

40th ANNUAL NWAACC MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

at Tri-Cities Coliseum --- Pasco, WA --- Feb. 27-March 1, 2003

TOURNAMENT TEAM CAPSULES

BIG BEND VIKINGS (17-9)

COACH: Mark Poth (17th year).

Eleventh tournament appearance. Won the Eastern Region title for the third straight year despite enduring a three-game losing streak in early February. Won the Chemeketa Crossover Tournament in December. Poth played for Bellevue CC in 1975-76.

TOP PLAYERS: Rocky Soliday (17.9, 82% ft), Dan McFaul (13.9, 8.3 rbs), Brian Kast (13.7), Dan Stosich (12.2, 7.2 rbs), Leigh Castillo (10.5), Travis Orhn (10.3, 5.4 ast).

CENTRALIA TRAILBLAZERS (15-11)

COACH: Dave Klodahl (4th year).

17th tournament appearance. Highest finish came in 1983 when they were runner-up. Placed third in 1994.

Centralia is the oldest community college in the Northwest, opening in 1925.

TOP PLAYERS: Virgil Matthews (West co-MVP, 22.7, 8.8 rbs, 6.3 ast), Sean Russell (17.6, 8.2 rbs), Brian Jochim (10.7), Logan Ratcliffe (10.6).

CHEMEKETA STORM (23-5)

COACH: David Abderhalden (2nd year).

17th tournament appearance. Won their first title in 1989 then hosted and won NWAACC Tournaments in 1991 and 1999. Abderhalden was interim coach on that '99 team before earning the position full-time this season. Top defensive team with a 64.9 average.

TOP PLAYERS: Greg O'Neal (13.8), Logan Garvin (South MVP, 10.9, 7.0 ast), Chris Botez (12.3, 8.4 rbs), Jason Hartford (11.9, 6.8 rbs), Josh Downey (11.3), Mike Carr (11.0).

CLACKAMAS COUGARS (19-7)

COACH: Clif Wegner (6th year).

Eleventh tournament appearance. Won NWAACC titles in 1987 and 1994. Placed third four other times and seventh last year. Won the Lower Columbia Tournament in November before placing second in their tournament in December.

TOP PLAYERS: Brandon Gill (19.8), Alex Swerzbin (16.7, 85% ft, 8.8 ast), Ammon Bemis (11.8, 7.0 rbs), Garrett Johnson (11.2, 6.5 rbs), Steve Lemma (9.4, 7.6 rbs).

COLUMBIA BASIN HAWKS (13-11)

COACH: Lane Schumacher (2nd year).

18th tournament appearance but only their fourth in the past 13 years. Won ten NWAACC championships, the last coming in 1990. Was the first ever NWAACC Tournament champion in 1965. Needed a road win at Blue Mountain on the final day of league play to earn tourney berth.

Schumacher played for CBC in 1988-89.

TOP PLAYERS: Kris Groce (East MVP, 21.4, 7.2 ast), Robbie Haynie (18.6), Keegan Cook (12.5, 7.0 ast), Alex Thornton (10.4, 49% 3pt).

EDMONDS TRITONS (19-7)

COACH: Keith Kingsbury (30th year).

19th tournament appearance. Won NWAACC title in 1985 with a 27-1 record and was runner-up in 1993. Won the Wenatchee Valley Crossover tournament and placed third at the Diablo Valley (CA) Tournament in December. Kingsbury, whose first season at EdCC was in 1972-73, is the dean of NWAACC basketball coaches.

TOP PLAYERS: Tyler MacMullen (15.0, 10.2 rbs), Chris Keller (14.8), Travis Fridrich (11.9, 5.1 rbs).

HIGHLINE THUNDERBIRDS (14-12)

COACH: Che Dawson (first year).

19th tournament appearance and first since 2001 when they took their third NWAACC title in five years. In addition to their back-to-back titles in 1997 and 1998, they were runner-up in 1966. Began league play at 0-3 and needed a home win against South Puget Sound in their league finale to clinch a tournament berth.

TOP PLAYERS: Kellen Williams (West co-MVP, 20.5, 11.7 rbs), Zenrique Tellez (11.6), Aaron White (8.7).

LINN-BENTON ROADRUNNERS (11-14)

COACH: Randy Falk (13th year).

First ever tournament appearance. Won four of their last six games to erase an 0-4 start in league play and qualify for the tourney. Finished runner-up four times when LBCC was in the OCCAA before joining the NWAACC for the 1983-84 season.

TOP PLAYERS: Ryan Schmidt (18.2, 5.6 rbs), Michael Braziel (12.6), Bobby Schindler (12.2).

LOWER COLUMBIA RED DEVILS (22-5)

COACH: Jim Roffler (13th year).

25th tournament appearance, more than any other school. Finished runner-up three times as the only title came in 1954. Was the top ranked team in the second Coaches Poll of the season. Roffler, a former LCC player, coached the Lady Red Devils in the 1985 NWAACC Tournament.

TOP PLAYERS: Chris Bannish (15.7, 5.6 ast), Bryan Freshwater (13.5, 7.5 rbs), Keith Nelson (10.8, 84%ft), Steven Trotter (10.9, 6.8 rbs), Brett Tompkins (10.7).

MT. HOOD SAINTS (14-10)

COACH: Rob Nielsen (5th year).

Tenth tournament appearance. Won NWAACC championships in 1973 and 1975, and was runner-up in 1994. Began the season at 0-3 but started league play by winning their first six games. Coming off a road playoff win at Chemeketa on Feb. 23.

TOP PLAYERS: Trevor Hutton (13.4, 6.1 rbs), Gregg Barlow (11.9), Tyson Papenfuss (10.0).

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PENINSULA PIRATES (20-6)

COACH: Peter Stewart (2nd year).

Third tournament appearance. Won the NWAACC title in 1970 behind Bernie Fryer, now a NBA referee. Placed sixth in 2000. Peninsula revived their athletic program in 1997-98 after the school dropped intercollegiate sports at the end of the 1980-81 season. Pirates won the North Division this season after finishing in last place in 2002-03 with a 3-21 record.

TOP PLAYERS: Luke Oleson (18.5), Marques Echols (North MVP, 17.5, 4.8 ast), Brandon Lord (14.7, 6.0 rbs), David Lundy (9.8, 6.8 rbs).

SEATTLE STORM (16-10)

COACH: Billy Rodgers (5th year).

Third tournament appearance. Hosted and won a Crossover Tournament in December. Still seeking their first tournament victory after three games.

TOP PLAYERS: Andres Gordon (17.2, 6.3 rbs), Sam Colter (11.7, 5.9 rbs), Craig Schweikl (10.6), Nick Ellis (4.6 ast).

SKAGIT VALLEY CARDINALS (11-16)

COACH: Roger Valentine (12th year).

16th tournament appearance. Won conference titles in 1950, 1959, 1984 and 1988. Needed two home wins against Everett in a span of four days to qualify for the tourney. Valentine played for SVC in 1974-75 and '75-76 then returned to serve as an assistant for 12 seasons before earning the head coaching position in 1992.

TOP PLAYERS: Bobby Turman (16.0, 7.8 rbs), Landon Lockard (16.0), Andy Anderson (9.9, 4.0 ast), Miles Strampe (7.3 rbs), Craig Britt (4.1 ast).

SPOKANE SASQUATCH (16-11)

COACH: Eric Hughes (2nd year).

Eighth tournament appearance and first since 2000 when they won the NWAACC title. Also finished runner-up in 1979. Beat defending NWAACC champion Yakima Valley on the last day of league play to eliminate the Yaks and qualify for the tourney.

TOP PLAYERS: Matt Bauscher (18.2, 6.3 rbs, 4.4 ast), Kyle Janke (14.9, 5.7 rbs), Dan Bright (11.2).

TACOMA TITANS (14-13)

COACH: A.C. Mosley (first year).

21st tournament appearance and sixth in a row. Titans took the conference championship in 2002 and have won six NWAACC Tournament titles, more than any other school. Tacoma entered league play with a 3-9 overall record. Mosley played for TCC in 1993-94 and '94-95.

TOP PLAYERS: Marcus Whittaker (16.0, 7.2 rbs), Patrick Names (15.2), Barry Jones (10.0), Rob Crawford (8.6, 4.6 ast).

WALLA WALLA WARRIORS (17-8)

COACH: Jeff Reinland (11th year).

21st tournament appearance. Won NWAACC titles in 1978 and 1979 and were runner-up in 1971 and 1982.

Won the Pierce Crossover Tournament and finished second at the Clark Tournament in December. Reinland, who also serves as athletic director, played for WWCC in 1980-81 and '81-82.

TOP PLAYERS: Robert Pankowski (21.6, 9.3 rbs), Justin Fraser (18.3), Eric Orton (12.7, 5.6 rbs), Matt Kelly (12.4, 8.0 rbs), Zach Danelson (11.9, 4.0 ast).