President Trump’s decision to repeal the DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) on Sept. 5 is being met with stark criticism by the public, higher education institutions throughout Washington state and our very own president, James Gaudino, who penned an open letter the same day denouncing the U.S. president’s actions and reiterating the university’s support for students affected.

DACA is a federally funded immigration program that was initially established in 2009 with the assistance of the Obama Administration. The program aims at assisting children whose parents brought them to the U.S. without documentation while receiving workers permission to work. As of 2017, 800,000 students are enrolled in the DACA program.

“I am committed to stand up for our students, who are among the 800,000 nationwide registered under DACA. These young men and women are some of the finest and most resilient students at our colleges and universities, often exhibiting unique character forged by the fire of adversity,” Gaudino penned.

Gaudino went on to say that CWU and other state institutions have adopted several policies to protect students, regardless of their legal status here in the United States, and to reaffirm the role of Campus Police as a medium for enforcing campus laws, not federal laws.

“CWU police work for me, not for federal immigration officers. Enforcing federal immigration law is the responsibility of federal law enforcement agencies, not CWU police,” Gaudino said. “Additionally, CWU campus police do not question people about their immigration status.”

In his statement regarding his tweet stating the repeal of the DACA program, Trump said that “the temporary implementation of DACA by the Obama Administration, after Congress repeatedly rejected this amnesty-first approach, also helped spur a humanitarian crisis... in some cases, young people who would become members of violent gangs throughout our country.”

An aviation student who didn’t want to be identified said that she thought about transferring from CWU because of how unorganized the aviation program was. “I thought about leaving the university because I was so fed up with the program, but I am going to stick it through because I only have one year left,” she said. “I am confident that Central knows what they are doing because they want the best for their students.”

Five years ago CWU’s aviation program enrolled about 100 students annually who flew nearly 6,800 hours per year. The program activity accounts for about 80 percent of take-offs and landings at Bowers Field in Ellensburg.

The contract with IFT, in addition to educating students, designed to ensure the long-term stability of the program. The program has grown from 45 to 162 students between 2014 and 2016, according to Dr. Nataraja. “The program was disorganized and treated its students like they were not adults,” Gloor said. “There was also lack of funding for the airport as well as few resources.”

Big Bend Community College (BBCC) offers either a two-year AAS (Direct Transfer Agreement) or a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Pilot, which is taught through CWU faculty on the Big Bend campus in Moses Lake.

Since 2006, CWU has had full-time aviation faculty at BBCC with an office, as well as classrooms to teach in, according to Dr. Nataraja. While the aviation program brings in many students, some have found the program to be unappealing once enrolled.
During an interview with Fox and Friends, TV personality Dr. Oz surprisingly came out strongly in favor of medical marijuana research.

“I talk about the opioid epidemic, it may be the exit drug to get you out of the narcotic epidemic, Oz then took a very decisive stance on a topic that is not often discussed on the show. “I talk about [the] opioid epidemic, but what the real story is, is the hypocrisy around medical marijuana. And, just real quick, medical marijuana - people think it’s a gateway drug to narcotics. It may be the exit drug to get us out of the narcotic epidemic,” Oz said. “But we’re not allowed to study it because it’s a Schedule 1 drug and I, person, believe it could help.”

Back in 2016, at the end of Obama’s term, there was potential for the DEA to reclassify medical marijuana as a higher schedule drug (meaning that it would be.warranted as a drug that is less addictive), but that was quickly shot down. “The clear weight of the currently available evidence supports [Schedule I classification], including evidence that smoked marijuana has a high potential for abuse, has no accepted medical value in treatment in the United States, and evidence that there is a general lack of acceptance for its use even under medical supervision,” the DEA claimed, according to an article written in Popular Science.

According to the NYU Langone Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, medical marijuana and hemp oil could harbor benefits for patients who suffer from epileptic or continuous seizures. In recent research, children were prescribed a non-psychoactive cannabis-oil, known as cardabiol, or placebo alongside their regular prescription.

A high percentage responded favorably towards the hemp oil. Dr. Oz is known for his friendly neighborhood doctor, and Dr. Oz’s show has seen its fair share of criticism by the public and other medical professionals, primarily for being misinformed or skewed, but it has become a staple of the respect the people that you will see. There is a general lack of acceptance for its use even under medical supervision,” the DEA claimed, according to an article written in Popular Science.

Second tip. Just because you are worried about getting out there again don’t worry, there are literally hundreds of people in your exact same position. Check the event calendar, go to a Monday Movie Madness, a club fair or a sporting event and get to know the people that you will see throughout the year. So, don’t be poor just because you have a car doesn’t mean you need to use it. The CWU campus is not very big so there is not a need to drive. Not to mention that parking on campus is a joke. While walking to class would take you about 10 minutes tops if you live on campus, driving is going to take you much longer because you will have to search forever for a parking spot and then rush to class. Also, it’s expensive paying for a parking permit. If you get a parking ticket from parking in the wrong spot that’s more money you have to shell out. If you want more information about walking to class vs. driving check out the option section on page five and read about the end of the situation and costs of driving.

Along the same lines of driving to class, be a courteous biker and pedestrian. Riding your bike across campus is a great way to get from point A to point B. However, during peak foot traffic hours riding your bike can become a hassle since the walkways will have an increased amount of pedestrians. If you bike make sure that you control your speed so you don’t run into anyone. And if you are walking to class, stay aware of your surroundings so you don’t accidentally have your day ruined by being run over by a biker.

Also, last tip, watch how much you are spending at the C-Store. Even though you have all those dining dollars and the discount, the C-Store is still a bit pricey. That being said, don’t be that kid who still has a ton of money in their account and their parents come and buy out the C-Store. Thanks again for picking up the Observer, I hope you enjoy the stories printed here and continue to read throughout the quarter and the year. Also, don’t forget there are often coupons hidden within these pages which can help those of us who are broke af. Also, it’s expensive paying a parking ticket from parking in the wrong spot. However, during peak foot traffic hours riding your bike can become a hassle since the walkways will have an increased amount of pedestrians.

The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and editorial decisions. The mission of the Observer is to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students interested in a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, and dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free exchange of ideas, facts and problems facing the community at large; and to be the trusted source for information, education and entertainment news. As an increasing program, the Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to produce and communicate information that is vital to the democratic functioning of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the skills, values, and skills needed to succeed in their chosen careers. If you have a question call 509-963-1070 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com.

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**Fred Meyer Night to Return Next Year**

Eric Rosane

News Editor

The popular Wildcat welcome event Fred Meyer Night was unexpectedly cancelled this year due to a miscommunication between the incoming ASCWU officers and the Fred Meyer corporate offices in Portland. According to Jeffery Temple, director of corporate affairs at Fred Meyer, the corporate office was unable to make contact when they initially planned to start preparation for the event on May 5. CWU attempted to make contact with Fred Meyer in mid-August, but they were unable to make out a plan, citing too little time as a major complication.

The event, which would usually run on “Big Tuesday” with the Bite of the Burg and other college events, would occur usually from 11pm to 1am with the store opening up exclusively to students or those with an update CWU connection card. Alongside generous discounts on items for the student shoppers, there were also free raffles and giveaways that would run throughout the night.

Dean of Student Success Richard Deshields is currently the advisor for the student government officers and oversees the activities and events that student government put on. When we spoke with Deshields, he said that this miscommunication error was due heavily in part by the transfer of power between the officers. They have since then put a full-time faculty in charge of keeping communication with the corporate office.

“They determine that rather than throw[ing] something together that wouldn’t be well planned, that they would continue to move forward with the events that are already scheduled across the university for Wildcat welcome weekend,” Deshields said.

“Fred Meyer’s been a wonderful tradition and they’ve been a wonderful partner throughout all the events, and through the transition of student government, as well as transitions of their advisor, that information didn’t get transitioned. So Fred Meyer was communicating with an officer and a number [that] didn’t have anybody else on the other end.”

The Ellensburg Fred Meyer is not the only store in the large retail chain that puts together similar events and activities. University of Washington and the University of Oregon have had their own Fred Meyer night in the past as well.

In a statement made on Sept 22 by the corporate office, Temple said that they “really value the relationship between the school and the business” and that they have no reason to consider termination of the annual event.

This would have been the 13th year for Fred Meyer night, one of ASCWU’s most popular and longest running homecoming events. In prior years, there have been guest appearances by 88.1 The Burg and other school related events.

No ASCWU officers were available for comment on the issue of Fred Meyer Night returning.

Executive Vice President Alex Horning did express his concerns about the cancellation of the event this year and said that he and his team will work towards making sure that the event is happening next year.

**Cycling Down Seventh Made Easier**

Eric Rosane

News Editor

A newly installed bicycle boulevard on Seventh Avenue is the first move in a series of actions to be taken by the city’s public works department to maintain safer pedestrian and cyclist travel on low-traffic streets.

Traffic barriers were installed on the streets that run perpendicular to Seventh in late May.

They aim to alleviate stress for east-to-west commuters, giving pedestrians and cyclists an alternative to the congestion that occurs on University Way.

“It’s a [proven] safety fact that if you can separate bicycles and vehicles of traffic travel, it makes it a lot safer,” said Derek Mayo, city engineer for the City of Ellensburg.

“Bike boulevards are still shared... but Seventh doesn’t have one; that many vehicles; and two, we put those divergents there to remove the cars and promote safer bicycle travel.”

Mayo and his colleague Josh Mattson, a civil engineer for the City of Ellensburg, have been participating with and researching resolutions for the city’s Non-Motorized Transportation Committee to find safer options for cyclists and pedestrians.

The bike boulevard, part of the city’s 2008 non-motorized transportation plan, was initially slated to be installed on University Way in 2013, but due to the large volume of traffic, public works proposed that the barriers would be better utilized on a lower-traffic road.

The boulevard is reminiscent of Portland’s neighborhood greenways, an initiative that Mattson said was an inspiration. Portland’s neighborhood greenways are characterized by slower speed limits on bicycle-friendly streets, and they have been placed in areas with plenty of cyclists and environmentally conscious resources.

These roads have become so popular with city councilmembers and citizens alike that the Portland City Council has said it wants every resident to have a bicycle boulevard available to them within a half a mile of their residence.

In Ellensburg, motorists who aren’t aware of the boulevard have to make U-turns and route revisions, especially if they plan on traveling east to west.

“We’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback, [with] people that use it, but there’s also a lot of people that aren’t bicyclists and don’t see the benefit of the project,” Mayo said.

“There’s a certain sect of the population that definitely is going to use it and has been using it and we hope that continues to grow.”

Lane Koch-Michael, a resident of Seventh Avenue who lives a few houses away from the boulevard, stated that it hasn’t been too difficult to adjust to the new bike lanes and that, overall, he could care less about what the city does with their streets.

“I just didn’t care. I just thought that it was annoying at first when they were doing the construction, and it was annoying at the turn, but I could care less,” Koch-Michael said. “All that means for us is maybe less traffic on our street.”

Koch-Michael and his family are avid cyclists and, although they don’t understand what exactly this means for the city and what the city’s agenda is moving forward with this, they still don’t mind the change in scenery.

“I don’t know, I went back and forth. I figured, it’s not really going to affect me, it’s going to give my kids less traffic on our street. Maybe,” Koch-Michael said.

“Girls, what do you think?” Lane asked his two young daughters, gesturing to the bicycle boulevard. One of the girls nodded in approval. The other was too shy to speak.
“Therefore, in the best interest of our country, and in keeping with the obligations of my office, the Department of Homeland Security will begin an orderly transition and wind-down of DACA.”

Kandee Cleary, the vice president for diversity and inclusivity on campus, has been coordinating with President Gaudino and his office since news of the DACA repeal became public in early September. According to Cleary, President Trump will allow the program to continue for another six months while Congress aims to work with Trump to address the issues with the program.

At the end of this six month period, President Trump has stated that he will end the program. The impact of this postponement is not currently known, as the program will not be slated to be up for possible revision until mid-March of next year.

“Whatever are going to be the consequences to our students,” Cleary asked. “I mean, that’s really what the first reaction is. What does this mean and what are the consequences?”

According to Cleary, Washington state has provided two pieces of legislature that will currently protect funding for the 18,000 DACA students in state as well as DACA awareness and the WAFSA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) programs. Cleary said that some of the greatest complications with repealing DACA might be post graduation, as students who were once under enrolled might have difficulty working in the United States.

According to a plan presented to the Board of Trustees, IFT was under contract until August 2018, but notified the university in June of its intent to vacate the contract a year early, in June 2017. IFT will finish out any students currently enrolled in IFT courses but any student enrolling in a new course will be under the CWU program starting this quarter. This includes more than 60 freshmen entering the new program. The goal is to have any students enrolled with IFT to be finished by next June so that IFT is quickly transitioned out, according to Dr. Nataraja.

According to a plan presented to the Board of Trustees, CWU will be leasing six aircraft from Ron Mitchell, the owner of Secondary Aviation, and will be looking to purchase another five new planes through Piper Aircraft. Since July, the aviation department has purchased one of these six. After that, CWU plans on putting out a request for quotes on additional planes on an as-needed basis as the program grows, according to Dr. Nataraja.

The university will take over new hangars that were bought completely on Wednesday, November 1. CWU also has requested state funding to improve aviation facilities at Bowers Field. CWU is pursuing accreditation through the Aviation Accreditation Board International. CWU’s program is the only four-year aviation program in the state.

“I think the program still is the best in the Pacific Northwest and will continue to be as such I am happy with Central taking over flight training,” said a fourth year aviation student who preferred to not be identified, “I’m only disappointed that it didn’t happen sooner.”

Nataraja responded to the comments about the program by saying that “maybe they are correct, maybe not. But this is a new year.” He said that he and the faculty are looking towards the future of the new program.

An estimated 18,000 “dreamers” in Washington D.C. and 15 other states, such as New York and California, are planning to stay in Washington’s footsteps and file their own separate lawsuits against Trump if DACA is repealed.

Ex-Seattle Mayor Ed Murray donated $150,000 towards “dreamers”
Walk don’t drive, and save green

By Racquel Rollins
Copy Desk Chief

All year, every year, I hear one major topic of complaint: parking. This topic always brings a few thoughts to my mind.

According to the Quick Facts page on the CWU website, we have over 11,000 students. I have no clue the amount of faculty and staff we have on campus, but I am sure it’s a fair amount.

Recently we have added parking lots, which people thought would help, but of course with the larger-than-normal freshman class and our already congested parking lots, it did not seem to help any.

I understand, I really do; I have been there looking for parking. I lived on campus my freshman year, so I was that annoying freshman who always had my car parked in the parking lot, only to be moved on the special occasion or late at night when I worked.

Then came sophomore year: I lived in a house not far from campus, but most days I felt lazy and wanted to drive. I became that sophomore who was nearly late because I could never find a parking spot.

I quickly realized that it is just easier to walk. The majority of the apartment complexes here in town are only 10-15 minutes from campus. It seems a lot longer than that when it is cold and raining or snowing, but oftentimes you will find yourself walking nearly as far to wherever you parked your car.

I have witnessed students drive from their apartment complex to the free parking. By the time these students have walked to their car, started it, driven to the free parking lot, found a parking spot, and gotten out of their car they could practically be on campus.

My advice to students around campus is to walk to class. Walking to class benefits everyone. It keeps you healthier. Fitting exercise in with school and work and having a social life seems impossible sometimes and will often get left out of the daily routine. Walking to class is an easy way to do this, making you a more well-adjusted person.

It also benefits everyone else by easing parking and traffic congestion around campus. That is one less car to sit behind at one of the dreaded stoplights or stop signs around the perimeter of campus. That is one more parking spot for someone who is not lucky enough to live close enough to campus to walk.

You would also think that after all the complaints the parking office would sell fewer passes. Perhaps they are not aware of the issue or maybe they simply do not care because they make so much money off of the parking passes.

Parking passes cost $96 a quarter, $195 for an academic year or $204 for a calendar year. Parking lots, I imagine, do not require hours of labor and upkeep, making parking passes very profitable.

Another factor they must consider is that not every student who drives is going to be on campus at the same time. Some students may be done with classes at 11, while others might not even until noon.

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Top of page: Students hand a performer dollar bills during the drag show. Look out for this event on the calendar. (Xander Fu/Observer)

Above: Jeff Rowden acts in the Red Curtain Broadway Revue. Catch the next performance this fall. (Xander Fu/Observer)

Right: Julie Ochoa models in the condom fashion show. Look out for this in the spring. (Jack Lambert/Observer)
Onnaliese Noeske practices on the climbing wall located in the Recreational Center. (Xander Fu/Observer)

Mackenzie Gaul pitches at a baseball game. Check out these games in the spring. (Jack Lambert/Observer)

Keeley Phommathirath practices high jump. Check out their meets in the spring. (Jack Lambert/Observer)

Marc Rodgers charges toward the hoop. Check out the games during winter quarter. (Xander Fu/Observer)
Orientation expands

By Susie Chavez

For the past 10 years, CWU’s new student enrollment has grown every academic year. The university is even looking at expanding the SURC and university housing at some point in the near future because of the growing attendance.

During the summer, there would typically be six orientation sessions to welcome incoming students: four for first-year students and two for transfer students.

This year, that number increased from six to eight orientation sessions total, adding two additional first-year sessions. “The 2017 Discover Orientation is slightly larger than 2016’s,” said Edith Rojas, who has been an orientation leader for two years. “So there will be a ton of new faces around Central this fall.”

Orientation sessions not only keep orientation leaders busy during sessions but also drive business to other establishments around campus as well as local businesses around town. “We are the first faces these future Wildcats will associate with Central so we really put ourselves out there to them,” said first-year orientation leader, Brennan Allen.

“I am one of a few new leaders on this team, and I am leading new students when I was just in their place last year.”

Orientation has also helped the leaders build a community with one another as well as their students. “Working with these amazing people has really opened my eyes to what they face and deal with as staff and new students,” Allen said.

For first-year orientation leader Ryley Brun, orientation has allowed him to make personal connections with the people he meets at orientation sessions. It allows him to provide emotional support. “Being able to relate and connect with new CWU students is an amazing experience that warms my heart,” Brun said.

He also enjoys “being able to reach out and be there for students becoming part of the campus community.”

At the end of the day, the experiences are extremely rewarding for these orientation leaders as well as the memories they get to take away from the experience. “Being there for the beginning of their college is such a monumental feeling that rallies energy and passion into being who I am and what I believe Central is,” Brun said.

Although this job is sometimes very stressful and tiring, especially mostly working outdoors in extreme weather, these orientation leaders wouldn’t give it up for the world. "Orientation at Central is my favorite part of every summer since I’ve been a student here at Central,” Rojas said.

Students wait in line and watch the cotton candy being made, waiting for a sweet treat of their own.
The annual Buskers in the Burg

By Daisy Perez  
Scene Editor

The suggested donation for the kid’s activities are $3 per family.

A body puppeteer wears an alien costume in the parade at audience members look.

A body puppeteer wears his guitar and harmonica. This busker is one of 14 buskers who will be featured at the festival Saturday.

The wide-eyed sun head body puppeteer is one of many creative and unique designs.

The body of a children’s activity is one of many creative and unique designs.

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**Wildcats remain undefeated**

**By Simo Rul**  
Senior Sports Reporter

The CWU football team’s strong, 4-0, start has led it to being ranked No. 16 in the nation, their first national ranking since 2009.

Senior Jackson Huerta has had a big defensive impact, leading the team in tackles with 31 and also adding two interceptions.

“We’ve pride for an all year on playing at a high level. We take one game at a time. Every opponent we play is a worthy opponent. They’re a college football team,” Huerta said. “We like worrying about us, and if we worry about us the wins will keep coming each week.”

Rolly Hennessey, a junior transfer from Eastern Washington University, has thrown for 775 yards, has five passing touchdowns and two rushing touchdowns. Hennessey went 11 for 19, throwing 151 yards, two passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown against Dixie State University last week.

“We think we’ve done a good job,” Hennessey said. “But there is still a lot of technical stuff, and a lot of downtown the stretch play we need to improve.”

Head coach Eric Shoemaker said the things that matter most is the group that chooses the teams in the regional ranking at the end of the year. The Wildcats want to be in position to be in the regional ranking.

“It’s great to get recognized, but our focus is that last regional ranking, that’s the most important thing to us. It doesn’t matter what the national rankings say or what the voters say,” Shoemaker said.

The national ranking is less important than their preparation for the next opponent.

“Honestly that stuff doesn’t really mean anything to us. We’re really just trying to get on film, and get on the practice field and try and figure out how to beat the next team on our schedule,” Hennessey said.

“It’s key for the Wildcats to reset each week,” Shoemaker said.

“The most important thing is to be 1-0, and work the process every week,” Shoemaker said. “That’s how we kind of focus ourselves, talk about doing the weekly process that it takes to earn an opportunity to win on Saturday. Every week we try to restart that process and start that new season.”

Game preperations haven’t been as smooth as Wildcats would have liked. There have been many challenges: school getting underway, as smooth as Wildcats would have liked. There have been many challenges: school getting underway, four-hour round trips to practices in Tacoma or Bothell and playing a home game away from home because of the smoke that was caused by the wildfires. Shoemaker said, “We’ve had tough games, we’ve had tough travel and we’ve had tough practice situations. These guys have showed up, and are ready to go.”

**CWU v. SFU**  
When: Sat. Sept. 30 1 p.m.  
Where: Tomlinson Stadium

CWU football looks to improve on its 4-0 start Sept. 30 against Simon Fraser. SFU currently has a 0-2 record in the GNAC.

By Syndrome Johnson  
For the Observer

During one of CWU athletics nutritionist Kelly Pritchett’s group talks, one rugby player took her advice to heart.

“He started really getting after his nutrition making healthier choices and ended up losing over the course of a year,” Pritchett said.

According to the sports directors of all the GNAC schools, CWU is the only one to have a sports nutritionist apart of their staff, and the staff is still growing.

“I got athletics to buy in,” Pritchett said. “If you look across the country, most D-I programs have one full-time sports dietitian if not three in some cases.”

**Meet Katy Figel**

Last year, Katy Figel became the first-ever Graduate Assistant for CWU Athletics, a part-time, 20 hour a week job. Some of her duties include counseling athletes 1-on-1, consulting athletes if they need to gain, lose or remain at the same weight and working with the strength and conditioning trainers.

“It was difficult to balance [athletics orientation] with the teaching and research load,” Pritchett said. “Now I’m fortunate to have Katy, we can work together, bounce ideas back-and-forth.”

Figel tries to put on talks where athletes can sit in on. The last group talk was on carbohydrates, while past topics have been about protein and supplements.

“We hope for everyone to buy-in,” Pritchett said.

**Athlete Diets**

There is no team-specific diet, all plans are individualized, dependent on the athlete, while also depending on if the athlete is in season or the offseason.

Other factors that can contribute to dieting is where the athlete lives. Many of the freshmen and sophomores live on campus, while there are others that live on their own outside of campus.

“If they’re having a majority of their meals in the SIRC, then we have to work around that, versus if they’re at home in the apartments maybe we can work with different food,” Figel said.

Pritchett and Figel agree that they cannot make any drastic changes in athletes’ diets right away.

“It might not necessarily be a huge change or complete 10-10 diet,” Figel said.

“In fact, usually I recommend to athletes we don’t want too many things at once because we are creatures of habit, we’re probably going back to what we were doing in a couple of weeks if it’s too drastic.”

Every good workout comes with a reward in the end, no matter if it is results or a yummy snack.

“One thing we tell our athletes is your workout is not over until you’ve had your post recovery snack,” Figel said.

**Female Athlete Triad**

Since Pritchett has been at CWU, the volleyball team has been the longest team she has consulted the longest. They also work closely with cross country, rugby, soccer, women’s basketball and softball.

“The long-term goal is to have the athletes leave with knowledge regarding a healthy lifestyle… as they transition out of their athletic career,” Pritchett said.

As D-I athletes get on buses for hours on end, they do not get to make their own meals. Meaning fast food, hotels and lack of sleep.

“I think that is an additional challenge because it’s already challenging enough sometimes to have a healthy diet when you’re at home,” Figel said.

This is a series of related or interrelated issues. This could be the eating disorder, lack of exercise, management or osteoporosis. These athletes are a top priority for Pritchett and Figel.

Some of the sports where this happens is in cross country, women’s basketball, volleyball and, track and field.

“It’s the sports where if I’m lighter, I’m going to run faster or jump higher,” Pritchett said.
Soccer prepares to face Western

By Simo Rul
Senior Sports Reporter

The CWU women’s soccer team has started off with a 1-4-2 record and is looking to improve on this as it hosts No. 1 ranked Western Washington University (WWU) on Thursday, Sept. 28. The Wildcats are coming into Thursday’s game off of a tough 4-2 loss to Simon Fraser University. They were short-handed for more than half of the match after Kylee Dillon was given a red card during minute 38.

Freshmen Sophia Keenan is second on the team in goals with two and tied for second in points with five.

“It’s very important [the game against WWU], but I feel that every game is important, especially since we’re starting league play,” Keenan said. “We just need to come with the same mentality for every game. Come in there and be confident and ready to play, and make sure we’re playing a full 90 minutes.”

This will be Keenan’s first time facing their rival WWU.

“I have a couple of friends on that team and I’m excited to compete with them,” Keenan said. “It’s just like any other league game. You need to come out with the same mentality for aim game and be ready to play, and it’ll be a good game.”

Senior Mackenzie Nolte leads the team in points with 13 and in goals with six. Nolte has five goals in the last three games.

“The game against Western is important that we come out with confidence, and play as a team, how we have been practicing to play,” Nolte said. “They are No. 1 in the nation like, we should play them as hard as we would anybody else and try and keep that out of our minds, though we wanna win. We’re just gonna give it our all, and it’s important, but it’s not everything.”

Now the Wildcats only have GNAC games left for the remainder of the season.

“You’re playing the national champion, the No. 1 team in the country...”

Michael Farrand, Head Coach

“If anything, I think that’s the case for the seniors. This will be Nolte’s final time facing their rival WWU.

“We had the dream start last year in terms of non-conference play and that set us up for the rest of the year,” head coach Michael Farrand said. “We have the nightmare start this year because we didn’t do as well. Now that means conference play is everything for us.”

The top four teams in the GNAC go into the conference playoffs, and whoever wins that will get an automatic bid to the NCAA DII tournament. Conference games are important so it’s huge to pick up points, Farrand said.

WWU currently has a 31-game win streak, and a 32-game undefeated streak.

“You’re playing the national champion, the No. 1 team in the country. No. 1 team in the region,” Farrand said. “We’re gonna look at that result just for what it is. We’re gonna go play the best team right now, and we want a result.”

Rivalry games tend to add more excitement.

“Thursday, I would come. That’s the best team in the country right now. We should put a thousand people out here,” Farrand said.
Now in Holmes (SURC) at Green Table, Pan Asia, Central Comfort and Central Griddle

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