Home field advantage!

Will CWU football be able to keep its winning streak at the homecoming game this weekend?

Wildcat tight end Kyle Self breaks a tackle and dives into the endzone for 6 of the Wildcat's 62 points they scored against Simon Fraser. They look to keep this pace up against Humboldt State on Saturday.

Finding the funds

Future unclear as new budgeting model leaves departments scrambling for funds

By Miles King
Staff Reporter

Beginning this year, CWU has a new budget model aimed to give control of funds to the deans of each college. The new model is called Activity-Based Budgeting (ABB). ABB and Responsibility-Centered Management (RCM), essentially accountability systems, is designed to distribute funds to each college based on revenue-generating activities and proportional Student Credit Hours (SCH). RCM causes funds to be distributed at a college level instead of at the departmental level.

This academic year the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) was not able to cover its own expenses, according to Katherine Frank, provost and vice president of academic and student life, in an earlier interview this year. For example, music students often take individual music lessons from a faculty member in their fields. Because of this shortage in funds, the other colleges at CWU aid CAH to continue operating, Linda Schaefer, chief of staff in the office of the president, said.

This was "due to a variety of factors, mostly having to do with smaller student-to-faculty ratios," Frank said. CAH also earns money through revenue-generating activities such as summer camps, festivals and popular music concerts, according to Todd Shiver, the interim dean of CAH. Shiver mentioned CAH also receives funding from alumni donors.

On the silver screen

Ellensburg Film Festival returns this weekend with new short films

By Ben Ramirez
Staff Reporter

The thirteenth annual Ellensburg Film Festival kicks off this Friday, Oct. 8, in McConnell Hall. The film festival will run through the weekend and showcase films from all over the world.

There will be four venues screening the films: McConnell Hall, the Tower Theater, Lind Hall and the Hal Holmes Center.

The films showcased in this year's festival have been selected by the festival's board of volunteers. Submissions have been sent to the board since February and according to Ralla Vickers, the film curator, there were over 100 films submitted this year.

The festival will open with a film titled "The Farthest" which is an Irish documentary about the Voyager space mission and the first spaceship to leave the solar system. "The Farthest," was chosen to open the festival because of its spectacle.

"We did screenings on computers and TVs and this is going to be impressive on that McConnell screen," said Ginny Ann Blackson, the president of the Ellensburg Film Festival.

Aubol is in charge of gathering submissions and finding movies for the board to watch. Once the board has watched all of the submissions, they give awards to their favorite films.
Nevada goes green on rec pot

By Eric Rosane
News Editor

On July 1, recreational marijuana shops across Nevada opened their doors for the first time to publicly sell marijuana and become the fifth US state to legalize the selling of recreational marijuana.

Under the new legislation, anyone over the age of 21 with a valid ID can purchase up to an ounce of marijuana from public dispensaries. In the first month of legalization, Nevada dispensaries sold $67.5 million in recreational marijuana, more than Colorado or Oregon.

Under the new legislation, Nevada lawmakers drafted previous bills in 2002 and 2006 in attempt at previously legalizing the plant, but were defeated by the polls before the initiative could ever make it to the floor.

The legislation, which was finished late last June, was specifically designed in collaboration with state senators to boost Nevada’s tourism industry, which has been in a minor recession.

Last year, Nevada was one of four other states to vote on the legalization of marijuana, alongside California, Massachusetts and Maine.

Alike other states that have legalized recreational marijuana, Nevada’s laws are fairly similar in scope.

Smoking marijuana outside still remains illegal, despite any attempted state legislature, fines and penalties for breaking those laws can cost up to a thousand dollar in fines, and/or up to six months in jail time.

Nevada was also a state that promoted the expansion of medical marijuana heavily in 2011.

“If anything is anything like Colorado, we’re likely to see people who have only smoked marijuana in the past try different products, like edibles,” Executive Director of the Department of Taxation Denise Contine said in a statement back in early July, in regards to the legalization of marijuana.

Contine also warned users in the same document that just because recreational use was legalized, doesn’t mean that it’s legal to smoke in public. She also told the public to take caution of how much they were using daily and check labels to confirm the correct amount in a serving size.

Even with Nevada’s early spike in marijuana sales, the state is still expected to sell $700 million worth of marijuana within the next two years.

This is a number that many analysts say will not help support Nevada’s tourism budget, even with the additional 15 percent tax added onto sales.

Tourists are expected to make up to 63 percent of recreational sales within the next couple years as recreational marijuana makes its eventual climb to a multi-billion dollar state business.

Last year, more than 40 million people visited Las Vegas, according to the Associated Press.

Editorial policy: 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 provide a source of news for the campus community at large. It provides a forum 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 campus community. It provides an outlet for students to have their voices heard and the skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions call (580) 962-3872 or e-mail us at cwuobserver.com.

Observe Nevada had a higher grossing first month for recreational marijuana sales than either Colorado or Oregon.

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Jason Morales  
Staff Reporter 

Not in Our Kittitas County (NIOKC) is gearing up for their second year. The group is planning to continue to promote themselves and unite CWU and the community in the fight against discrimination, especially with all the incoming students.

Their mission is to get rid of discrimination, harassment and bullying, starting in Kittitas County. They do not expect it to happen in their lifetime, but more awareness of their group will help. NIOKC’s mission “...crosses all political lines, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, cultures, abilities, and religions” according to their mission statement.

“We want people to know that Ellensburg, for the most part, is a very welcoming place,” Marte Fallshore, a psychology professor at CWU, said.

One of the biggest concerns is people recruiter students to join hate groups. In response to these rumors, workshops are being put together and will inform people of recruitment of hate groups and how to properly act around them. More workshop, guest speakers and a march for this year are also in the works, according to Fallshore.

“The rumors are that there have been recruiters. College campuses are the biggest recruitment places for extremist groups,” Fallshore said.

While they want to do more to combat discrimination, there is a fine line that the committee has to stay on. Fallshore would like to let the public know that NIOKC is a non-political group. Even though the committee was formed around the time of the election, the committee wanted to make it clear that they were not for a particular “party.”

“We are not necessarily out there responding directly to everything that is going on,” Fallshore said.

The group does care about people’s rights, but they cannot go as a group to attend events, such as the repeal of the DACA program, Fallshore said.

For the members of NIOKC, if they would like to attend such an event, they would have to go as individuals. Even in their meetings, they would argue whether or not the event they are asked to be a part of is political or not.

There is no set date yet for the upcoming march, but if it is happening. When asked if they are worried for their safety, Fallshore said that they are not worried about people harassing them for their future marches. In fact, they are prepared and have police officers with them.

“You never know what will happen, like, what happened in Charlottesville, we are on our toes,” Fallshore said.

So far, it has been peaceful, but they have taken precautions and are ready for the negative responses. In their last march, there was one truck driver who was spewing words at them, but he wound up being arrested at the end; nothing too strenuous that the police could not handle.

NIOKC is still a new committee and are working on obtaining more merchandise to promote their group. If people want t-shirts, they can go to Shirtworks and order a t-shirt from them. Jerrell’s is also supporting the group by having bumper stickers and shopping bags.

NIOKC committee meetings are at 4 p.m. on Mondays.

**Federal Grant helps CWU geology**

Kejuan Coleman  
Staff Reporter 

CWU and six other west-coast universities have recently been part of a $3.7 million grant from the United States Geological Survey.

This grant, which was finalized late last summer, is for the development of a more defined earthquake alert system, called “ShakeAlert”, that would help to predict and read oncoming earthquakes before they arrive.

Of the full grant, $414,000 would be invested into CWU’s ShakeAlert system, which will primarily develop and refine the system.

CWU’s contributions include analyzing local GPS stations in real time, developing resilient systems that can observe and survive the earthquakes, and further ShakeAlert’s programming, which has been continually in developed for the last ten years.

“ShakeAlert has been continually in development for the past ten years. We are very excited to see it continue to develop and expand its reach,” says CWU Geodetics professor, Gary Zoback.

With the world still recovering from the earthquake that hit Mexico City, many are still wondering if the Pacific Northwest has the capability to mitigate damage that would impact the greater salmon environment, or even predict it.

Around Washington schools, there have been more worries about multiple schools with structures that are not safe and have a possibility of collapsing. One in three Washington schools live in a quake-prone area and attend class in buildings constructed before seismic codes were even adopted, according to a Seattle Times analyst.

Governor Inslee and his team have stated in a report by the governor that infrastructure reinforcement is low on his priority list.

The governor’s Resilient Washington Subcabinet released a “to-do” list that shows how local the repair districts are, according to a Seattle Times analyst.

Higher on the list are drills for public schools and funding for programs that offer a quicker and less expensive fix.

The big reason new buildings aren’t on the top of the list for public investment is because they would take too much time and money to rebuild the structure of most of the schools with a modest price of $15 Million to accomplish.

For Washington and the possibility of an earthquake, “Washington faces the second-highest earthquake risk in the U.S., after California,” says Zoback.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that a magnitude 9 megasquake and tsunami from the offshore Cascadia Subduction Zone could claim more than 10,000 lives across the Pacific northwest and cause more than $80 billion in damage.

Many analysts and geologists nationwide have concerns over the threat of the possible “overdue” earthquake.

**NIOKC gears up for its second year**

Jason Morales  
Staff Reporter 

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Faculty union strikes big in new contract

From a faculty-wide survey in which 218 participated

The United Faculty Union has been bargaining with the university for major revisions in faculty contracts, such as raises.

The way a contract works is that we bargain," Pinkart said. "We have an existing contract that we bring in for changes for. There were certainly things that we wanted to say, but it’s a great contract."

One of the bigger concerns for faculty was how incoming staff has higher salaries than those that had been at CWU for years.

"Faculty that have been here a longer period of time sometimes don’t have mechanisms by which their salaries increase at the same rate," CWU Executive Director of Human Resources Staci Sleigh-Layman said to the Daily Record. "So we have some less experienced faculty at CWU that are close to, or above, what other people at the same rank are making, but have been here longer."

Aside from salary raises and financial disbursement to equalize pay between new and long-term faculty, the contract established a basis for maternity and parental leave. Previously, spouses who both worked at the university would be required to take their six-week leave at the same time, but this has been changed so that it can now be taken consecutively. "The university was willing to work with us on what was definitely a problem, the people at the table have the power to bargain for us there and there is overwhelming support from the union members," Pinkart said.

The contract also included a merit review system that provides non-tenure track faculty who have worked for five years or more with an opportunity for a pay increase. It also introduced a new “phased retirement” program.

"I like the contract. I really like how the two sides worked together," Faculty Relations Coordinator Charlene Andrews said.

In the next few months, the two sides plan on working together to introduce all faculty to the new contract.

"I think we have good faculty on campus that are very student oriented, I think that’s very important," Andrews said.

The contract lasts three years and expires on Aug. 21, 2020. It is one year shorter than the previous four-year contract and a year longer than the contracts before, which settled for two years.

UFC also pushed for further protection of intellectual property, but after reviewing the current policy it was left as is.

"This is a fair and reasonable agreement that recognizes the hard work of our faculty," CWU President James Gaudino said in an online news release. "A big part of the record enrollment increases we’ve experienced in the past few years is having quality faculty who are recognized as being among the best in their fields."

UFC President Matthew Altmann said in an online news release that faculty overwhelmingly approved the new agreement, saying that the contract reinforces the university’s commitment to faculty and student research collaboration and continues the effort to make faculty salaries competitive with peer institutions.

"Arts and humanities cost more than they bring in," Shiver said.

ABB pairing with RCM allows the dean of each college and the budget committee to distribute the funds to faculty wages or goods and services, according to Frank.

The new budget model pairing RCM and ABB is only temporary, according to Shiver. It will be tweaked in the coming years to better accommodate everyone at CWU. He also believes the new budget model will evolve in the future to meet the needs of CAH, as well as CWU as a whole.

Shiver also believes that while the CAH is not receiving the funding it wants, it is receiving the funding it needs to operate. The new budget is “just a different philosophy,” Shiver said. He then reiterated CAH’s desire for student success and meeting the basic needs of its students and faculty.

Shiver also shared efficiency goals aimed at keeping CAH on budget. These goals included improved class scheduling with less overlapping courses aimed at maximizing the number of students in each course.

CAH offers many general education classes, according to Schactler. However, the 22.4 percent share of total SCH that the college accounts for this academic year is not enough budget to cover the expenses of CAH, Shiver said.

"In the long-run there will be more positives," Shiver said, referring to the new budget model. He noted that RCM paired with ABB will show how CAH distributes funds and that the respective colleges of CWU have been sharing funds for decades. He specifically referenced the music program, which has been receiving aid for many years. Shiver was the former Music Department Chairman.

"I think we’re in pretty good shape," Shiver said.

Even with the RCM in full swing, faculty are still unsure of the BOT’s ability to advocate for faculty and student rights with the changes.
Why do people get so upset when people choose not to stand for the national anthem? They are not protesting the people who fight for our freedom. They are protesting police brutality and inequality.

One of my favorite sayings is that “perception is reality”; just because you said something one way, does not mean that’s how it was understood.

This is one big problem with this protest. The NFL players, among many others, are protesting one thing but are being blamed for disrespecting something completely different. I have found that people do not understand the purpose behind kneeling for the anthem. The players are not kneeling purely because they do not feel like standing. They are not disrespecting the flag as many people, including our president, have been saying.

You cannot disrespect an object; it has no feelings. The national anthem is just some inkblots on a piece of paper that somehow translate into sounds that sometimes sound pleasant when certain people play or sing. The flag is a piece of cloth with colors on it meant to symbolize a group of people.

Now don’t get me wrong. I understand that they have meanings behind the objects. The flag and anthem are both a strong part of our country and are used as symbols to unite us all as Americans. I am all for patriotism and showing respect to those who serve.

My two best friends and my fiancé are currently serving in the army. I have family that is currently serving or has served in the past through various branches of the military. I understand how important they are and I really do appreciate everything that they sacrifice. They miss holidays and time with their family to go risk their lives in awful conditions for less than minimum wage.

However, by not standing for the national anthem, we are not disrespecting them. Personally, I stand for the anthem, but that’s my right, just as it is everyone else’s first amendment right to not stand. Why is it disrespectful to not stand? What about people who can’t stand? Are they automatically unpatriotic? Is it disrespectful to not rise for the national anthem when I am sitting on my couch at home? Where exactly do we draw the line?

Everyone in our armed forces is fighting to protect our rights, which include our right to peaceful protest. Naturally, everyone is going to disagree on half of everything that people say, but they cannot pick and choose which half they are going to fight for.

Before writing this opinion, I asked my fiancé and my friends for their opinion on the protests during the national anthem and they all gave me the same answer: they don’t really care, they don’t like it, but defending this is what they signed up for.

They all signed up to defend our peaceful protests, as well as all of our other rights, so that is what they will do. There have been so many violent protests regarding police brutality and racial inequality of late, but the NFL protesting by kneeling during the anthem is not one of them.

Simply being able to openly argue about whether or not this is disrespectful or a beneficial protest and disagree is one of the many reasons why America is still great. We have our first amendment. We can speak as we like, write what we want, choose whether or not to stand and be (basically) whoever we want to be.

Instead of focusing solely on the method of protest that is taking place, we should focus on what is being protested in the first place. We all know about various incidents that have brought national attention to the issues, so rather than argue over how we are disrespecting an object, let’s focus on how to fix the issue. Then, they’ll have to find a new reason to protest and a new object to disrespect.
CWU football defeated Simon Fraser University (SFU) 62-0 and improved to 5-0 going into their homecoming matchup against No. 17 Humboldt State University this Saturday on Oct. 7. After their win, the Wildcats moved up three spots, to No. 13 in the national rankings.

CWU came away victorious in both meetings against Humboldt last year. Their first victory was a 10-7 win in California, then the Wildcats followed that up with a 37-30 win to close out their season.

To prepare to face Humboldt, the team has been working on stopping the run, and being physical and dominant on both sides of the ball. They want to be efficient on third downs and be able to convert but also be able to stop them on third downs.

"Obviously, we appreciate the fans, the band, all the people that come, and the families," head coach Ian Shoemaker said. "Having home games is huge. It’s nice to get our first one out of the way, and move into Homecoming next week, but the win is the most important thing for us; to be 1-0 next week would be a huge step forward."

This is a high-power matchup with both teams starting off undefeated. CWU and Humboldt are both at the top of the GNAC standings and both are in the top 20 in the national polls.

"We want every week to be the same prep and the same mindset," Shoemaker said. "But, obviously you get a ranked opponent coming in against what we’re gonna be at ranking wise. I’m sure there is gonna be a little bit [of excitement and motivation], but that’s never for the crowd, the fans and the media. But, for us hopefully, it’s what our prep looks like and I think we had a great week of prep this week."

Senior linebacker Kevin Haynes is second on the team in tackles with 33. Haynes appeared in both matchups against Humboldt last season. Haynes lead the team in tackles in the first game with seven and was tied for the most tackles in game two with 17.

"It’s always fun; atmosphere is always crazy," Haynes said. "Every time we step on the field, we try to win. Homecoming is always a lot more fun - just with the people and the event leading up to the game."

Junior running back Christian Cummings has rushed for 100 yards or more in the previous three games. Cummings rushed for 183 yards against Simon Fraser, a high for this season. "It feels good that we can establish a solid running game that opens up all of our passing plays too. It gives everyone involved," Cummings said.

The Wildcats have big goals in mind, but Saturday’s game will be their next big obstacle. Humboldt is the best team record-wise on CWU’s schedule up to this point.

"Of course because we got our set goal on a national championship," Cummings said. "But first we gotta get the GNAC championship. They’re our closest competitor, so we gotta take them down. We got a little edge in our shoulders."

Last week, CWU held SFU scoreless; this was the second shutout for the Wildcats in a row against SFU dating back to last year’s 41-0 victory on Nov 5.

"I think the shutout is huge. It just shows that our guys performed at a high level and lived up to our expectations and our standards," Shoemaker said. "That’s a huge one, to have a shutout and the stats we were able to hold them to is a pretty special line defensively." Humboldt brings a 6-0 record and a 3-0 conference record. The winner of the matchup will take over first place in the GNAC.

To be 1-0 next week would be a huge step forward.

- Ian Shoemaker, head coach

CWU FOOTBALL IMPROVES TO 5-0 CATS WILL FACE HUMBOLDT, THEIR TOUGHEST OPPONENT YET. WINNER WILL TAKE FIRST PLACE IN THE GNAC

REMAINING EVENTS:
CobraHawk: Thursday Oct. 5 from 8 - 11 p.m.
Silent Dance: Friday Oct. 6 from 8 - 11 p.m.
Homecoming Game: Saturday Oct. 7 at 12:30 p.m.
Nick Offerman: Saturday Oct. 7 (SOLD OUT)
Pizza and beer at Science in a Pint

By Tai Jackson
Staff Reporter

Do you enjoy pizza? What about beer? These are two topics you find interesting? Then Science in a Pint is for you!

Open to both students and community members, Cornerstone Pie and CWU have come together to start a series of lectures explaining different topics involving science.

Since April 7, 2015, Cornerstone Pie, has been located at 307 E. 5th Ave., and CWU’s Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education (CESME) has joined together to create the event.

Since the event started, both community members and CWU students have enjoyed the local pizza joint and the science topics.

“Swingcats boogie

By Alexi Prente
Staff Reporter

Swing music fills the air and desks are pushed to one side of the large classroom to make way for the dance floor on the other side.

Music plays from the speakers connected to some one’s laptop and dancers switch partners every so often as they move around the floor.

Sometimes there is a pause in between songs to review some of the dance moves, then the music resumes again so the dancers can try the moves.

For the first Monday of Swingcats for the quarter, the dancers use basic swing steps. The steps were taught to them earlier in the night by volunteer instructor Daniel
during the time, her experiences were “fun and informative. I never knew Ellensburg had so many science programs throughout the community.”

Atkins, like many others who have attended previous lectures, explained the while at the Science in a Pint event she learned that there is more opportunity for involvement in the community as a whole.

She recommends other students to attend the Science in a Pint night and be open to learning new things.

Science

Editor: Daisy Perez | scene@cwuobserver.com

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, a new Science in a Pint event was scheduled to be called “Enigma”!

“Try your hand at cracking this infamous machine, learn how to build your own low-cost Enigma and encrypt your own message on an electronic replica,” said Dannica Price, College of the Sciences, STEM engagement program manager.

“We want Science in a Pint to be an entertaining and stimulating conversation between our guests and experts in many science fields,” said Mark Holloway, owner of Cornerstone Pie.

Cornerstone Pie also provides happy hour prices for artisan pizzas.

Local beer and wine is also available to guests during the Science in a Pint event.

“Cornerstone is fire! I love their pizzas and beers. My favorite pizza is the BBQ-all meat one with the garlic aloe,” said Damon Terry, business and computer science major at CWU.

On Cornerstone Pie’s Facebook, Nicole Klaus said left a comment saying “This is the best place in town for dinner, drinks or celebrations. Service is fast and friendly, and the food is delicious. I am impressed every time.”

“Science in a Pint is about making science relevant, fun and accessible. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. We are hoping to explore fun and engaging topics such as health, astronomy, fly fishing, and more,” said Martha Kurtz, CESME Director, in a press release.

Holloway explained that the lectures given during Science in a Pint nights at Cornerstone Pie are not normal lectures, but instead an opportunity to share knowledge, drink beer and learn from an expert in the science field.

Jasmine Atkins, lead server at Cornerstone Pies and CWU student, attended three Science in a Pint events.

She explained that although she was working during the time, her experiences were “fun and informative. I never knew Ellensburg had so many science programs throughout the community.”

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Holloway explained that the lectures given during Science in a Pint nights at Cornerstone Pie are not normal lectures, but instead an opportunity to share knowledge, drink beer and learn from an expert in the science field.

Jasmine Atkins, lead server at Cornerstone Pies and CWU student, attended three Science in a Pint events.

She explained that although she was working during the time, her experiences were “fun and informative. I never knew Ellensburg had so many science programs throughout the community.”

Atkins, like many others who have attended previous lectures, explained the while at the Science in a Pint event she learned that there is more opportunity for involvement in the community as a whole.

She recommends other students to attend the Science in a Pint night and be open to learning new things.
EFF shows 53 films

“Film Fest” from page 1

Aubol expressed that his job is really fun but can be stressful with all of the submissions that need to be sifted through. However, he looks forward to when the festival comes around because it allows him to share the films with the public.

“I like getting to see everybody excited to see the films and getting to talk to them about what they liked and didn’t like,” Aubol said.

Aubol recognizes that because Ellensburg is a small town, there aren’t as many opportunities to experience the arts as there would be in a larger town.

However, Aubol praises Ellensburg for the amount of opportunities that it does have and thinks that the film festival is an important piece in bringing the arts into the community.

“In Ellensburg, it can be hard to see foreign films. I know for a fact that we have some things that people have never heard of,” Aubol said. “There is nothing like it for film in Ellensburg.”

In addition to the films, there will be live Q&A sessions after some of the films.

There are around 15 filmmakers who will talk with the audience after their film is shown to answer any questions that people may have. Around half of these filmmakers are from out of town and have agreed to come specifically for the festival.

This is an opportunity for people to not only watch a compelling film but to also speak with the creator.

It gives [the audience] the opportunity to ask questions about the film or about the process,” Blackson said. “It’s an added layer of information about the movie.”

The board of volunteers wants families to attend the festival.

They have gone through the program and marked select films as family friendly. In addition to this, “Beauty and the Beast” will be shown for free on Saturday, Oct. 7 in the Hal Holmes Center.

The film festival helps give the community by supporting aspiring filmmakers and showing their work to the public.

The Teen Film Workshop and Show Us Your Shorts will be chances for people to watch films made in Ellensburg.

The weekend before the festival, teams were given 72 hours to create a ten-minute film of a specific genre.

These films will be screened during the Show Us Your Shorts event on Sunday, Oct. 8. According to Blackson, many CWU film majors participate in the competition.

The film festival worked with the Ellensburg Public Library Summer Reading Program to create The Teen Film Workshop. This nine hour workshop helped to teach young people how to make films and allowed them to create a film from start to finish. These films will be shown for free on Saturday, Oct. 7 in the Hal Holmes Center.

Vickers encourages everyone to attend the film festival because she knows that everybody enjoys movies.

She suggests that people look through the program and choose a subject that sounds interesting or possibly pick a film that looks unique and give it a shot.

“Going to films, for me, is like travelling,” Vickers said. “Travelling widens your perspective of the world.”

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Hennessey at home with Wildcats

By Anna Eyears  
Staff Reporter

In Reilly Hennessey’s home in Camas, Washington, hangs a poster bearing the words “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Inscribed on the poster is, “I want to be a football player.”

Now 21 years old and a quarterback and captain of CWU’s football team, Hennessey has made his dream a reality.

“It’s funny because I never thought I would actually be doing it, and yet here I am,” Hennessey said. “Growing up, I remember my dad and I would play football in the family room. He would be on his knees and he would try to tackle me. I would have to touch the fireplaceto score a touchdown.”

Hennessey transferred from Eastern Washington University this year after an opportunity arose to take on a greater role as the quarterback of CWU’s football team.

“The position I play is a lot more than just the physicality like it is for some other people. There are a lot of cerebral parts of the game that I’m always thinking about, which I enjoy.”

Coming off the back of a two-hour training session, Hennessey’s passion for football remains unwavering.

“I love the team aspect of it,” Hennessey said. “I love being out there with 11 guys and basically fighting over pieces of grass. It makes me dig deeper in the right thing every single time to have a successful play. I think that’s pretty special.”

Head coach Ian Shoemaker, said the recruiting process was competitive, with five guys all vying for the same role.

“We were in a situation where we were looking for more depth following our graduating seniors last year,” Shoemaker said. “A coach from Eastern Washington University, who had formerly coached at Central, called us when Reilly was starting to think about transferring. He said ‘Hey, this is a kid that we think is really good and we’d like to keep him, but he wants to leave.’”

Hennessey ended up winning the job.

“They have guys responded to him well,” Shoemaker said. “They’ve voted him captain. I think he’s really ingrained himself quickly.”

Shoemaker said Hennessey had been a huge contributor to the 5-0 start to the season.

“We’ve walked up the rankings of this season,” Shoemaker said. “I don’t think he’s scratched the surface of what he can do. I think that he’s growing and improving, but I don’t think we’re anywhere near his maximum capabilities. We’re looking forward to seeing what that looks like.”

For one individual each time out on the field is brought with mixed feelings.

Connie Hennessey, Hennessey’s mother, spoke with admiration of her son and his passion for football.

“I’m very proud of him but, you know, his degree in mathematical studies, either balancing his demanding sports life and being tough to handle,” Andaya said. “We’re always messing with each other in a funny way,” Graham said. “It’s a really well-balanced football team together had strengthened their friendship.

“We’re always messing with each other in a funny way,” Graham said. “He’s a great guy. A lot of football players can come off as jerks, and he could definitely do that, being the starting quarterback and me not being as high, but that’s not the case at all. He treats me the same as anybody else. We have a good friendship. It’s a brotherly type thing.”

About

Hometown: Camas, WA  
Position: Quarterback  
Major: Mathematics

Wildcat volleyball hits the road

By Jack Belcher  
Staff Reporter

“Here Comes the Sun” by The Beatles plays through the speakers as the women’s volleyball team practices for two away games on Oct. 5 and Oct. 7, against Saint Martin’s University and Seattle Pacific University (SPU).

With a 10-4 record, CWU women’s volleyball sits in third place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), behind Simon Fraser University (SFU) and Western Washington University (WWU) and Northwest Nazarene University (NNU).

“We are doing really well and learning a lot,” said setter Niki Cook. “We have stuff to improve on, but are getting better.”

Head coach Mario Andaya believes the team needs to work on things that will improve their dig to get better at their core defense.

“I know that Saint Martin’s has a lot of new personnel, players that we have to scout up on, we have to understand the kind of things that they have, but right now we know that they are playing well,” Andaya said. “They played a tough schedule so they are going to be prepared, and they are well coached so we know it is going to be a good battle.”

In their last meeting, CWU lost to SPU 3-2, under former coach Chris Johnson on Oct. 27, 2016. This year, SPU brings new coach, Abbie Wright and what Andaya calls “a good blocking team.”

“They have some power to score points with some new hitters,” Andaya said. “They also have a good setter so they are going to be a good puzzle to figure out.”

And a day and a half before each game the team prepare for each game by watching game film and looking for what they need to improve on both their offensive and defensive play.

R i g h t  no w, I think early on in the conference we need to focus on our side of the net more, and be really sound on controlling our side and being tough to handle,” Andaya said. “We will make some adjustments, but right now we just really need to focus on our side of the net.”

Andaya believes that SPU is going to be a lot more physical at the net and a little bit more balanced offensively. In order to defend against this, the team is going to have to be a little bit more spread out.

“Saint Martin’s I think have a couple of key hitters that take the bulk of their swings so we are really going to have to focus on a couple of those kids,” Andaya said.
Setting goals for the future

By Hanson Lee
Staff Reporter

Despite a heartbreaking loss to Quinnipiac last year in the National Championship Final by a score of 46-24, the Wildcats have made one goal clear for this year: to win the national championship. CWU’s women’s rugby team looks to rebound against their rivals on Oct. 7. The Wildcats are currently 1-2 on the year and are looking forward to the matchup.

“Obviously, we want to go out and try to win every week, but my primary focus this weekend is just to figure out where exactly our deficiencies are because I know we’re not going to be perfect, but that’s part of the plan,” said interim head coach Trevor Richards, “I don’t want us to be perfect yet at this point in the season. This is part of the growing process for this team, just moving forward and growing every week.”

Richards, former assistant coach of the men’s rugby team, is currently serving as the women’s interim head coach. Former head coach Mel Denham resigned this summer to take a coaching position at Harvard University. During practices, the Wildcats have turned their focus away from the coaching situation and to improving early on in the season.

“We've been really working hard on our fitness this year compared to last year,” said Leonard. “It’s our goal to win the national championship this year and I’m sure that we want to get back at Quinnipiac for last year.”

Along with the returners coming back from last year, there is also a brand new wave of freshmen joining the team, including prop Tiara A‘au.

“To go against Quinnipiac and potentially not win the game would be unfortunate.”
Tiara A‘au, Prop

Overall, this matchup will be a significant boost to the team’s confidence going forward in the season. Quinnipiac is one of the main teams standing between Wildcats and a national title this year. CWU and Quinnipiac will take the field Saturday Oct. 7 at 11 a.m.

If you go
When: Oct. 7 11 a.m.
Where: CWU Rugby Pitch
Cost: Free for students

Athletics Review

Football v. Simon Fraser
62-0 (5-0)
The Wildcats held off SFU for a shutout and improves to 5-0 in GNAC play going into Saturday’s homecoming game against Humboldt State University.

C.C. @ Louisville Invite
The women’s team finished third of 12 teams in DII action with 101 points. The men’s team finished seventh with 146 points.

Soccer @ Saint Martin’s
1-1 (0-2-2)
Wildcat soccer tied in conference play with SMU in Lacey. The lone goal by Sophia Keenan put CWU on the board in the second period.

Volleyball v. Alaska
3-2, 3-0 (5-1)
CWU took on UA Fairbanks and UA Anchorage over the weekend, coming away with wins in both matches.

W. Rugby v. Life
22-15 (1-2)
CWU dropped their home-opener against Life University 22-15. CWU’s record sits at 1-2 as the team prepares to face Quinnipiac on Oct. 7.
Time to hang it up Hernandez?

By Clayton Huber

Seattle Mariners fans are clenching their fists as the Mariners were eliminated from playing in the postseason for 16 years in a row. It seems like every year is going to be “our year”. The year that the Mariners make the playoffs, but time is running out and our star players are not getting any younger. Is it time to move on from our star players and restart from scratch?

Everyone in Seattle loves Felix Hernandez, who has been loyal to Seattle for over a decade now, but people need to realize that Hernandez is no longer a great pitcher. It has been a while since Seattle has seen Hernandez dominate, who has been injured on and off for the past couple of years, including a bicep injury that sidelined him and the recurring shoulder injury that has put him on the injured list three times now.

Hernandez, who is 31 now, has pitched over 2,500 innings for the Mariners throughout his career and is noticeably worn out. The King’s Court was created for Hernandez when he started to become a strikeout pitcher, the fans would yell and hold up “K” signs every time he would strike someone out. He is no longer King Felix who powers the King’s Court in left field every time he pitches because his ability to strike people out has diminished over the last few years.

Because Hernandez is no longer a strikeout pitcher, so it is to be seen if he can adapt his pitching style as he becomes less dominant with age. The game is changing at such a high rate, with young pitchers throwing the ball harder and hitters getting better, it is only making it more difficult for Hernandez to get back to his Cy Young days, the most prestigious pitching award. Any Mariner fan can look back and remember the day Felix Hernandez threw a perfect game, or struck out 10 batters while leading the Mariners to a win. Sadly, those days are over.

If you look at the teams in the playoffs, you will see that most of the talent on their teams are younger players. The Mariners on the other hand rely on the success of second baseman Robinson Cano, designated hitter Nelson Cruz and starting pitcher Felix Hernandez, who are all in their 30’s. While Cruz has only been in Seattle for three years and Cano for four, the Mariners have still failed to make the playoffs.

Not to take away from those players who have all had great careers and are Hall-of-Fame-type players, but their current contracts are making it difficult for the Mariners to add more talent to their roster. Cano, who is already 34 years old, is set to make $24 million per year for the next six years with the Mariners, who is already 34 years old, which means he will be making the same when he is 40. Nelson Cruz is set to make 14 million next year while being 36 years old. Lastly, the Mariners have been paying Felix $26 million a year for the past four years and will continue to for the next two years. This restricts the Mariners from going out and getting younger talent.

Felix Hernandez may have been the best Mariner ever, but his time as a superstar is over. He gave the Mariners 10 years of greatness and excitement. Memories of Felix Hernandez in a Mariners uniform will last a lifetime, from when he entered the league at 19 years old to watching him grow into one of the league’s best pitchers.

Now, it is time to move forward and go with the trend of all successful teams and find younger players who can help this franchise. Hernandez hasn’t played a full season in over three years and is losing velocity and movement on his pitches. He was the ace for the Mariners for over a decade and will most likely be in the Hall of Fame some day.

Career Stats

Career: 2005- Present
Avg Pitch Speed: 86.45 mph
ERA: 3.20

CWU 62, SFU 0

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