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Central Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame Council

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CWU ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES 2008 HALL OF FAME CLASS

Twenty-Fifth Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony to Take Place May 10

ELLENSBURG, Wash. -- (Apr. 23) The 25th annual Athletic Hall of Fame class at Central Washington University has been announced, with the induction ceremonies and banquet scheduled for Saturday, May 10, on the CWU campus.

The class of 2008 features two of the greatest basketball players in the school's history -- **Ryan Pepper** and **Sonia Swan**. Also selected for induction this year is the **1987-88 women's basketball team**, which will become the first women's team inducted into the CWU Athletics Hall of Fame. Multi-sport standouts **Don Pierce** and **Marie Sather** were chosen for induction, as were track and field standouts **Hal Berndt** and **Robert Schippers**. In addition, current CWU biochemistry professor and ultra-marathon runner **Dr. David Lygre** was chosen for meritorious service.

Pepper, who played basketball for the Wildcats from 1992-95, remains the all-time leading scorer in Central Washington University history with 2,254 career points. He also holds the school's scoring records for a single season (898) and single game (46), owning a total of six career and eight single-season statistical records to this day. He will join his brother Jason in the CWU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Swan was a two-time team Most Valuable Player and the first women's basketball All-American in CWU history. She helped the Wildcats qualify for its only NAIA national tournament in 1988 with a school-record 31 victories (31-5) and, some 19 years after completing her eligibility, she is still the school's career leader in rebounding average (8.4 rebounds per game). She is also among the top 10 in 11 career statistical categories despite playing just two seasons in the Crimson and Black.

The 1987-88 women's basketball team celebrates the 20th anniversary of its 31-5 season and appearance in the NAIA national tournament. That squad, led by Swan, is the only women's basketball team to win 30 games in a season and reached that plateau with a dramatic come-from-behind regional championship victory over archrival Western Washington. They will also become the first women's team, and just the 11th team overall, to be inducted into the CWU Athletics Hall of Fame in its 25-year history.

Pierce was a three-sport star for the Wildcats during the 1950s, graduating from Central Washington College of Education in 1956. He lettered four times in both football and track, playing halfback, cornerback, and safety on defense, while also handling punting and kick return duties. He earned first team all-Evergreen Conference honors as a senior football player and received letters from two professional teams before enlisting in the United States Air Force instead. On the track, Pierce starred as a nationally-ranked sprinter and still holds the school record for the 100-yard dash with a time of 9.7 seconds. He also played two seasons of basketball for Leo Nicholson.

Sather represented Central Washington State College in three sports - field hockey, track, and basketball -- when women's sports were beginning to emerge on the intercollegiate level in the early-1970s. A 1974 graduate, she excelled in track, qualifying for nationals in the 100-meter dash as a senior. She also continued with her field hockey

career upon graduation from CWSC, playing for the United States National Team from 1976-79, which included a tour of Trinidad and Barbados in 1978 and of Jamaica in 1980.

Berndt won three consecutive track championships in the Washington Intercollegiate Conference (WINCO) from 1940-42. He won titles in both the 100-yard dash and the 220-yard dash each of those three years before earning his bachelor's degree in education from CWCE in 1944.

Schippers, 1984 graduate of CWU, was a two-time NAIA All-American in the 1,500 meters, finishing second in both 1982 and 1983. As a junior in 1983, he actually posted the fastest 1,500-meter time in the nation at the NAIA level, and he eventually went to the 1984 Olympic Trials in the event for The Netherlands.

Lygre has been a professor of biochemistry at Central since 1970. A previous recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award in 1994, Lygre has not only served the university in his teaching capacity but has also been an established athlete himself. He has competed in numerous ultra marathons and he currently holds the American record for the 100,000 meters in his age group.

The addition of these seven individuals and one team will give the CWU Athletics Hall of Fame a total of 145 individuals and 11 teams that have been inducted since the inaugural class of 1983.

This year's induction ceremony will take place beginning with a 5 p.m. reception in the Student Union & Recreation Center (SURC) Ballroom on the Central Washington University campus. Dinner is scheduled to begin at 5:45 p.m. at a cost of \$35 per person. To attend this year's event, please contact Kim Thomas at 877-649-8707.