The Observer

Central Washington University

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SPRING SLUGGERS

WILDCATS HAVE BEST FIRST HALF SINCE 2008

PAGE 12
The Observer
by the students & for the students of CWU

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Jamie Terrie
Alexis Thomas
Photographers
Joseph Andrews
Tyler Belan
Courtney Brunner
Cindy Gamboa
Quan Lam
Joie Sullivan

STAFF
Cynthia Mitchell
Faculty Adviser
mitchelc@cwu.edu
Kristin Gaskill
Business & Ad Manager
509-963-1026
Student Ad Manager
Jessie Fisher
Ad Designer
Paul Riggins

Kittitas County dubbed healthiest
BY EVAN PAPPAS
staff reporter

BOD weekly meeting update
BY JULIA MARTINEZ
staff reporter

Jason Brown speaks in SURC
BY JASMINE SINGH AND SANTOS HERRERA

STAFF
Cynthia Mitchell
Faculty Adviser
mitchelc@cwu.edu
Kristin Gaskill
Business & Ad Manager
509-963-1026
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Paul Riggins

Editorial policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of the Observer is two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large, and to be the best source for information, education and entertainment news. As a training program, the Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values, and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions call (509) 963-1073 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

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Weekend sports information: Sunday 5 p.m.
Letters to the editor: Sunday 5 p.m.
Entertainment, meetings, calendar events, display ads, classified ads: Friday 5 p.m.

CONTACT US
The Observer
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Bouillon Hall 222
Ellensburg, WA 98926
M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
509-963-1073

ADVERTISING
Kristin Gaskill
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Bouillon Hall 232B
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-963-1026
gaskillk@cwu.edu
No shirt, no shoes, no workout

Recreation Center looks to re-enforce dress code policy

BY SAMANTHA MONTEBERRY
Staff Reporter

The University Recreation Center is currently working on polishing its rules and policy book and more strictly re-enforcing the dress code.

The policy will state that people using the gym must keep a shirt on at all times unless the student is participating in a game of shirts and skins, according to Michael Montgomery, membership services and facility coordinator of University Recreation.

Shoes are another article of clothing that must be worn at all time unless a person is in the locker room.

Currently, there is no punishment for breaking the dress code, but staff members are working on appropriate ways to regulate rules and punishments.

During winter quarter, the Rec Center began randomly surveying Central students, asking questions about the Recreation Center’s dress code.

According to the Rec Center website, the survey is part of a new health and body awareness campaign.

The results of the survey will pinpoint where changes are needed in the dress code in order to provide a more inviting environment.

University Recreational officials said these policies have been in place since the center opened in 2006.

“Our policies, they are not new policies, they are actually pre-existing,” Montgomery said. “We’re just looking to enforce them a bit stronger and make sure that people know that they are in place. We have had a dress code policy that has been in use since we have opened.”

Students may not know where to find these policies, or that they even exist, Jean Figueroa, junior public health major, had no idea there was a dress code.

“I didn’t even know about it and even if they were to be more strict about it, I think everyone will pretty much ignore it unless you kick them out or something,” Figueroa said.

Figueroa was not pleased about the University Recreation officials’ decision to begin reinforcing these policies.

“That’s annoying to go work out and not be comfortable,” Figueroa said. “I don’t think girls show too much, and every guy wears a cuts-off shirt. Pretty much everybody is going to be disappointed about this.”

Brandon Walton, junior physical education major, agrees.

“University Recreation officials don’t want students to think this is just about making them wear more clothing to the gym. The purpose of the campaign is to inform students that these are existing policies.

“It’s for many reasons, but the primary function of every policy is safety,” Montgomery said. “If you look at our cell phone policy and dress code policy, they are both rooted in safety.”

According to Andy Fields, director of University Recreation, the number of people not following the policy has continued to increase.

“We want a non-intimidating environment,” Fields said. “A gym shouldn’t just be for an elite athlete, it should be for everybody. Everybody should be embracing health and wellness no matter what their body looks like.”

According to Fields, Central’s Rec Center standards are on par with other Central policies, especially concerning the dress code.

“A lot of universities don’t allow anything less than a t-shirt for your upper body,” Montgomery said.

After two years as the membership and facility coordinator, Montgomery said he feels he finally has the chance to make some changes. Now that he has his feet on the ground, he can focus on strengthening policies.

“We want this to not just a gym but a true collegiate recreation center, where people maybe have never had the opportunity to be in a facility like this and be able to work out,” Montgomery said.

“They are able to develop these lifelong habits, so once they move away from Ellensburg they can find a facility and continue that.”

The University Recreation Center welcomes comments and feedback from anyone. Students are encouraged to contact them via email at rec@cwu.edu.

$show me the money

Central is set to credit $507,438 to the S&A fund

BY MATT THOMPSON
Staff Reporter

After receiving a letter from the Washington state auditor’s office and recalculating the administrative fee, Central Washington University is set to credit $507,438 to the student Services and Activities fee fund.

Last week Connie Williams, assistant vice president of finance and business auxiliary, estimated a revision of the administrative fees for fiscal years 2012 through 2014 would result in an $800,000 refund.

After detailed recalculation, the administrative fee recalculation is $769,527. That includes the crediting of $507,438 from fiscal year 2012, the $175,669 adjustment to fiscal year 2013 as well as the $86,420 revision for the first year of the fiscal year 2014-2017 base-funding request.

“We have taken the S&O letter and we have responded based on our understanding of that letter,” Williams said. “And the administration felt this was an appropriate action to the letter.”

Due in part to the reconciliation of the admin fee, the S&A committee will be able to carry over approximately $1 million into next year’s S&A operating budget. As a result, the S&A committee has halted categories withdrawn because they were found illegal included Presi-

The recalculation resulted in the removal of cost categories deemed questionable allocations.

Revisions were also made to the admin fee for the 2013 fiscal year supplementary request as well as to the base-funding request for 2014 to 2017 fiscal years.

Fiscal year 2013’s admin fee was reduced by 30.7 percent, or $175,669, to the total of $395,498. Because the fiscal year is not over and the admin fee for this year has not been fully allocated, the reduction will not be credited to the S&A fund but instead the admin fee allocation will be for the revised amount.

The admin fee’s base funding amount has been reduced by 19.3 percent to a total of $361,866 per year and has been approved in the four-year base-funding budget for fiscal years 2014 through 2017. This means the admin fee will receive this amount for the next four years without returning to the S&A committee for approval.

These categories have been re-evaluated to find proper justification for the cost categories of information technology policy and management, as well as IT application & enterprise information systems management. These categories had been previously found by the auditor to be insufficiently supported and were therefore deemed questionable allocations.

Though the revisions based on the auditor’s letter have saved the S&A committee from spending $797,527, there are some on the S&A committee who do not feel the auditor’s office delved deep enough into the details of the admin fee.

“We’ve made a win, but at the same time we’re not done, because there is still the argument about whether any of it is allowable,” Kylea Wells Brown, S&A committee voting member, said.
The legality of underage drinking hasn’t changed, but an additional $250 fee may be enacted for minors who are under the influence but refuse to be taken to a hospital after calling for an ambulance.

If enacted, the fee would replace the ambulance service costs, if an alternative is not agreed upon.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Rich Elliott, the fee is meant to pay for any unnecessary ambulance trips to an underage person’s residence.

“We are seeing about 160 alcohol overdoses a year,” Elliott said. “Of those, about 40 percent, on average, are resulting in transport.”

This is a problem for the ambulance service because, under current laws, they only get paid if someone is transported. The $250 fee is only enough to cover the ambulance trip and would only be applied to underage persons who are breaking the law.

Elliott acknowledged that, despite the simplistic nature regarding the implementation of the fee, there are downsides that cannot be overlooked.

“I feel like people wouldn’t call 911 because they wouldn’t want to pay the fee,” said Margaret Nash, sophomore elementary education major.

Some feel the fee could be beneficial. “The EMT is providing a service, and someone should pay for that,” said Ha-leigh Downing, junior English major.

It was decided at the last city council meeting that alternatives should be looked into.

One alternative that has been suggested is working with Central Housing and Central police to change some of the policies for calling 911. Currently, the policy for calling 911 in the dorms is broad and includes calls that might not be necessary.

“I understand why the policy is there, but it is sort of an overuse of the system,” Elliott said.

The Ellensburg Fire Department has limited resources and personnel, so the calls that aren’t necessary take money away from services that could use extra funds.

Creating more specific guidelines for calling the police has the potential to limit the overuse of the ambulance service.

The overall goal is not to target underage drinking. The concern is mainly with funds that are being wasted, Elliott said.

The goal is to “eliminate the unnecessary use of the ambulance service to the extent of which we can safely do so,” Elliott said. Safety is definitely being taken into account. The fire department would like to see a decrease in the need for the ambulance service, but not if it isn’t safe.

It will still be a few weeks before anything is decided for certain.

Revising the policies is an option, but there are many individuals who need to approve such a change in protocol.

At this point the details are still being worked out.

“If we were to come up with a solution to what the overall problem is, I doubt it [the fee] would be enacted,” Elliott said.
New middle school is center of attention

BY PATIENCE COLLIER
Staff Reporter

Students may have seen the posters and signs around town, advocating for the upcoming bond for the district to construct a new middle school.

The ballots for the bond will go out this week, and the vote is April 23.

The proposed new building would be located on the Ellensburg High School campus, off of Third Avenue.

Professor James Pappas, who served on the Strategic Planning Facilities Committee, said he thinks the bond has a good chance of passing.

The bond has run three times before, previously receiving 55 percent in favor, but still fell short of the 60 percent necessary to pass.

Pappas believes the main reason behind the bond failing was a lack of information made available to the voting public.

This time, the citizens’ committee to promote the new middle school has spent more time informing voters and talking to members of the community, and are hoping to gain more support for the bond.

“We’ve talked to university students this time, we’ve talked to every parent group, we’ve talked to the Chamber of Commerce, 4H Clubs, business economic development... the Democratic party, the Republican party, the Generation’s Young Businessmen, the Rodeo Coronation Committee, all the elements of this town,” Pappas said.

Despite some anticipated aid from the state, construction of the new middle school will result in higher property taxes in order to pay off the bond.

Pappas noted that this could make the bond difficult to promote, particularly to the agricultural parts of Ellensburg.

Such a tax hike would have a greater effect on landowners with more acreage.

However, the alternative to building a new middle school—renovating and modernizing Morgan Middle School—would not save the taxpayers or the district a significant amount of money.

According to the Strategic Planning Facilities Committee, the cost of remodeling Morgan would be similar to the cost of building a new middle school.

For many students, this is an issue that may concern them in the future, if not now.

Although some students do not see the need for the bond, others consider it necessary.

Junior Mohanad Alhusseini said he considers the tax hike to be unnecessary.

“Why does the government need money to pay for a new school?” Alhusseini said.

Alhusseini dislikes how there is no other way to fund the project, and believes the government should have them on every already, or should obtain it some other way for example, by cutting politician’s salaries.

Other students have expressed support for the idea.

Senior Alex Nunez, who attended Morgan Middle School for a brief time after moving to Ellensburg, said the building is showing its age.

The windows were warped, he remembers, and some of the men’s bathrooms were missing stall doors, causing him to sneak into the newer portion of the school to avoid using the problematic restrooms.

Nunez recalled a great deal of old and outdated architecture and furniture that would be difficult to salvage for modern use, as well as electrical problems.

He also remembered an electrical fire that occurred from an outdated computer monitor the school was using.

The bond decision rests with the citizens of the district, and the decision will be made in a few short weeks.
Dear Editor,

CHCI is a sanctuary. Tatu and Lou- lis deserve to live out the rest of their lives in the home that they have known their entire lives. The people that they are forced to live and, perhaps most importantly for a scientist, are not be undervalued by CWU. CHCI is the epitome of CWU’s “Learn. Do. Serve.”

As for it being a “win-win” to move to CSNW, it would be incredibly stressful for the chimpunze to move, espe- cially since they are elderly and I don’t see how CWU would benefit, because they don’t own Tatu and Loulis.

If the chimpunze leave CWU’s campus it will be the decision of Friends of Washoe—not CWU—and their re-

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Zumbathon raising money for young, talented students

Work out while donating to the Distinguished Young Women College Scholarship program

BY ADRISSA POLAND
Staff Reporter

Zumbathon is coming to Ellensburg to raise money for the oldest and largest scholarship program for female high school students in the nation.

This year, Fabiola Serra has chosen to donate the money to the Distinguished Young Women College Scholarship Program.

The Zumbathon is also known as Zumba for a cause. The idea is to get more people involved in Zumba, while simultaneously raising money for charity.

Serra, director of the local dance group, TuayPeru, is a local Zumba instructor who is hosting her second Zumbathon on April 13 at the Hal Holmes Center.

She has been dancing for much of her life and has been involved in Zumba since she moved to Washington State from Peru.

She has a passion for dance in its many forms.

"DYWCS[JP] is a program that is a lot of times misunderstood," Serra said. "A lot of times people think it’s just like a pageant or something like that, but it is not. It is a challenge for young women to compete in a healthy environment for a scholarship. It has nothing to do with looks."

The ladies competing for the scholarship are juniors in high school. They are meant to compete through scholastics, as well as a dance of talent, and must also demonstrate a fitness routine like Zumba.

"It involves fitness," Serra said. "It involves women. It kind of goes together."

The scholarship program helps create female leaders and Zumba helps women find their confidence. Central Washington University student Kayleen Durant said one of her Zumba instructors urged her to become certified to teach Zumba, which boosted her confidence because someone saw her as a leader.

"I think that it creates people who have more self-esteem, more self-confidence," Durant said. "Especially when you’re in a social setting and there’s dancing involved, and people don’t necessarily think that they know they have any rhythm or anything."

Zumba is about creativity, originality and having fun. It is designed to be enjoyable like a fitness party. Jessica McKean, a local Zumba instructor, wants her students to get a good workout, give a lot of energy and have a good time doing it.

"Once people kind of get it, all the sudden you see them come out of their shell and add their own things into it," McKean said.

Zumba is open to both sexes. Serra said they are trying to attract both men and women of any age.

"It is always nice to get more people involved," Serra said. "That’s why we want everybody to come and at least have a taste of what Zumba is."

Zumba is not just for fitness, according to Serra. It is meant to exercise your mind as well. As you gain more confidence with your body and how you move, you also begin to improve your knowledge of rhythm and dance.

"It all, of course, works your body, works your rhythm, works your self-loving, your confidence," Serra said.

Confidence comes in all shapes and sizes, and so does fitness. Instructors like Serra, Durant and McKean believe Zumba is meant for anybody.

The message is to be comfortable in your own skin, and the same idea extends to the distinguished young women competing for the scholarship award.

"I hope that girls will see that you can work out and you can be healthy and you can be in shape and not have that, you know, perfect prized body," Durant said.

QUAN LAM/Observer

April 13 at 10 a.m.
Hal Holmes Center
Donations Suggested
It may not be as simple as checking a box for male or female anymore, as there are many people who don’t identify with these specific genders.

April is Women’s History Month at Central Washington University, and this year’s theme is ‘Transcending Gender’.

Women and Gender Studies, along with the Center for Diversity and Social Justice have collaborated to educate students on gender issues. The goal is to help the campus community think about the various ways in which typical gender notions are being challenged.

“We wanted to come up with an idea that deals with not only women, but men, and also people who identify as neither men nor women,” said Cynthia Coe, Director of Women and Gender Studies.

In Western culture, there is a long standing idea that everyone needs to fit into either the female or male categories. Binary gender is a concept imposed by society, and the events planned for Women’s History Month are intended to challenge that concept.

“I think we’re living in a time where we’re becoming increasingly aware of gender stereotypes,” Coe said. “But there’s still assumptions made about what someone’s gender is supposed to be.”

There are penalties if a person doesn’t fit into pre-defined gender categories. Bullying, social harassment and even physical consequences can occur as a result of being different.

Caitlyn Runland, junior pre-nursing major, has witnessed some of these consequences first hand.

“I have friends who don’t associate with traditional genders, and they are constantly bullied or made fun of for being different,” Runland said.

Events focused on gender issues will take place throughout the month in the hopes of creating awareness so these penalties don’t happen as often.

“The whole series of events are intended to educate the campus community about what gets called gender variance,” Coe said. “It’s the way in which people don’t fit into the two areas of gender, and don’t need to fit into those cat-

To see a full list of events for Women’s History Month visit: http://www.cwu.edu/women-gender/ or Language and Literature Building rm 318
Included in the events will be a student panel, where students will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences with gender issues, and to ask questions. There will also be featured speakers, including Marsha Botzer.

Botzer is from the Seattle area and consults with companies about how to handle gender policies in a fair and just manner.

“Theatre of Gender” is an exhibit which will be displayed in the SURC during the month of April. The exhibit features images of a variety of genders and cultures across time, as well as explanations of each picture.

Pamela McMullin-Messier, assistant professor of sociology, is a supporter of the Women’s History Month event. She participates in discussions about what should take place in her class during Women’s History Month. She offers extra credit for students who go and experience the opportunities provided by these events.

“As a society, we need to move past the binary expectations of male/female and masculine/feminine, in the terms of the confines of traditional sex and gender roles,” McMullin-Messier said. “I think this month’s activities will spark discussion and empowerment of students to explore their roles.”

Students were directly involved in the planning and execution of events for Women’s History Month. They were responsible for the content displayed in the “Theatre of Gender” exhibit and for creating posters for Women’s History Month.

Coe said it was important to involve students in these projects because they can better relate to other students and the gender challenges they may be going through.

“Every student, I think, is dealing with how gender affects their lives,” Coe said. Students will have the chance to interact with other students, and respond to the issues associated with gender and where these conceptions come from.

There are students who have experienced gender issues, either amongst themselves or with close friends and family members, who have a perspective that others may not have. These students are able to share their experiences and help raise awareness about the negative effects associated with quick judgments.

“It’s very easy for us to look at someone who’s different, who doesn’t fit our expectations, and feel threatened or get anxious,” Coe said. “When we’re more informed and more aware, hopefully we can have a more conscious response.”

Students, faculty and community members are welcome to attend the events.

“Our thought is to educate people about the fact that although we normally think everybody on the planet is either male or female, the possibilities for how people live out their gender are incredibly varied,” Coe said.
Not just a student
Junior awarded Employee of the Year

BY ADAM WILSON
Staff Reporter

When Jacqueline Korn discovered she won the Central Washington University Student Employee of the Year award, she was shocked: Not because she had won, but because she had no idea she was even nominated.

“It was a complete surprise,” said Korn, junior accounting major. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Korn, better known as Jacque, works as a student assistant in the Grants and Contracts Office, located in Shaw-Smyser Hall. She has been employed there since April 2012 under her supervisor John Ebenal, who nominated her for the award.

“Jacque is a very good employee,” Ebenal said. “She deserved a little more credit.”

Due to how technical the job is and how long training takes, the office only hires accounting majors who are sophomore level or higher.

“It’s not just delivering mail between offices,” Ebenal said. “It’s real accounting.”

Ebenal praised Korn for her personal- ity and work ethic, noting her ability to quickly pick up on the job. He recalled an assignment which required her to document the amount of time professors completed research under federal grants. Ebenal said Korn performed much better than his employees in the past.

“I’m used to having students struggle,” Ebenal said. “Jacque knows what to do and does a good job.”

Nominating Korn for the award was easy for Ebenal. When he discovered she won the award, the office held a ceremony to celebrate. Employees from the entire office came to congratulate her, including President Gaudino and several accounting professors.

“I didn’t even know this award existed,” Korn said. “I didn’t think we had anything like this for students because, you know, we’re students.”

To be eligible for the award, a student’s supervisor must submit a reference letter to the CWU Student Employment Department, according to student employment specialist Kathy Johnson. The letters highlight positive traits about the student, such as reliability and professionalism.

Due to winning the award, Korn is now eligible for the Washington State Student Employee of the Year. She will be honored at the CWU Evening of Recognition in May, as well as having a special display in the SURC, congratulating her on the award. She also received a $25 gift certificate to the Wildcat Shop.

Korn was recommended during her sophomore year by senior accounting lecturer Margaret Smith. Smith taught Korn’s first accounting class at Central, which she describes as a very challenging class.

“Jacque is very committed to anything she does,” Smith said. “She will be super successful in her accounting profession.”

Korn completed the class with an A. “It’s a pleasure to work with everyone here,” Korn said. “They make it easy for me to be a good student employee.”

“Jacque is very committed to anything she does,” Smith said. “She will be super successful in her accounting profession.”

Korn first took interest in account- ing during her sophomore year of high school. After taking her first accounting class senior year, she knew she had found her profession. When she started re- searching colleges to apply to, she initially swore not to attend Central.

“My mom went here, and I went to the same elementary and high school as her too,” Korn said. “But I just liked the feeling of Central better, and that’s why I chose here.”

In her free time, Korn participates in several clubs, and is the newly-elected president of Beta Alpha Psi, Central’s accounting club, as well as the vice president and peer minister for CWU Wesley, the Methodist campus ministry. Despite her extracurricular activities, she does her best to keep everything in line.

“I’ve always had a busy life, but I like to be busy instead of bored,” Korn said. She says her daily planner is “another limb on my body,” and helps her a lot throughout the year.

After she graduates, Korn plans to obtain her master’s in professional accoun- tancy at CWU. Her dream job is to work at a certified public accountant firm somewhere in Washington state.

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In her free time, Korn participates in several clubs, and is the newly-elected president of Beta Alpha Psi, Central’s ac- counting club, as well as the vice president and peer minister for CWU Wesley, the Methodist campus ministry. Despite her extracurricular activities, she does her best to keep everything in line.

“I’ve always had a busy life, but I like to be busy instead of bored,” Korn said. She says her daily planner is “another limb on my body,” and helps her a lot throughout the year.

After she graduates, Korn plans to obtain her master’s in professional accoun- tancy at CWU. Her dream job is to work at a certified public accountant firm some- where in Washington state.

“It’s a pleasure to work with everyone here,” Korn said. “They make it easy for me to be a good student employee.”
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The ‘tied’s’ turning

Wildcats catch momentum; step out of GNAC play

BY JARYD CLINE
Staff Reporter

2008. That was the last season where Central Washington baseball had a winning season, until now that is.

The Wildcats look to continue their recent string of success into the second half of the season. They face off against out-of-conference Oregon Tech on Saturday and Sunday for a doubleheader at Gary and Bobbi Frederick Field. Game 1 is slated to start at noon while the games on Sunday begin at 11 a.m.

The Wildcats (20-14, 14-7 GNAC) will play in their first non-conference game since they defeated Whitworth University 7-2 in early March.

Oregon Tech (15-27, 7-13 CCC), who competes in the Cascade Collegiate Conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, will be traveling to Ellensburg for the first time in school history.

Central comes into the game having won the last 15 of their 20 games, including a sweep of Northwest Nazarene on the second day of their doubleheader.

The Wildcats have also managed to get off to a strong start playing at home. Central has also won 10 out of their 13 home games on the season.

During their hot streak, the Wildcats managed to move into a first-place tie with Western Oregon in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference standings.

Central split two games each in their last visit to Western Oregon which included a 10-inning pitcher’s duel in which saw Central surrender only three hits but lost 1-0 after a Western Oregon double in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Leading the charge for Wildcat hitters this season has been senior third baseman Marc Garza. Garza leads the team in hits and is second in batting average hitting .364 on the season.

Senior catcher Kyle Sani leads the team with seven homeruns, 24 RBIs and 20 runs scored.

The Owls however enter the four game series with Central after losing seven of their last eight games. Oregon Tech hasn’t had a winning record since the 2009 season.

The Owls are led this season by junior catcher Dylan Rogers and junior first baseman Aaron Bocchi. Rogers paces the team with his .380 batting average along with his 60 hits and 34 RBIs.

Bocchi leads the team with two homeruns and is second on the team batting .321 on the season.

Halfway marks in a baseball season can be significant. With a little less than a month to go in the regular season, the Wildcats reached an even more important milestone this week, other than having a winning record through 34 games since 2008.

Central Washington’s second-day sweep over Northwest Nazarene University (18-19, 9-11 GNAC) has pushed the Wildcats into a first-place tie with Western Oregon, who, up until now, had maintained a small cushion on the rest of the conference.

After splitting two games with NNU on Monday, the Wildcats batting at the plate, followed by two shutout innings by sophomore and senior pitchers Max Dickinson and Randy Button, respectively, helped Central win Game 1 on Tuesday, 6-4.

Junior Joe Castro homered on the first pitch in Game 2, which eventually led to the Wildcat’s 11-3 victory.

Central moves into first-place tie
The Wildcats will fill the vacated No. 4 seed and will play against three-time former National Collegiate Champion Air Force Academy in the Western Super-Regional, which will be hosted on UCLA’s North Athletic Field. Kick-off is slated for 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 20.

The Wildcats will still fulfill their commitment to D-1A by finishing out the 2012-13 season when they play Cal Poly on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Varsity Soccer Complex in Ellensburg.

Team’s like Western Washington, Santa Clara and Sacramento State are in the past; instead, the Wildcats will face the most prominent programs in the nation at the championships. Air Force, BYU, California-Berkeley, Dartmouth, Navy, Notre Dame and UCLA.

“There’s just been a lot of success,” Bates said. “It’s been almost a domino effect.” Bates said. “It’s just been a great thing to see, from the beginning of the club until now.”

Finally, after a forced relocation to compete as an independent, years of battling through D-1A teams and national competitions, the Wildcats have reached the pinnacle of collegiate rugby: the Varsity Cup.

Following the departure of the University of Utah, Central Washington accepted the invitation to participate in the 2013 Varsity Cup National Collegiate Rugby Championship, with an on-going commitment to compete through the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

“The opportunity gets Central Washington’s name out better,” senior Jacob Bates said, president of the rugby team and a four-year member of the team. “The Varsity Cup is very exclusive. Every team person there is going to be tough to beat and we have to play mistake-free and play at our A-game to beat those guys.”

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After taking fourth place at nationals in 2012, the Central Washington University wakeboard team plans to sweep the competition this year and walk away with the ultimate achievement: a national championship.

Nationals will be held in Shreveport, La., Memorial Day weekend, and is sponsored by Jack in the Box.

The semi-finals and finals of the competition will be aired on CBS a month after the US wakeboard collegiate nationals has taken place.

The wakeboard team was invited to the nationals after placing third in collegiate regionals last October. The Wildcats are ranked No. 1 in the nation, including Division I schools.

“We definitely have something to prove,” Club President Eddie Roberts said.

Central’s team consists of about 30 male riders and 10 female riders, all ranging in different skill levels.

There are four levels of competition: beginner, intermediate, advanced and open. The difference in these levels is based on how many tricks can be performed, which is ranked as A, B, C and D.

A is the team’s best open-rider, B is second-best, etc. An unlimited amount of tricks can be performed at any level for the national competition. For the women’s team, there are both A and B level-riders, respectively, as well as one wake skater.

There are no age restrictions or mandatory skill requirements to join, but to keep up their elite level, the team practices almost every weekend.

Another way the Wildcats build themselves up for nationals is by participating in the Spring Classic, a wakeboard competition held in Toledo on April 20.

This competition allows riders to warm up for the national competition.

“I have just been working out and trying to get as much riding time in before the contest,” senior wakeboard team member Thomas Olson said.

The Spring Classic is open to any competition in the Northwest, rather than being limited to collegiate riders.

“It’s pretty cool to represent the university to a totally different crowd that’s not necessarily a collegiate crowd, but a big group of wake boarders from all over the northwest,” Roberts said.

“There’s a very diverse crowd in wake boarding and they are all good people and fun people,” said club Vice President Mike Day.

People who have witnessed Central’s wakeboard team in competition are pleasantly surprised to see the size of the team and how successful they have been.

“I’m looking forward to having the most solid team we have ever had going into nationals,” Olson said. “We have great riders and even great backup riders, all striving to do really well.”

The Wildcats still want to maintain success and part of that comes from being able to travel to competitions.

A film starring the CWU wake team will premiere at the outdoor Spring Symposium on April 18 at the SURC. Tickets will be sold at the wakeboard club’s booth or $5 at the door.
Men dominate arch rival at Shotwell

The Central Washington University track and field team rolled down to University of Puget Sound and had an impressive showing at the 19th annual JD Shotwell Invitational.

The men’s team came away with the top spot, tallying a score of 166.5, 20 points higher than the second place team, rival Western Washington.

Among the men’s highlights was a strong showing in the 100 meter dash, with senior Bryan Mack placing second (10.98 seconds) and freshman Kent McKinney placing third (11.02 seconds). Mack and McKinney were also part of the 4x100 relay team which finished first in the field with a time of 42.11 seconds, along with sophomore Evan Nystrom and freshman Jordan Todd.

“We are definitely in the phase of our season where we are working pretty hard,” head coach Kevin Adkisson said. “Overall, we are excited with where we are at. Everyone across the board is making progress.”

The women’s team placed third in the event, scoring 89 points. Some of the highlights include junior Becky Duhamel’s first place finish in the shotput with a distance of 42 feet, 9.75 inches, as well as sophomore Taylor Fergin’s first place in the high jump (5.875 feet), being topped off by a one-two-three finish by Fergin (15.61 seconds), freshman Allison Deck (16.16 seconds) and freshman Juliana Joy (16.51 seconds) in the 100 meter hurdles.

Adding to the big weekend performance was senior Braden Keller, who simultaneously rewrote the Central and Baker Stadium record books.

Keller, javelin, let loose on his second throw with 222 feet, five inches to crush the previous record of 203 feet, seven inches, which was recorded by Michael Ingman in 2007. “I was pretty pumped up,” Keller said. “I knew it was a far throw, I had not set a personal record in four years so it was nice to get a new one. I reached my javelin goal. It has been my goal for over four years to get over 200 feet.”

For those who missed out on the shot put, two events coming up this weekend, WAR VI in Spokane and the WWU Ralph Vernacchia Invitational in Bellingham.

“We’re getting into our midseason phase. We are looking for a combination of good competition and good weather,” Adkisson said. “We have some people who are capable of some pretty great performances. We have a number of athletes who can make national marks on any day.”

5k run creates awareness in community

Central teams up with Abuse Support & Prevention for second annual Route to Hope 5k run last weekend

Last Saturday morning, in front of the Central Washington Welcome Center, students lined up to race for a cause.

Central Washington’s Wellness Center and University Recreation teamed up with Ellenburg’s Abuse Support and Prevention Education to host the second annual Route to Hope 5k. Proceeds raised by the run were donated to ASPEN.

With April being sexual assault awareness month, the Wellness Center and ASPEN wanted to use the 5k as a way to promote awareness. ASPEN is a non-profit program offered by Central Washington which provides students and the local community with support and services for those affected by sexual assault and violence. Volunteers and students from the Center of Leadership and Community Engagement were on hand to help get runners registered and to help direct runners along the course. During the event, ASPEN set up an awareness booth so participants could learn about it organizational ways to help.

“The big thing about ASPEN all the time, is to create awareness and support,” Joey Garriott said.

As the runners neared the end of the race, volunteers stood around the finish line to cheer them on. After the race, Fire & Smoke mobile catering was on site to offer lunch to the participants.

For those who missed out on the chance to participate, the third annual Route to Hope 5k will take place next year on April 26.