<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dining Services</td>
<td>Financial Break Down</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Recognized for Sexual Assault Prevention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disney World</td>
<td>Comes to Campus</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Mumma</td>
<td>Brings Wine to Central</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's Hoops</td>
<td>Go Against the Vikings</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Danny Bergman, Asst. News editor center, will travel to Ford Field in Detroit for Super Bowl XL.

Read about his experience at [http://thereal12thman.blogspot.com](http://thereal12thman.blogspot.com).

Also check out notable campus member picks for the Super Bowl on page 9.
Dining services changes it up for next year

type-Pai Chen
Senior reporter

Note: This article is the second of two regarding Central Washington University's dining services.

With the operating loss of $760,026 last fiscal year, Central Washington University's dining services is working on a way to turn their financial figures back to black. Instead of meeting its $1,585,164 projected revenue, the combined budget shortfall of $2,17 million has pressured dining services to closely monitor their cash flow.

A new meal plan: similar to a previ­ous plan, will be in effect next fall quar­ter. The change is to help ensure enough revenue to operate, pay overhead and to save for the future.

"When you commit to make certain expenditure up front, we need to have that of cash coming in on a steady basis. But students are not using their meal plan money. That's the problem we have this year," said Richard Coro­na, vice president for Business and Financial Affairs. "The main reason to change the meal plan is to provide stabili­ty to dining services and to serve the student's better."

The current "Declining Balance Meal Plan" does not provide overhead cost until students swipe their connec­tion cards to purchase a meal. If stu­dents do not use enough of their meal plan, they have money left over while dining services cannot cover operating costs.

Currently, when students purchase a food item, 65 percent of what they pay goes to cover dining services' overhead cost. 65 percent of what they pay goes to cover dining services' overhead cost. Dining services cannot cover operating ·

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Currently, when students purchase a food item, 65 percent of what they pay goes to cover dining services' overhead cost such as payroll, repairs and utili­ties while 35 percent is the actual food cost.

Take the $1100 Platinum plan for example. If a student used $600 this quarter, $369 (65 percent) goes to oper­ating fees and $231 is for food cost. Stu­dents would have $500 left in the account that will be carried over to the next quarter until it's voided out after spring.

When the new meal plan goes into effect next fall, 65 percent of the meal plan money will go to cover operating fees at the beginning of the quarter whether a student uses the meal plan or not. Students will pay 65 percent less than non-meal-plan students when they purchase a meal, 25 percent less at the C-Store and 10 percent less at the espresso bar. Items will be labeled with two prices-the retail price and the meal­plan price. Using the same amount of money for example, the new plan will take 65 percent ($715) operating fee at the beginning of the quarter, so a stu­dent would have $185 left. Then, he or she can purchase food for 65 percent less in the restaurants.

Pam Mahre, assistant director of din­ing services, said the new plan will allow the dining services to plan ahead.

"It acts like a forecast," Mahre said at the information session. "The number of meal plans given is an idea of how many customers will be eating during the quarter. That information tells us how much food to buy, how many cooks and student staff to hire."

Students have mixed reactions toward the meal plan changes.

"They're running a business so they need to make money," said Christopher Casey, ASCWU/BOD executive vice president. "But they're taking a huge step to improve what's going on. The ratio of money in your card to the amount of food you will buy will be just the same this year as next year. It appears that you have less, but you pay 65 percent less."

Robin Townsend, sophomore infor­mation technology major, however, has a different perspective.

"This year, you pay 100 percent of what you're purchasing," Townsend said. "But next year, you will have to pay more than 100 percent. They take 65 percent opera­tional fee at the beginning of the quarter no matter if you're going to use the money or not, but only give 25 percent off at the C­ Store. I don't think it's gonna save me any money."

Corona said the C-Store and espresso bar operate differently than Tunnast or Central Café because the food there costs more to purchase.
"We hope students go to the place where they can get the best value for their money," Corona said. "They need to understand they have the option to use the C-Store or to use the restaur­ant. That's the flexibility we provide."

Just like the current meal plan, any money left in a student's account stays with dining services at the end of spring quarter.

Patrick Stanton, enterprise financial manager, said about $48,637 remained from 2370 meal-plan buyers' accounts last year. That money goes to the 573 reserve fund that's shared by Housing, Dining, and Conference programs. However, students wonder how dining services still has a financial shortfall with that much money unused every year.

Corona said that excess is not enough.

Mandy Mortimer, freshman unde­cided major, said she is upset because the "meal plan money I don't use all of my meal plan money and I still have to buy a new plan every quarter."

Some students said the money would be used at the C-Store or 10 percent less at the (­

"The whole idea of meal plan is that you don't have to go off campus to eat, especially for students who don't have a car," said Christie Brister, a student office assistant who works at the con­nection center. "It's part of the din­ing deal that you use (the money) or lose it. So then why not use it?"

Kevin Kimball, assistant vice presi­dent of Business and Financial Affairs, said that reducing labor cost, control­ling inventory, and allowing food prices to float with the market are other ways to bring dining services back to a stable financial status.

"There had been some full time positions and student positions being eliminated and that had impacted the student a little bit. The goal is to save $100,000 to $150,000," Kimball said. "We have also tried to do a better job in terms of purchasing. It's a fine balance because we want to be profitable but we are not trying to overcharge stu­dents."

Students may have noticed the fluc­tuation of the food price since last fall and that situation had created some ani­mosity among students. Corona said the new plan will provide greater buying power and to keep the price more cons­istent.

"I'm not promising they [the prices] will never change," Corona said. "But because we will be better paying power at the beginning, it's more likely for us to keep the price constant across the year than we did this year."
Central honored for sexual assault prevention tasks

by Megan Hansen
Staff reporter

A report published by the United States Department of Justice in December, 2005, has said that college sexual assault is widely considered to be the most underreported violent crime in America. College women are at a higher risk than other women to become victims of sexual assault. With concern rising across the country, colleges are taking a step back and assessing what they can do to improve their sexual assault prevention and assistance programs.

Central Washington University has been recognized as one of eight colleges out of 2500 in the United States with promising programs.

Gail Farmer, director of the Wildcat Wellness Center, said one reason Central's program works so well is the commitment and collaboration of the people involved. Every two years they evaluate the program to see if there is anything they need to change or improve.

Additionally, Central makes an effort to get information out to students. One major goal has been to increase visibility to reduce barriers for students reporting assaults. All information students need regarding contacts, prevention and resources is accessible through Central Police and the Wildcat Wellness Center at both the offices and through the Central Web site.

Through programs put on during freshman orientation as well as follow-up programs offered throughout the year in residence halls, students seem to be getting the information.

"We've had the opportunity to have all freshmen participate in sexual assault prevention programs," Farmer said. The program many students might remember from orientation called "Sex Signals" gives students an entertaining, yet eye opening idea of how easily signals can be misconstrued.

All the focus on visibility seems to be working.

"We're seeing more reports of assaults," said Lt. Kevin Higgins, Central Police. "Our stats [show] four to five assaults a year in residence halls, students seem to be getting the information.

"Central's programming isn't just about what to do and how to go if you're sexually assaulted, but also ways to protect yourself for both men and women," Farmer said. The university's student affairs office wants to know that the accused have resources too," Farmer said. "It's a really fair and balanced policy." Students can get involved with the Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy (SAVA) which includes three hours of training that is offered twice a quarter.

"The main goal of SAVA is to advise [students] on where and how to get services on campus," said Nicole Dunn, co-chair on the Sexual Violence Education Now (SAVEN), a confidential community program for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, works with Central and offers advocate and education training.

I wanted to get some experience working in the field of public interest law," Hillary Logan, senior sociology major, said. "They [ASAVN] have a court watch program for domestic violence and rape cases. It's pretty brain numbing because you have to go through a lot of scenarios that are pretty sad."

Logan, who is currently participating in the 27-hour training program, agrees Central's program is successful.

"We have the opportunity to educate big groups of people through the university," Logan said. Central is sending information out to faculty and staff through a pamphlet, "Sexual Assault Response Guide" which includes information on how to help, definitions, reporting, resources and victim's rights so they know how to help if approached.

GET THE FACTS:
- Most sexual assaults on campus are committed by an acquaintance.
- One in five women experience rape during college.
- Less than five percent of completed rapes are reported.

Resources:
- ASPEN 965-9583 (24-hr local service)
- Central Washington University Sexual Assault Response Coordinator 965-3216 (9am-5pm)
- Public Safety and Police Services 965-2850
- Central Washington University Student Counseling 965-1201

Central's programming isn't just about what to do and how to go if you're sexually assaulted, but also ways to protect yourself for both men and women."

COMPUTERS: Deep Freeze protects campus computers from virus

Deep Freeze protects campus computers from virus

Deep Freeze anti-virus software is being used across the campus.

Students finally got the chance to see what the "Do you agree with Jason?" campaign was all about last Thursday, Jason Clark is a communication studies major and an active member of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Jason appears at event to explain Christian stance

by Rebecca Thomson
Staff reporter

It started with "Tyler and Pete" but most recently has been about Jason.

With Christian groups being a presence at Central Washington University, students are not likely to find someone who hasn't wondered about SALSA: most recent promotional campaign which poses the question "Do you agree with Jason?"

SALSA, an organization of various Christian groups on campus, began this campaign which led to an event that took place on Jan. 27 in the Samuelson Union Building.

The promotional method used by SALSA involved nothing more than the stating of a simple phrase.

Until the night of the event both Jason's identity as well as the message he would share would be kept tightly under wraps by the organizers.

"We wanted to build suspense and intrigue," Amy Campbell, senior elementary education major, said. "Our intent is to say this is who we are and what we stand for."

The tactic was used before with the "Do you agree with Tyler and Pete?" campaign. Some students felt this method was deceitful and some were surprised at the nature of the event once it was revealed.

"We weren't trying to trick people, we were hoping to entice them to come," said Heather Mitchell, senior English education major and active SALSA member, of the "Jason" promotion.

Jeff Lamborn, freshman political science major and SALT member, was disappointed in the promotional methods used by SALSA to generate attendance.

"I think it would be better to focus on the whole group, not one person," Lamborn said.

Jason Clark, senior communication studies major, is an active member of Campus Crusade for Christ and has been looking to spread a message of his personal growth and experience with Christianity. One of his overall goals for this event was to talk about creating a united Christian community on Central's campus.

"This is the most important message anyone could ever make a decision about," Clark said when asked about the inspiration for his involvement in the event.

Clark said the event was promoted in the way it was to "get people to ask questions, to think about something they normally wouldn't think about."

The overall intent of the event was for students to share their beliefs about God and connect with others who are looking to make a decision about their own, which would in turn build strong relationships.

"We wanted to get the message out there, spread the word and our beliefs," Mitchell said.

This time around, the response to the event appeared less hostile than "Tyler and Pete."

"Central should be open to all points of view as long as we are honest and open to everyone," Diane Bedwell, senior sociology major, said. "Everyone has the right to equality no matter your religious background, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and/or gender preference."

Despite the controversial promotional techniques, "Do you agree with Jason?" accomplished its goals to generate interest and spread the message that SALSA is passionate about. The university's student affairs office wanted to know that the accused have resources too," Farmer said. "It's a really fair and balanced policy."

"We have the opportunity to educate big groups of people through the university," Logan said. Central is sending information out to faculty and staff through a pamphlet, "Sexual Assault Response Guide" which includes information on how to help, definitions, reporting, resources and victim's rights so they know how to help if approached.

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COMPUTERS: Deep Freeze protects campus computers from virus

Deep Freeze protects campus computers from virus

Deep Freeze anti-virus software is being used across the campus.
Snow brings out the sand

by Carleigh Lorenz
Staff reporter

Winter maintenance is something that most students don’t think about. They probably notice the sand when they drag it into their rooms, but they might not realize how much work goes into winter maintenance. Last year, the facilities management’s grounds crew used 300 cubic yards of sand. So far this year, they have used 150 yards of sand.

“We use both sand and salt. This is a normal day with no snow, the grounds crew starts at 6 a.m. Facilities Management staff normally works eight hour shifts with opportunities for overtime. Most students seem to think that the grounds crew is doing a good job. I think that in some places it’s good, like on the main drives and in other places it can be a bit messy. The rocks and sand can get a little irritating. The snow is well kept to the side,” Lindsay Ellwanger, sophomore elementary education major, said.

Once the snow and ice clean up, the sand will be swept up, although sometimes it can get put down again the next day. Mumma said that when the sand gets swept up, “we stockpile it and recycle it and use it when we’re putting in pipes underground.”

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On Friday, Jan. 27, after 28 years of waiting, push­
ing people to vote, planning and voting our state legis­
latives passed the Gay Civil Rights bill (House Bill 2461) with a Senate vote of 23-23. The bill essentially expands the state’s existing anti-discrimination law and grants sexual minorities protection in matters of employment, public accom­modation, finances, and hous­
ing. Before the Seattle Times religion editor Ed Murray (O-Seattle), who pushed the bill in the legislature since 1995 after taking it up from Senator Cal Anderson, commented that if the bill passed it would prove that democracy worked.

The bill passed, and though it took nearly thirty years, it does show that democracy works in our state. Now we have to see where the law takes us. It could even take us to the legalization of same-sex marriage. Our state Supreme Court is currently set to decide on the legality of gay marriage, after hearing arguments against last year’s ban on gay marriage. The decision could come as early as March before the legislative session ends. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex marriage the legislature could be called upon to make a deci­sion about a gay marriage law, but it’s hard to tell if it might happen too fast. And it is an election year, which means that some races and political mud­
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Wine classes: Find out how to become a wine expert. PAGE 7

Calendar: A look at what is happening this week on and off campus. PAGE 7

Astronomy club: If you love star gazing, find out how you can join this club. PAGE 8

Superbowl: Throw a rockin' Superbowl party with penguins. PAGE 7

Cougars: Cougars invade Kittitas County. Learn how Project CAT is helping. PAGE 8

Wine connoisseur shares her talent

by Andrea Rust
Staff reporter

World-renowned wine instructor and Central Washington University’s World Wine Coordinator Amy Mumma, knew at a very young age she loved wine. The study and enjoyment of wine has been her lifelong passion.

"Wine was a part of our culture growing up," Mumma said. "I also lived and studied in France for several years learning and traveling around the different wine regions." Today, Mumma can lay claim to being the world's top female wine professional, after winning the prestigious title of Professional Wine Woman 2005, the top award of the International Wine Women Awards in Paris, France.

"It is truly a huge honor for me to be recognized for my technical knowledge, tasting, and presentation skills," Mumma said of the competition. "So I didn't expect to win," Mumma said. "And the other competitors are great women." Mumma competed among 167 other women from 20 countries. Ten finalists were selected to present their technical knowledge, tasting, and presentation skills.

"They told me two weeks before I was supposed to leave," Mumma said of the competition. "So I didn't have long to prepare!"

In the end, wine judges from Europe and the United States selected Mumma as the winner in the professional category.

"I didn’t expect to win," Mumma said. "And the other competitors are great women." Along with holding the Wine Woman 2005 title, Mumma also holds the Advanced Certificate of Wine and Spirits from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust in 20 countries.
AMY: Get to know the woman behind Central’s wine program

Continued from 6

London. She also has a Diploma of Tasting from the University de Bourgogne in Dijon, France and has traveled to many of the world’s vineyards and wine producing areas. She is also the only Master of Wine candidate in Washington state from the prestigious Master of Wine program at the Institute of Masters of Wine in London.

In 2002, Mumma founded Central’s wine studies program through the Office of Continuing Education.

“She is very engaging and makes things fun,” said Jonica Bridges, who has taken classes from Mumma. “She is so knowledgeable, inspiring, and makes me want to learn.”

The program offers business training for members of Washington’s wine industry, academic programs for students and short courses for anyone.

“She is so wonderful and funny, and she really engages you,” said Susan McPhee, who frequently takes wine classes from Mumma.

Washington state statistics show there are more than 11,000 wine-related jobs in the area and only 25 percent of those involve growing grapes and wine making, while the other 75 percent of those involve business and trade in the wine industry.

“Throughout my studies I noticed there is a lack of academic programs that focus on the business aspect of wine making. We need to fill the gap that is not being filled,” Mumma said. “Central offers the only program of its type, and we focus on the global wine market while most other programs focus on grape growing or wine making.”

Washington state is the nation’s second largest producer of wine, according to the Washington Wine Commission.

“Eastern Washington has a great climate,” Mumma said. “And Central is great because it’s a teaching university with an open environment and we are right in the middle of wine country so we get great hands on experience.”

Course prepares students for career in wine

by Laura Craves
Staff reporter

Imagine having a job that involves traveling around the world visiting different wine regions, learning all about the wine industry and getting to taste thousands of different wines.

Amy Mumma, Central Washington University’s World Wine program coordinator, has this dream job, and wishes to share her knowledge.

The courses offered at Central are an exciting and hands on way to learn all aspects of wine and the wine industry.

Mumma started teaching various wine trade classes and wine appreciation courses to share her knowledge of wine with the public.

“I was looking at other existing college [wine] programs and they all focused on brewing and not on the business aspect of the wine industry. Our program is here to focus on the business side as well,” Mumma said.

Wine consumer courses are open to the public and the classes are offered once a month. Around 70 people usually attend these classes, including people from all over the state.

People can expect to leave these classes knowing about wines all over the world, what kind of wines go best with certain meals, how wine is made and much about the business side of wine making as well. Karen Lee from Yakima attended a class with her husband simply to learn a bit more about wine.

“I am interested in learning more about wines from all over the world, and to see how Washington wines compare with other places. I also like learning the right vocabulary so I don’t sound like an idiot” Lee said.

While all of the consumer courses are filled for this year, Mumma will offer a series of wine appreciation classes opening in March. Anyone age 21 and over is welcome to attend – spots fill up fast so make sure to register early.

For those who wish to not only learn about the wine industry, but receive credit while doing it, Central offers a wine trade and tourism minor.

This program will prepare students for employment in many different areas of the wine industry, including tours, the tasting room and wine events, hospitality services, wine sales and management.

This program is open to all students age 21 and over and some course fees may apply.

For more information go to

www.cwu.edu/~cwucp

Check out SeeMe Online at www.wwu.edu/observer to read about The First Friday Art Walk and Dance, A review of “Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets to Success, One Relationship at a Time” and The Wildart Apprentice.

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Astronomy Club brings Planetarium to Central

by TJ McMahon
Staff reporter

A large inflatable dome, star charts and telescopes. This will be the scene Saturday March, 4 as the Astronomy Club brings the Bubble Planetarium to the Mary Grupe Center.

People with an interest in astronomy or those who just love to star gaze may want to consider joining the Central Washington University Astronomy Club. Central students and Ellensburg community members make up the Astronomy Club which gathers in Lind Hall from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. every Monday night. They discuss astronomy, plan events, and if the weather cooperates, go to the roof of the building to observe the sky "with Central's telescope."

The Astronomy Club has been in existence since 1998. The club was founded by Frida Shroyer, a Central alumna, now teaching middle school science in Fairbanks, Alaska. physics professor Bruce Palmquist said. Club president Tony Smith talked about the Astronomy Club planning its biggest event of the year -- the Bubble Planetarium.

The Bubble Planetarium is an educational experience where visitors enter a large inflatable dome with a projector inside which is used to project various images for the audience to view. The dome can hold approximately 30 to 50 people at a time.

The purpose of the Bubble Planetarium is to teach people about the night sky, patterns in the sky, and where things rise and set in the sky. It's a way to provide once-in-a-lifetime learning for the community members, age five to senior citizens," said Palmquist, in a press release.

Palmquist was recently awarded 2005's Washington State Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

The club is open to all Central students, as well as Ellensburg community members.

For more information visit their Web site at www.cwu.edu/~astroclb.

Project CAT helps local cougars

Gary Koehler a wildlife research scientist with the Wildlife Program of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife speaks to students and faculty about cougars living in Kittitas County.

"I enjoyed it," Trenton DeBoer, junior major, said. "It made me want to learn more about the aspects of the program."

Koehler started the evening by outlining the Project CAT program, which gives 5-12 students in the Cle Elum/Roslyn school district a chance to learn by interacting with the cats and identifying them.

Koehler said the goal of the project is to understand cougar biology and ecology in developing areas so the community can better co-exist with them.

"It was wonderful and very informative," Keri Karl, senior Spanish education major, said. "I found out more about Project CAT and the migration patterns of cougars."

The focus then turned to the locations of the cougars. The WDFW uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) to track the big cats. There is about one adult cougar per 188 kilometers in Kittitas County, which is average for Washington. Koehler said the cougars live wherever deer and elk are. This presents a challenge to property owners and developers in an area heavy with deer and elk, some of whom turn to cougar hunting to protect their land.

Hunting is the number one cause of death for cougars. An average of 300 cougars per year are killed by Washington hunters and 60,000 cougar tags for hunting licenses are sold every year.

The main reason Project CAT was founded is to educate children about the animals today so they will be able to successfully co-exist with the wild cats in the future.

More information on can be found at: www.fish.washington.edu/naturemaping/project_cat.html.
Hicks scores 41 in 'Cats loss

by Jake Paquette
Staff reporter

Defense wins championships, but that doesn't mean you can't go nuts on offense.

Senior guard Robert Hicks went wild on Thursday against Humboldt State University hitting his first six three-pointers. The first three pointer that Hicks missed came with five minutes remaining in the game.

"I was really feeling it," Hicks said. "The rim was just humming. A couple shots went deep and they just kept going in."

The numbers Hicks put up offensively were some of the best in school history. Archives on wildcatsports.com only date back to the '52-'53 season, but in the past 42 years, only two players have broken 40 points in a single game. Ryan Pepper did it three times in the '95 season, including his single-game school record of 46 points. Pepper was 10 of 17 from three-point land in that game, a school record.

Hicks made a jaw dropping eight of nine attempts from the arc, including his single-game school record of 46 points. Ryan Pepper did it three times in the '95 season, including his single-game school record of 46 points. Pepper was 10 of 17 from three-point land in that game, a school record.

The key to the Vikings explosion, but fueled by the momentum of its first-ever Super Bowl appearance and the work of MVP Shaun Alexander and quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle will bring the Emerald City its first football title.

Senior guard Chris Bannish has the same idea for containing Grant Dykstra.

"We have to make him take tough shots, and always keep a hand in his face," Bannish said. "Last time we played them, he had too many easy transition buckets."

A win against Western would be huge for Central, coming off of a four game losing streak.

"A win here would erase everything that has happened in the past four games," said Bannish.

Both teams have high scoring offenses but fueled by the momentum of its first-ever Super Bowl appearance and the work of MVP Shaun Alexander and quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, Seattle will bring the Emerald City its first football title.
Corwin's heart led her to the court

by Seth Williams
Staff reporter

Having played soccer, track & field, softball and basketball throughout her life, senior Jamie Corwin will tell you that she loves playing all sports. Luckily for the Central women's team, she chose to pursue a career in basketball.

"Basketball is the one sport I really love," Corwin said. "I really enjoy being out on the court."

The 5-11 forward has also an uncanny ability to put the ball in the hoop for the past two years that she has been at Central. This season alone she has been a large part of the Wildcat's offensive production. Not only does she have the highest scoring average on the team with 15.9 points per game, but she also has been the leading scorer for the Wildcats in nine of the 16 games they have played.

Corwin started her collegiate career at the University of San Diego where she was offered a basketball scholarship right out of high school. After playing for the USD Toreros for two years she transferred to Central looking to improve her overall as a player and the game and the Wildcat women's squad. So far, so good.

Her season high came last December in Seattle when she poured in 27 points and a career-high five steals at the Showdown in the Sound against Western Washington University.

With such an amazing offensive proficiency, a career in hoops after graduation is one many possible opportunities that Corwin has.

"It's hard at the Division II level to find players that go on and play at the professional level," said women's basketball Coach Jeff Whitney. "But with Jamie's skills, she could definitely play overseas."

Jamie Corwin shoots over Western's Tina Donahue Justin Mann | Observer at the Showdown on the Sound on December 17.

Thanks to Corwin in Ellensburg, where she has at least two more months of games to dominate and where the women's basketball team is trying to win ten more games in a tough GNAC league. With her future uncertain, Corwin is trying to take things in stride and not let not the pressure of big upcoming games against Humboldt State and Western Washington University get to her.

"Right now I'm trying to have fun," Corwin said.

Central 4X400 takes top spots at 2nd UW Open

The women's 4X400-meter relay qualified for the first place finish running 4:07.36 minutes on Jan. 29 at the University of Washington Open. Corwin, senior Amanda Gius, freshman Rachel Karcher, and senior Lindy Mullen helped the Wildcat pride strong during the meet.

The Central Washington University, including Corwin, had a successful couple of weeks. Some of the momentum was set by junior distance runner Tina Adkisson last week at the Washington State University Open where she set a new record in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10:16 minutes.

"She came from a [Division 1] school so we knew she'd be a top competitor," Head Coach Evans said. As each week passes, the coaching staff is getting a better grasp on what they are working with and who may go to nationals this year.

For the next few weeks, the coaching staff is giving the track and field team a break from competition.

The Wildcats scheduled a partial squad to attend the UW Invitational so the results were few and far between. Both the men and women competed against Division I and Division II schools such as Florida State University, Seattle Pacific University and Western Oregon University during the UW Open #2. Senior Lindy Mullen took fifth place in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:20.02 minutes. Senior Brady Anderson ran 2:23.20 in the 5,000-meter run securing sixth.

Sophomore Haley Ams secured third place in the women's pole vault with a jump of 11-03.75 feet. Adkisson said the high jumps and long jumps will be added to her best ever.

The men also did well; the 4X400-meter relay took third place with a time of 3:17.09. The runners to secure that sport were senior Geoff Anderson, freshman Corey Cronkright, freshman Sean Doyle and senior Jake Roberts.

Central's big name thrower, junior Cameron Noel, took fourth place in the weight throw with 51.09.00 feet, with teammate freshman Matthew Valdez taking tenth with 45.02.25 feet.

Central is tearing it up in their conference. So far in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, which Central is a part of, the women are holding first place in the 400-meter, 3,000-meter, and shot put. The men are first in the 200-meter, 60-meter hurdles, and shot put.

The Wildcats will be able to show their stuff next in the McDonald's Collegiate Invitational. Adkisson said it's mainly the throwers who are competing and other athletes can go if they want to compete. The McDonald's Collegiate Invitational is in Moscow, Idaho on Feb. 3 and 4.

"Competing every week indoors is not easy," Adkisson said. Since the athletes are still getting their bodies used to the stress, the coaching staff is trying to give their athletes a chance to rest from competition. But that not the Wildcats will be ready to compete at the champioships.

Women's hoops break even over the weekend

by Casey Donovan
Staff reporter

After winning three in a row, the Central Washington University Wildcats have dropped two of their last three, during last Saturday's defeat against the Seattle University Redhawks 55-47.

The Wildcats of recent have been struggling in many facets of the game including shooting percentage, where they only shot 30 percent from the field in their loss to the Redhawks.

"The game was in reach," Coach Jeff Whitney said, "but we were unable to execute and win the game."

Besides the trifecta of Corwin, Wright, and Hull who combined for 32 points against Seattle, the Wildcats are struggling to get offense from the rest of the team in most games this season.

In the Great Northwest Athletic Conference game, Central jumped out to a 13 point lead just seven minutes into the contest. All of the sudden, the Wildcats couldn't hit the broadside of a barn. Central managed to score only seven points in just under 14 minutes. This let Seattle right back into the game as the Redhawks led at halftime by three at 26-29.

Seattle out scored the Cats for 32 points in the paint, with Central accounting for 10 points in the paint. Seattle's bench was equally impressive posting 27 points to the Central bench 10.

The Wildcats will host conference opponent Western Oregon in what should be an easy victory against a team that has yet to win a game all season. But Corwin is still preaching to his team that they must go one game at a time and not look ahead to bigger matchups.

"In our conference it doesn't matter

see WILDCATS page 11 ▶
“I think anyone third through sixth is in a good position to get a win against Western Oregon,” Whitney said. “I’m not saying that saying that he’s going to be the one to declare victory but...”

His blood and guts of the Steeler D. Right now, Mike is thinking about Polamalu. He’s a thinking man. He’s a thinking football player. He’s trying to figure out how to contain Polamalu. If he’s going to be big on Saturday night, Jamie Corwin should be...”

...It just depends how many. And said he was drafted too high. He isn’t very good. He isn’t a top ten pick. His first year was not very good. He was not highly recruited. After being rejected by the University of New Haven, Tatupu went to University of Maine. He was the team’s defensive rookie of the year and back kickoff specialist. After his freshman year he transferred to his father’s alma mater, USC, and walked on. Tatupu is an undrafted. Various universities snubbed him. Scouts obsessed with bench press and IQ tests overlooked him and said he was too small. He isn’t a freak of nature, athlete. He is a jack-of-all-trades, his biggest strength is his versatility.

All Tatupu has ever done is win. That’s good enough for me.

Troy Polamalu is more than just a safety on an NFL team. He’s more than just one of the most dynamic defensive players in the NFL. At 6'4" 225, he embodies what the Pittsburgh Steelers are, and it starts and ends with him. Troy Polamalu can’t hold his defensive unit together and they aren’t the same team. You make them a different team, and they aren’t in the Super Bowl. He’s the blood and guts of the Steeler D. Right now, Mike Holmgren is thinking about how to slow down Ben Roethlisberger. He’s thinking about how to block Joey Porter. And he’s trying to figure out how to contain Polamalu. When Seattle runs the football, it will be Polamalu up in the box, looking to make the stop. He’s versatile, aggressive and frightening to play against. On top of that, the third year safety is incredible. After eight games, he’s playing at his best. That’s the mark of a special player. When the heat goes up on the playing field, Polamalu becomes a predator. As the game gets bigger, he takes his performance to another level. Now with that being said, I also know that Tatupu has done for Seattle this season. Either way, he’ll make plays. If he’s on top, Tatupu will need to improve. Great rookie season. But in the NFL, yesterday’s big news is today’s past tense. Perspective changes. Just like many Seahawk fans wanted Mike Holmgren out years ago, now they can’t stop singing his praises. Is this a fluke? Or will he continue to climb? I’m not ready to declare him one of the NFL’s best just yet. I’m not saying that the Steeler fans are going to be beat the Seahawks on Sunday evening. I’m not saying that the Seahawks are terrible and overrated. All I’m saying is that Troy Polamalu is better than his Losa Tatupu. I’m not a bias for seeing football globally, not with tunnel vision. And I know that Polamalu is incredible. So yeah, I’m not a psychic. And no, I don’t know who is going to win Sunday. But I do know that Troy Polamalu is a force. If the Sea­hawks want to move the football, they better account for him. Either way, he’ll make plays. It just depends how many.

WILDCATS: Women’s basketball at season’s halfway point

Continued from 10

who you play,” Whitney said. “If we can get a win against Western Oregon, we can propel us into our game on Saturday.”

If the Wildcats fail to win tonight, you can more than likely kiss their post-season chances goodbye. The game plan against Oregon should be nothing against Polamalu. He’s a thinking man. He’s a thinking football player. He’s trying to figure out how to contain Polamalu. If he’s going to be big on Saturday night, Jamie Corwin should be...”

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