

The week in review (Nov. 7-12)

Volleyball

The stage is set for this week's NWAACC Tournament, which gets underway Thursday at Bellevue CC. Walla Walla, the top ranked team in the final two Coaches Polls of the season, takes their 31-4 overall mark into their first round matchup with Olympic. OC is making their first tourney appearance since they played in the very first NWAACC Tournament in 1978. Making their first ever tourney trip is Treasure Valley, who takes on Whatcom. Last week, some teams needed help from others to make it to the Sweet 16. Yakima Valley got help from Big Bend who defeated Columbia Basin in five games, forcing a tie for fourth place between the Yaks and the Hawks. YVCC defeated CBC twice during league play and received the tourney berth. Southwestern Oregon, who finished second in the final Coaches Poll, makes their first appearance since 2001 while Pierce needed a playoff victory at Tacoma to qualify for the first time in three years. Defending champion Clackamas, despite winning 27 matches and two tournaments during this season, will miss the NWAACC Tournament as they were the odd team out in the tough five-team Southern Division.

Men's soccer

Two games that went into double overtime highlighted the quarterfinal playoffs last Saturday. Defending champion Highline had the tough draw going against unbeaten Wenatchee Valley, the second place team from the East Division. In the second round of sudden-death penalty kicks, the Knights upended HCC to qualify for their first ever Final Four. Also going for the first time is Whatcom, who started their men's program this year. The Orcas used a penalty kick by Joe Grogan with five minutes remaining in the second overtime period to beat Bellevue 2-1. Spokane took a long trip to Coos Bay and went home happy after beating Southwestern Oregon 3-1 while Walla Walla returned to the Final Four with a 2-1 win over surprising Pierce. WWCC, who placed third in last year's tourney, opens with Whatcom while Spokane takes on WVC.

Women's soccer

Walla Walla is back in the NWAACC Tournament for the fifth time in six years after shutting out Southwestern Oregon in the quarterfinals last Saturday. The Warriors, unbeaten in 24 matches, have blanked 17 opponents and outscored their opposition 109-11 this season. Their next opponent will be North champ Shoreline making their first ever appearance in the Final Four. The Dolphins, who are also unbeaten on the season, finished in last place or next-to-last in three of the past four years. West champion Highline needed a 2-1 triumph over Spokane to earn a spot in the tournament while Clackamas defeated Treasure Valley in the quarterfinals for the second straight season and earned a chance to defend their NWAACC title. The Cougars are looking to become the first repeat champion since Tacoma, who won three straight during 1996-98.

Cross Country

Spokane won their fifth straight NWAACC men's title at the conference championships held last Saturday at Lewisville Park in Battle Ground. The Sasquatch placed five runners in the top nine to finish with 26 points, half the point total of runner-up Lane. It was also the eighth title in ten years for CCS. David Morgan of Lane was the individual winner. Lane fared better in the women's race edging Spokane by three points to win their first crown since 1987. Titan runners placed third, sixth, seventh, and ninth, paving the way for a Southern Region team winning the NWAACC title for the sixth straight season. Clackamas' Jessica Harper was the individual winner. Spokane also won the combined team championship, the eighth time they earned that title since it was first

offered in 1988.