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Central Washington University Athletics Press Release, Gary Smith Retirement

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Gary Smith

For more than three decades, Gary Smith has served Central Washington University's physical education and athletic departments with distinction.

This spring, he is completing his 32nd year as a physical education instructor and professor and as the head trainer for the Wildcat athletic department.

Mr. Smith, who joined Central Washington University's staff in 1968, is a nationally-recognized athletic trainer.

He a past president of the NAIA Athletic Trainers Association and is a member of the NAIA, Northwest Trainers Association, and Central Washington University Halls of Fame.

He was elected for meritorious service and was inducted in the NAIA Hall-of-Fame in March, 1985. He was only the second trainer so honored. He was inducted into CWU's Hall-of-Fame in 1991, and was a charter member of the Northwest Trainers Association Hall of Fame in March, 1998.

Mr. Smith has worked at national championship events in baseball, wrestling and track-and-field and at the Hula Bowl football game.

He was on the medical staff for the World University Games in Bulgaria in 1977 and for the Cup of Nations tournament in Bogota in 1974. He also served as trainer for an NAIA basketball team that went to Israel and Greece in 1986. He also spent two weeks working at the Olympic Development Camp in Colorado Springs, Colo., in the summer of 1987.

He has conducted professional workshops at numerous area high schools and at Yakima Valley and Spokane community colleges.

He also served as the director of the Northwest Soccer Camp held at CWU for eight years and also directed a student training camp at CWU for several years.

At CWU, he has taught classes in athletic training, advanced athletic training, First Aid, assessment of athletic injuries as well as numerous activity classes.

On campus, in addition to his teach and training duties, he has served as an advisor for the Student Athletic Trainers Club and Physical therapy club and also

has been a member of the physical education graduate committee. He has also served on three master thesis committees.

 Mr. Smith has also contributed to the community of Ellensburg. He has been a member of the Ellensburg Rotary Club since 1978 and in 1980 served as the chairman of the international student exchange program.

He also served terms as president of the Ellensburg Swim Club and the Ellensburg Little League. Since 1985, he has been the trainer for the Ellensburg Rodeo.

Mr. Smith is also a member of many professional organizations including the National Athletic Trainer Association, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Trainers, the Northwest Athletic Training Association and the Washington State Training Association.

Prior to joining CWU's staff, he was a high school teacher for three years and also was a graduate assistant at Indiana University.

He earned a B.S. degree in biology, physical education and social science at Northern Michigan University in 1964 and a M.S. degree in athletic training and health education at Indiana University in 1965.

He also later did post-graduate work at the University of Hawaii, California State University Hayward, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Portland State University, Seattle Pacific University as well as Central Washington University.