really exciting to be ranked No. 1, but it doesn’t really change anything for us,” she said. “We’ll continue to work hard like we have all season and the only pressure we have is what we expect from ourselves.”

WNCC is worthy of the ranking sitting atop the rankings with a 26-1 record. Their only defeat came to North Idaho College, who is No. 2 in the polls. Rounding out the top five is Iowa Western Community College, Jefferson College and Blinn College.

Miami-Dade Community College, last week’s No. 1 team, lost three times last week to Lake Land College, Missouri State-West Plains and Jefferson College to fall to No. 8. The Cougars return to the courts, with their No. 1 ranking in tow, Thursday through Friday when they host the Wyo-Braska Shootout.

The Cougars rise to the top is warranted considering that the team has defeated five of the top 20 teams or other teams that received votes. WNCC defeated North Idaho, Salt Lake Community College and Snow College at the Salt Lake tournament, in which the Cougars won for the first time in school history.

WNCC also has defeated Iowa West-

ern Community and Central Community College-Columbus (No. 13 in Division II) two weeks ago. The team also handed Northwestern Junior College two defeats.

Green said the players realize they have to keep improving to stay on top.

“They want to prove and show everyone that they really deserve to be No. 1,” he said. “I think it is a good thing for us, and I don’t think this group of girls will become cocky or anything like that. They realize that they need to keep improving. I think it will make us a better team because they want to show everyone that they are really No. 1. They are working hard to prove that.”

Jennifer Eichler, who didn’t play last year when the team went through the regular season with one loss, realizes they cannot stop now.

“I have never been on a team that has been ranked this high before,” she said. “It’s really great that people are expecting a lot from us now. I think that we can do really well and stay at the top. But we will definitely have to work our hardest and not get off track. It will take everything everybody has at time to stay there.”

The Cougars have won four tournaments so far this season and are currently on a 44-game winning streak, and a 72 match winning streak against Region IX teams.

Green said the No. 1 ranking adds to other teams wanting to defeat the Cougars.

I think everyone wanted to beat us to begin with, so being No. 1, I don’t know if that is much of a difference,” he said. “If you go into a match and you are the No. 2 team in the country, the other team is looking to beat at just as bad. It is not like we are a dominate No. 1. We just need to keep working hard, and continue to improve maybe now faster than the teams that we already played.”

— From the Cougar News Blog, publishes on Sept. 26, 2006.

**Cougar
Athletic
Booster
of the
Issue**

SH
Star-Herald
Pride in the Panhandle

The Star-Herald is the only daily newspaper in the Panhandle. The Star-Herald covers area high school and college teams with great pride. Pick up your copy of the Star-Herald today.

Old Photos — help identify

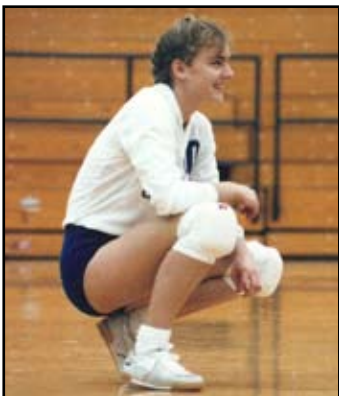
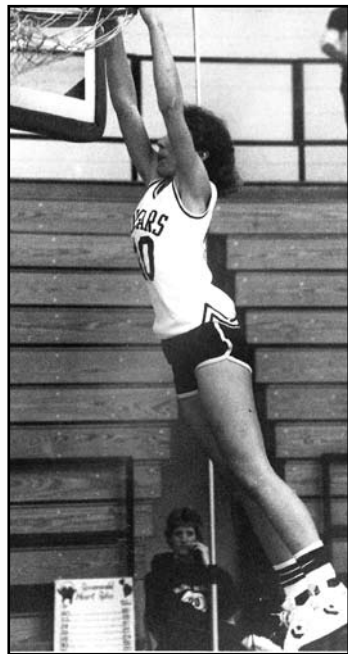
Alumni Special



While going through old boxes in the Spectator office, these photos were uncovered. Anyone please help identify names, years, or memories. (above) Loretta Uhrich talks to a women's basketball player.



Here is a picture of Dave "Soupy" Campbell along with assistant coach Dewey Haley, and don't know who the player is. (below) The women's volleyball team get ready for a game. Brenda (Schwartzkopf) Pszanka is on the far right.



((above) Three volleyball players set outside during the photo shooting session. (to the left) There is a tennis player along with two dunking women's basketball players (Kelly Carper and Tammy McQuain). Then there is the volleyball player from when Michelle Overby was coach. More of these photos will appear in the next issue as well.

Volleyball team holding Clinics in March

Western Nebraska Community College will conduct one-day volleyball clinics in March this season. Each clinic is \$25, and the clinics will be March 7-11.

WNCC coach Giovana Melo, along with current and former Cougars, will conduct the one-day clinics, which will run from 6-9 p.m. The clinics will be conducted by Melo, assistant coaches, current players, as well as former Cougars.

The clinics include a Little Cougars Clinic on Sunday, March 7 for girls in fourth through sixth grades.

Then, on Monday, March 8, there will be a Setters Clinic for all ages, followed by a Hitters Clinic on Tuesday, March 9 for all ages. Wednesday, March 10 will be a Libero/Defensive Specialist Clinic for all ages.

The final day of the Clinics will be Thursday, March 11 with a Triples Tournament. Players can come with their own set of three players or be placed on teams.

Melo said there will be similar camps the last week in May considering there will be no summer camps this year because of the unavailability of Cougar Palace as a new floor will be installed.

Registrations for the clinics can be downloaded from the Cougar website at sports.wncc.edu. For more information, contact Coach Melo at melog@wncc.edu or at 635-6028.



Athlete of the Week

- Aug. 23-29 Kaleinani Kabalis, VB
- Aug. 30-S 5..... Tony Rocha, MS
- Sept. 6-12 Kathryn Stock, VB
- Sept. 13-19 Ana Jacobo, WS
- Sept. 20-26 Paulina Piegza, VB
- Sept. 27-O 3 Jamie Gastelle, WS
- Oct. 4-10 Jose Macies, MS
- Oct. 11-17 Ariel Austin, VB
- Oct. 18-24 Kaleinani Kabalis, VB
- Oct. 25-31 Cami Weimer, VB
- Nov. 1-7 Sabina Piegza, VB
- Nov. 8-14 Geddes Robinson, MBB
- Nov. 15-21 . Brooke Blomenkamp, VB
- Nov. 22-28 Saul Torres, MBB
- Nov. 29-Dec. 5..Michelle Glaze, WBB
- Dec. 6-12 Tayler Puttergill, WBB
- Jan. 10-16.... Geddes Robinson, MBB
- Jan. 17-23..... Stormye Everett, WBB
- Jan. 24-30..... Francisco Cruz, MBB
- Jan. 21-Feb. 6 Amber Kistler, WBB
- Feb. 7-13 Brylle Kamen, MVV
- Feb. 14-20



Brylle Kamen had a big week last week not only scoring points and pulling down rebounds, but also with his enthusiasm. His biggest game was against Casper College, where he finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds in a win. He also had a big game against Northeast Nebraska, where he had eight points and eight rebounds, including a monster dunk.

Congratulations Brylle

Meet a Cougar

Kevin Sanford

Freshman

Watford City, N.D.



High School: Watford

High School Sports: Football, baseball, basketball, track

College Major: Undecided

Parents: Ron & Janet

Honors in high school: He had a busy senior year, as he quarterbacked the team to a state title, earning all-state; was all-state in baseball and basketball, and played on the North Dakota East-West Classic.

Reason attending WNCC: The baseball program.

More about Kevin

- ◆ Hobbies include hunting and fishing
- ◆ Kevin would like to trade places with baseball player BJ Upton.

Favorites

- Food: Spagetti
- College Class: Intro to Coaching
- Drink: Mello Yellow
- Cartoon Character: Superman
- Sports Team: Packers
- Movie: Top Gun

Meet a Cougar

Steph Townsend

Sophomore
Roosevelt, Utah



High School: Union

High School Sports: Softball and the Drill Team

College Major: Elementary Ed

Parents: Dean & Brigitte

Honors in high school: Stephanie was all-state in softball and drill team. She was drill mistress/captain her senior year. In softball, she was a varsity pitcher and hit home runs, including two back-to-back.

Reason attending WNCC: Because of a softball scholarships and the many ethnic and cultural differences between students.

More about Stephanie

◆ Hobbies include Dancing, family, softball, cards.

◆ Steph started playing softball when she was 6. My older sister played and so did my parents.

Favorites

Food: Chicken

College Class: Math

Ice Cream Flavor: Rocky Road

TV Show: One Tree Hill



Leticia Lopez and her father, Tony, as Leticia signs her letter of intent to play soccer at WNCC for the next two seasons. Leticia was an all-state defender for Coronado High in Henderson, Nev.

WNCC soccer signs all-state defensive player from Nevada

WNCC soccer signs all-state defensive player from Nevada

WNCC women's soccer coach Todd Rasnic has found gem in defensive player Leticia Lopez of Henderson, Nev. Lopez visited WNCC last week and quickly decided that this was the place to be for her, signing a letter of intent on Friday.

"I am really excited to come here. Everyone here seems really nice. The team is really comforting," Lopez said. "It will be a transition to come here, but I think it will be worth it."

Lopez played defensive center mid as well as a stopper position at Coronado High in Henderson, where the team was state runner-ups last year. She also earned all-city,

all-state and all-division honors in soccer. Her club team was the state champions two straight years.

Besides soccer, Lopez also played hockey in Alaska, and then basketball in Nevada. She moved from Alaska to Nevada when she was 10 years old.

Lopez said she learned about WNCC from her friend Amanda Jones, who signed a softball scholarship to play for WNCC earlier this year.

"My friend told me about it and she signed a scholarship for softball," Lopez said. "I then looked up the school and the stats of the soccer team and I saw that they are really good. So I said why not."

\$100 Club Monthly Winners

Next year's \$100 Club winners will start in September. If interested for the new year, contact Pedersen at 308-635-6798.

\$100 — Joseph & Nona Moorer
\$150 — Ida Brown

November Winners

\$50 — Carmen Egging-Draper
\$100 — B&C Steel
\$150 — Edward Ehrhart Productions

October Winners

\$50 — Gordon Howard, Bayard
\$100 — Mary Barkaloo, Mitchell
\$150 — Jack Aden

September Winners

\$50 — Spencer Blomenkamp, Gering
\$100 — Jim & Muriel Parker, Scottsbluff
\$150 — James Burbach, Scottsbluff

February Winners

\$50 — Loretta Uhrich, Gering
\$100 — Marc & Marianne Baca, Albuquerque, N.M.
\$150 — Rebecca Shields, Gering

January Winners

\$50 — Bonnie Ziemann, Lincoln
\$100 — Mary Barkaloo, Mitchell
\$150 — Loretta Uhrich, Gering

December Winners

\$50 — Luis Acevedo

Cougar athletics entertaining youngsters at HATC



During January and February, Cougar athletes kept youngsters entertained during Kids College Days that were held at the Harms Center. (top left) Thais Pinto watches a young boy jump over training hurdles that the women's basketball team uses. (top right) Tayler Puttergill tells a secret to a young boy in a game that Puttergill and Shelby Campbell were playing with the youngsters. (above) Softball player Afton Bartz runs away from the little boys in a game of freeze tag. (right) Natasha Dypchey mans the Cougar as the mascot became a favorite figure at the day camp.

Scottsbluff's Huddleston signs with Cougar volleyball

Scottsbluff's Jodi Huddleston has always dreamed of playing for the Cougar volleyball team and in January she got her wish after signing a letter of intent to play for Western Nebraska Community College next year.

Huddleston, who turned 19 a day after signing her letter, said this is one of the best birthday gifts that she could get.

"I've always wanted to go there since I was a little kid after going to camps," Huddleston said. "And then after going on my college visit, that is where I really wanted to go. The girls were awesome, Coach Gi was pretty cool, and this guy [student assistant Cesar Banatti] was alright, too.

"It feels pretty cool that I am the first recruit for next year. I am really excited and I am a little nervous, too, because it is a new level. I am pretty sure I am ready for it, it is just a lot to look forward to. It is also very comforting to know a little bit of what I will be facing."

With Huddleston's work ethic on the court -- she was on the B volleyball team in junior high -- Scottsbluff volleyball coach Shana Dick said Huddleston will give it your all.

"Jodi really has improved so much over the years because she is such a coachable person, and it is because she really works that hard," Dick said. "She didn't come into it naturally, she had to work at it and did whatever it took to get there. That is the kind of player she is. What I am going to miss is that you can ask her to do anything and she will do it. I am really excited to see what she will do at the next level."

Huddleston definitely saved her best for last as the 6-foot-1 middle hitter was a Star-Herald all-region first team selection. Huddleston finished her senior year with 243 kills, 155 solo blocks and 43 digs. The Bearcats finished this season with a 20-16 record before falling to Ogallala in the finals of the district tournament.

"I am very excited to get Jodi," Melo, who is in her second year as head coach at WNCC, said. "I have seen she has improved a lot and she still has more to improve. But she has done a good job for them and it is always good to get someone from around here.

"It is good that we have this kind of talent around here and to get them to come to our school because a lot of times they want to get away, is great. They are here for a long time and they want to get out of here. It is good to get them to come to our school and let them see what we have to offer and to keep them around for a little bit longer so the community can watch them play and see them



Scottsbluff's Jodi Huddleston goes up for a kill in a match against Cheyenne Central last fall. WNCC coach Giovana Melo is sitting the stands behind Huddleston as Melo watches her first signee excel for the Bearcats this past fall. Huddleston also is a high jumper in track and field.

grow even more."

Huddleston, who is also an outstanding track and field athlete, said she is looking forward to playing at WNCC and that it won't be that hard of transition since she already knows a lot of the volleyball players.

"I know half the girls already so it is comforting that I know them and it won't be like going into a new area, new school," she said. "I will still be starting over, but I will have friends and people that I know with me."

Huddleston will relish her senior season a lot having developed into a fierce middle blocker. Huddleston started for the Bearcats the last two seasons and realizes that she will miss her high school teammates, but is ready for the next level.

"I will miss all of them. They are great girls to play with and they are great friends," she said. "It was a lot of fun. This year we didn't get to go to state, but I couldn't have wanted a better team. They were so cool. Coach was patient with me, which was a really good thing because I needed a lot of work to be good, and I still have to do a lot."

Huddleston said her goal at WNCC is to get better, along with trying to win a national title. She also wants to excel at academics. She is planning on majoring in history.

"I want to play volleyball but mostly I want to get the right kind of education that I need because that is what I will be doing after college," she said. "I know college will be a lot quicker and I will have to work a lot harder. It probably be a little harder for me, but I will get used to it. I have improved a lot since I was a freshman and I still have room for improvement. So, I am really looking forward to it."



Jodi Huddleston stands with her birthday cake as well as her congratulations on signing with the Cougars on Jan. 19. Huddleston turned 19 on Jan. 20.

WNCC Cougar Volleyball Clinics Application Form

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Age: _____ Grade in Fall: _____
 School: _____

Parent's Name: _____
 Contact in case of emergency: _____
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____

Please note any medical problems: _____

Clinic Registration Information

- Sunday, March 7 — Little Cougars Clinic
4th-6th grade — \$25, 6-9 p.m. Cost: _____
- Monday, March 8 — Setters Clinic
all ages — \$25, 6-9 p.m. Cost: _____
- Tuesday, March 9 — Hitters Clinic
all ages — \$25, 6-9 p.m. Cost: _____
- Wednesday, March 10 — Libero/DS Clinic
all ages — \$25, 6-9 p.m. Cost: _____
- Thursday, March 11 — Triples Tournament
all ages — \$25, 6-9 p.m. Cost: _____
- Total amount enclosed _____

Make Checks payable to WNCC Volleyball
 Mail To:
 WNCC Volleyball, % Giovana Melo
 1601 E. 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Clinic Information

Camp Facilities — The camp will be held at Cougar Palace on Ron Brillhart Floor. The gym had six basketball hoops and can play two full-size games.

Enrollment — Individuals should complete the enclosed application with the waiver and release agreement and return it as soon as possible

along with camp deposit/full payment to reserve their space.

Medical Insurance — All campers will be required to have a signed waiver and release agreement on file before participating. All participants should be covered by personal medical insurance. See waiver and release agreement to the right.

Waiver and Release Agreement

Upon acceptance of this application, I hereby waive and release all rights and claims for damages I may have against Western Nebraska Community College and its employees on account of any injuries or illnesses sustained by my child while attending the camp(s). I authorize the director of the volleyball camp(s) or her designee to select hospital facilities and/or physicians of her choice and authorize treatment on an emergency basis if such treatment becomes necessary as a result of participating in the WNCC volleyball camp(s). Photos of the camp may be used on camp brochures or website for promotional purposes.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Policy Owner: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____

Company Address: _____

No Photos Please



Past your bedtime?

It seems as if it is past volleyball player Emily Hoehn's bedtime as she yawns during the Cougar men's afternoon contest with Northeast Nebraska on Feb. 13. Or, is it that she spent hours on hours studying, which she did while taking tickets at the gate that day. Then there is Brooke Blomenkamp (right) that is mugging for the camera.

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Linweld

Perkins

Pinnacle Bank

Playhouse Skate and Fun Center

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Roosevelt Public Power

Sandberg Implement

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