

26th ANNUAL NWAACC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

at Tri-Cities Coliseum --- Pasco, WA --- Feb. 27-March 1, 2004

TOURNAMENT TEAM CAPSULES

CENTRALIA TRAILBLAZERS (21-6)

COACH: Gary Viggers (6th year).

Seventh tournament appearance. Were winless in their first six tourney games before beating Seattle in 2001. Won the Cuesta (CA) Tournament in December. Viggers played for Centralia in 1986-87 and 1987-88.

TOP PLAYERS: Nikki Johnson (West MVP, 6.9, 9.0 rbs), Erica Miskar (14.4, 8.5 rbs), Christy Cooper (12.2), Sharee Robinson (9.9).

CHEMEKETA STORM (19-7)

COACH: Marty Branch (4th year).

13th tournament appearance and sixth in a row. Defending champions. Also won NWAACC titles in 1992, 1995 and 1999, and finished second in 1994. Won tournaments at Edmonds and Everett in December.

Branch served three years as assistant coach prior to earning the head coaching job for the 2000-01 season.

TOP PLAYERS: Courtney Bothum (15.0, 6.3 rbs), Julie Melcher (11.6, 5.0 ast), Sara Brooks (11.0), Annie Hartle (9.8, 9.6 rbs).

CLACKAMAS COUGARS (22-4)

COACH: Jim Martineau (6th year).

12th tournament appearance. Was NWAACC runner-up in 1997. Hosted and won a Crossover Tournament in December and finished second at the Chemeketa Tournament. Won twelve straight games after dropping their league opener at Umpqua. Martineau played for Clackamas in 1989-90 and 1990-91.

TOP PLAYERS: Cindy Alldrin (South MVP, 16.0, 4.8 ast), Lindsay Calmettes (14.7), Ashley Cadotte (12.8, 11.0 rbs), Somer Erickson (12.3, 6.3 rbs), Ashley Storms (10.0)

EVERETT TROJANS (20-7)

COACH: Chet Hovde (16th year).

Eleventh tournament appearance. Highest finish was second when they lost to Highline in 1982. Entering this tournament having lost five of their past seven games. Hovde is the only coach to lead two different schools to the NWAACC Tournament. Spent three seasons at Edmonds which appeared in the 1987 tourney.

TOP PLAYERS: Hilary Wick (21.1, 9.8 rbs) Amanda Kerr (18.8, 6.8 rbs), Michelle Sullivan (8.6, 9.3 rbs, 7.2 ast).

GREEN RIVER GATORS (15-12)

COACH: Pete Finlon (2nd year).

13th tournament appearance and first since 1999 when they were NWAACC runner-up. Won NWAACC titles in 1985 and 1987, and were runner-up in 1986. Beat Tacoma in a playoff game to qualify for the tourney.

TOP PLAYERS: Janelle Day (12.0, 6.4 rbs), Jackie Bykonen (11.4), Maranda Broadbrooks (11.2), Stacie Erfle (6.7 rbs).

HIGHLINE THUNDERBIRDS (13-13)

COACH: Amber Rowe (first year).

17th tournament appearance. Won the NWAACC title in 1982 and finished runner-up in 1983, 1988 and 1989. Started league play with an overall record of 1-11.

TOP PLAYERS: Rebekah Proctor (12.2), Kelli Marcus (11.1, 5.8 rbs), Michelle Aurelio (10.9, 11.0 rbs).

LANE TITANS (22-7)

COACH: Greg Sheley (5th year).

Fifth tournament appearance and third in a row. Highest finish was fourth last year. Have won seven of their past eight games including a home win against Clackamas in the league finale.

TOP PLAYERS: Domonique King (16.0, 4.3 ast), Chelsey Brock (14.0), Kailee Short (11.4, 7.6 rbs), LeeAnn Genovese (9.3, 6.4 rbs), Ashley Sequeria (7.7 rbs).

LOWER COLUMBIA RED DEVILS (20-5)

COACH: Jason Hosenev (3rd year).

Eleventh tournament appearance. NWAACC runner-up in 1995 and finished third in 1981. Were unbeaten at home and have won six of their last seven games. Hosenev played for Clark in 1991-92 and 1992-93.

TOP PLAYERS: Jessica Grubb (13.6, 7.5 rbs), Sara Burgoyne (11.7, 6.2 rbs), Erin Wilson (11.3), Talana Watson (10.0, 5.8 rbs).

SHORELINE DOLPHINS (20-6)

COACH: Petra Jackson (2nd year).

First ever tournament appearance. Prior to this season, the Lady Dolphins saw regional post-season play only four times, the most recent coming in 1995. Set a school record for wins this season.

TOP PLAYERS: Ebonee Newson (North MVP, 24.1, 12.8 rbs), Amanda Merkle (14.0, 8.0 rbs), Reyna Gross (12.2, 6.9 ast), Kamela Lyons (9.9).

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SKAGIT VALLEY CARDINALS (18-7)

COACH: Steve Epperson (26th year).

24th tournament appearance, no other school has more. Won NWAACC titles in 1988, 1994, 1996 and 1998. Finished second to unbeaten Clark in 1993 and to Walla Walla in 2001. Cardinals have won or shared the Northern Division crown twelve of the past 16 years. Epperson has been with his college before the conference sanctioned women's basketball.

TOP PLAYERS: Sarah Kuipers (13.1, 5.1 rbs), Kelli Kosa (9.8, 84% ft), Angela Cornejo (4.1 ast).

SPOKANE SASQUATCH (17-8)

COACH: Bruce Johnson (16th year).

19th tournament appearance, only Skagit Valley and Clark have more. Won NWAACC titles in 1983 and 1984, and was runner-up in 1985 and 2000. Finished in fifth place at last season's NWAACC Tournament. Placed fourth at the Lane and Clackamas Tournaments in December. Johnson played for Spokane CC in '74-75 and '75-76.

TOP PLAYERS: Katie Rodgers (17.0, 7.9 rbs), Heidi Horobiowski (15.2, 5.6 rbs), Carly Syverson (12.0, 5.1 ast).

UMPQUA TIMBERWOMEN (22-5)

COACH: Dave Stricklin (8th year).

14th tournament appearance and ninth in the last ten years. Won the school's only NWAACC titles in 1997 and 2000. Finished in third place in four times. Won the Mt. Hood and Edmonds Tournaments in December. Was the top ranked team in the first Coaches Poll of the season before enduring a four-game losing streak in January.

TOP PLAYERS: Lindsey Heard (14.4, 12.2 rbs), Jessica Fisiikava (12.6), LaMesha Walker (11.7, 8.3 rbs), Brittny Brown (11.2, 5.8 rbs), Devina Brooks (10.0, 7.4 rbs).

WALLA WALLA WARRIORS (21-4)

COACH: Bobbi Hazeltine (5th year).

Eighth tournament appearance and fourth in a row. Won the school's first ever women's title in 2001. Won tournaments at South Puget Sound and Treasure Valley. Only league loss was at Big Bend. Have won eight games in a row entering the tourney.

TOP PLAYERS: Aundrea Morrison (East MVP, 20.6, 10.0 rbs), Laura Sprague (11.6), Andra Peterson (5.7 rbs, 6.1 ast).

WENATCHEE VALLEY KNIGHTS (16-11)

COACH: Brett Johnson (2nd year).

19th tournament appearance and seventh in a row. Won the first three NWAACC championships in 1979-81 and were runner-up in 2002. Placed third last year. Needed a road win at Big Bend in their final league game to edge out Columbia Basin for a tournament berth.

TOP PLAYERS: Nikki Haerling (16.5), Nancy Hill (11.8, 8.4 rbs), Meg Smith (6.0 rbs).

WHATCOM ORCAS (16-11)

COACH: Becky Rawlings (8th year).

Third tournament appearance. Placed fifth in 2002. Orcas started the season at 5-8 but have since won eight of their last ten games.

TOP PLAYERS: Sara Hanson (18.5, 82% ft), Erin Anderson (11.6), Tasha Combs (11.3, 5.9 rbs), Porcia Jackson (11.0, 6.5 rbs).

YAKIMA VALLEY YAKS (21-6)

CO-COACHES: Cody Butler & Kelly Robbins (2nd year).

13th tournament appearance. Won back-to-back titles in 1990 and 1991, and placed second in 1996. Won the Chemeketa Tournament in December. Robbins played for YVCC in 1995-96 and '96-97.

TOP PLAYERS: Ladonna Downs (13.4, 8.3 rbs), Dacia Murillo (10.1, 6.3 rbs), Brianna Hilliard (8.7, 7.3 rbs).