

College Basketball 2011-2012



THE BIG DOG

Larger-than-life personality puts Gonzaga center Robert Sacre in the discussion among all-time Zag characters
STORY, PAGE 3

Photo by Dan Pella
danp@spokesman.com



IDAHO
Vandals
Coach Don Verlin has tough task of making all the new pieces fit.

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Bulldogs
Veteran frontcourt, inexperienced backcourt provides interesting mix.

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New coach Jim Hayford likes team's chances if it survives early tests.

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Cougars
With loss of big stars, Cougars emphasize team effort.

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Good luck this season!

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ROBERT SACRE - C, GONZAGA BULLDOGS



Robert Sacre has enough love to go around for everyone, even game officials during the Kraziness in the Kennel in October.

DAN PELLE danp@spokesman.com

Center of attention

He's big, he's intense, but this self-described goof is just a regular guy

By Jim Meehan
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Robert Sacre was in ninth grade the first time Gonzaga assistant coach Tommy Lloyd saw him play basketball. "What you saw obviously is he had the great body, great energy level but he was pretty raw," Lloyd said. "And you could see his personality back then."

In other words, all the things GU followers have witnessed from the 7-foot Canadian in his first four seasons - he redshirted in 2009 with a broken foot after playing in five games - with the Bulldogs.

Roughly a year later, Lloyd was in a Vancouver, B.C., gym, again watching Sacre. "He scored a basket and he ran up court and put his fingers together and made a letter 'Z' on his chest as he ran by where I was sitting," Lloyd recalled. "Afterward, I said, 'What was that?' He said, 'The sign of the Zags.' It was all him. I knew we were in pretty good shape."

Now a senior, Sacre is far more polished on the court and entirely eclectic away from it. He fits comfortably on a list of the program's intriguing characters during its rise to national prominence - Casey Calvary, Quentin Hall, Zach Gourde, Ronny Turiaf, Adam Morrison, Jeremy Pargo, Steven Gray, to name a few - and he's not finished yet.

• • •

Gonzaga hasn't played an official game and there have only been a few sessions with the media. No matter. Sacre has already performed

"A lot of people are intimidated by me and it makes sense, but if you really know me I'm not going to hurt anybody. I consider myself like my dogs. They look scary, they're kind of intimidating but they're just big pussycats. That's what I am."

Robert Sacre,
Gonzaga senior center

a spot-on impression of director of basketball operations Jerry Krause, spoken in garbled German to needle teammates Mathis Mönninghoff and Elias Harris and noted that he shaved his head because was bored.

Spend 45 minutes with Sacre and you learn about his two-month-old son, Quinton, his pit bulls Louis and Jackson, his diverse network of friends and his affinity for riding horses and imitation crab meat.

"Meech (Goodson) put me on that," Sacre said. "I know it's not real crab, but with melted butter I could eat it all day."

He lives in an apartment complex he calls a cross-section of Spokane.

"I can honestly say I have friends throughout the whole town," Sacre said. "At my apartment complex we all talk and hang out, everybody knows each other. All ages."

"I call this place the vortex because once somebody comes here they never get out. If you look at all the Zags that have played here,

they all come back."

Sacre says he's had the ideal role model for his larger-than-life personality. Grandpa Gervis is in his 70s and lives in Ville Platte, La. Sacre was born in Louisiana before moving to Vancouver roughly at age 7 with his mother, Leslie, a former LSU basketball player. Sacre spent summers in Louisiana with his father Greg, a former LSU and NFL player, and grandparents.

Gervis still works fulltime, still won't let anybody cut his enormous lawn and never goes on vacation. Gervis' house rules require Sacre to take out his earrings when entering and grandpa isn't a big fan of Sacre's tattoos.

"He's all talk and he backs it up," Sacre said. "He doesn't take crap from anybody, he's so strong-willed. I envy him. I want to be him when I'm older. He's the center of attention, always has been and always will be."

Sacre stops for a moment. "I'm not going to compliment him because he'll read this and say, 'See,'" said Sacre, quickly returning to the topic. "I can call him at any moment, even when things might seem to be the worst in the world. He'll just say, 'It's the end of that day, you're starting a new one.'"

• • •

Sacre had no problems adapting to life in Canada. He formed friendships easily and soon took up sports, trying soccer, T-ball, swimming and rugby. When he was 9, he came home from school and asked his mom, "Can I get a

See **SACRE, 08**

3

IN THE KEY

Quick-hitting favorites of Gonzaga Bulldogs senior post man Robert Sacre:

Songs

1

"Ruff Ryders Anthem"

2

"You Are My Sunshine"

3

"Achy Breaky Heart"

Musicians

1

Jerry Lee Lewis

2

Gipsy Kings

3

Alan Jackson

Movies

1

"Baby Boy"

2

"Conan the Barbarian"

3

The Man from Snowy River

Sayings

1

"Stay thirsty my friends" (From Dos Equis commercials)

2

"Believe that ... ?"

3

"Living the dream"

Restaurants

1

Flamin' Joes (but unhappy they took drumsticks away)

2

Swinging Doors

3

Molly's, Red Lion Inn (tie)

Meals

1

Imitation crab ("I know it's ridiculous")

2

Stuffed portobello mushrooms

3

Prime rib

Moments at GU

1

Birth of son, Quinton

2

Winning 2011 WCC tourney

3

Every moment with teammates. Can't pick just one.

IDAHO VANDALS



"We've got to keep building on each year's success and never get too comfortable," said senior guard Deremy Geiger, the Vandals' lone returning starter. CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON chrisa@spokesman.com

Looking for right mix

Newcomers appear promising for Vandals, especially added bulk down low

By Josh Wright | Correspondent

MOSCOW, Idaho – It's developing into an almost yearly exercise for the Idaho men's basketball team. The Vandals round up lots of new faces to bring to the Palouse, and the coaching staff scrambles to get the remade roster to coalesce.

Don Verlin, who will embark this week on his fourth season in charge of the program, has just one full-time starter returning and six newcomers – four junior-college transfers and two freshmen.

As of last week, Idaho's rotation was far from locked into place. It was so unsettled, in fact, that Verlin acknowledged he and his assistants had yet to make progress beyond solidifying the first four starting spots.

"We have about 13 guys right now," he said, "and there's not a lot of difference between one and 13."

But the Vandals will still lean on a core of returners, led by 6-foot-10 junior forward Kyle Barone and senior guards Deremy Geiger and Landon Tatum.

Geiger and Tatum, similarly sized JC products who alternated at point guard last year, will start in the backcourt together. And they'll focus on feeding Barone and the Vandals' much-missed interior lineup.

Barone, a preseason second-team All-WAC selection, was the Vandals' second-leading scorer last year – despite starting only nine games. He will move from center to the more natural power forward spot after the addition of JC transfer Wendell Faines (6-8, 245 pounds) and the progression of redshirt sophomore Joe Kammerer (6-9, 241).

The Vandals also have 255-pound Dazmond Starke, who originally signed with UTEP, and 6-7 Djim Bandoumel, who sat out most of last season with academic issues.

"We've been talking about that since the beginning of the year – we've got a lot of big guys this year," Barone said. "I think this year we're definitely going to be more physical

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Kyle Barone, F/C

Last year the Vandals weren't sure what they would get from Kyle Barone. The skilled big man exploded for at least 18 points five times – but also went quiet offensively for much of the last month.

Coach Don Verlin knows that needs to change. "Kyle has got to be our steady guy night in and night out," he said. "He can't be inconsistent like he was last year."

Barone, a 6-10 junior with a soft touch and solid ballhandling skills, will be more of a roving power forward after playing center in 2010-11. "I'm ready to step up to be that leader, to be that guy these guys look up to," Barone said.



down low."

Aside from more interior depth, Verlin is excited about what he views as the most promising freshman tandem in his time in Moscow. Connor Hill of Post Falls and Xavier Bazile of Tacoma have both made strong enough impressions in the preseason that Verlin might push the guards into action rather than redshirt them.

"Those two guys are going to be two real good players in our program," he said.

After an 18-14 season and third-place WAC finish last year, it's clear the Vandals' talent base is improving. But the roster churn has been pronounced under Verlin.

Mike McChristian and Starke were late signees in the fall after spots opened when Luiz Toledo departed to play professionally in Brazil and two freshmen – Renaldo Parker and Gary Winston – left the program early last season.

McChristian, a guard/wing, will be the team's third point guard and help take the place of Shawn Henderson, the team's best defender last year. The Vandals will also see sophomore Stephen Madison and Geiger – as well as potentially Hill or Mansa Habeeb, another newcomer – to replace Jeff Ledbetter's outside shooting.

Vandals fast facts

Conference: Western Athletic Conference
Colors: Black, silver and gold
Ticket Office Phone: (208) 885-6466
Home Court (Capacity): Cowan Spectrum (7,000)
Website: govandals.com
Coach: Don Verlin, 4th year
Record at Idaho: 50-46
Career Record/Division I Only: 50-46
Assistant Coaches: Ray Lopes, Tim Murphy, Mike Freeman
2010-11 Overall Record: 18-14
2010-11 WAC Record/Finish: 9-7/3rd
Letterwinners Returning/ Lost: 7/5
Starters Returning/Lost: 1/4
Newcomers: 6

Key games

- The first week of the season should be telling for the Vandals. They play at **Long Beach State** – which returns four starters from a 22-win team – and at **Montana**, where they lost by 42 a year ago.

- I think those two games right off the bat will give us a huge read (on our team)," Verlin said.

- Two weeks after the difficult road swing, the Vandals host **Washington State** and are at **Oregon State** in a three-day stretch.

- Ut also has a neutral-court game with **Boise State** at the Idaho Center in Nampa, what Verlin hopes is the start of an annual game vs. BSU with the teams in different conferences.

WAC predictions

- Utah State
- Nevada
- New Mexico State
- Hawaii
- Idaho**
- Fresno State
- San Jose State
- Louisiana Tech

UI on Twitter

Idaho was the only WAC team to knock off Utah St. last season, but the Aggies – picked to win league – won't be nearly as dominant this year.



Follow Josh Wright at twitter.com/SR_JoshWright

2011-12 Vandals roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Last School)
0	Dazmond Starke	F	6-6	255	Jr.	Richmond, Va. (E. Arizona College)
1	Xavier Bazile	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Tacoma (Mt. Tahoma HS)
3	Mansa Habeeb	G	6-3	220	Jr.	Rhineclay, N.Y. (Southeastern Iowa CC)
4	Sheridan Shayne	G	6-0	170	Sr.	Boise (Borah HS)
5	Connor Hill	G	6-2	190	Fr.	Post Falls (Post Falls HS)
10	Landon Tatum	G	5-11	195	Sr.	San Antonio (South Plains College)
12	Mike McChristian	F	6-2	200	Jr.	Vacaville, Calif. (Yuba College)
15	Djim Bandoumel	F	6-7	220	Sr.	Quebec City (Monroe College)
20	Matt Barton	G	6-5	190	Fr.	Yakima (West Valley HS)
33	Kyle Barone	F/C	6-10	220	Jr.	Garden Grove, Calif. (Pacifica HS)
34	Stephen Madison	F	6-5	210	So.	Portland (Jefferson HS)
35	Deremy Geiger	G	5-11	170	Sr.	Las Vegas (Grayson County College)
42	Joe Kammerer	C	6-9	241	So.	Eugene, Ore. (North Eugene HS)
45	Wendell Faines	F	6-8	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Saddleback JC)



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GONZAGA BULLDOGS



Gonzaga's 6-foot-9 sophomore center Sam Dower provided bulk in the middle and instant offense off the bench for Zags last season.

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Mixed bag for Zags

Big men experienced, talented; backcourt young, unproven

By Jim Meehan
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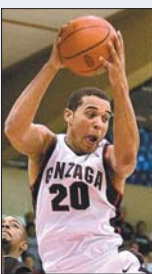
Season after season has gone by in head coach Mark Few's 13 years with Gonzaga pretty well stocked at the guard position, particularly point guard.

Most years there have been at least two capable ball-handlers. Most years there have been seasoned guards to help the Bulldogs navigate arduous schedules and reach the NCAA Tournament.

Santangelo and Hall. Dickau and Stepp. Stepp and Brooks. Raivou and Pargo. Pargo and Bouldin. Including Dickau in 2002 and Bouldin in 2010, five GU guards were selected WCC player of the year, with Stepp winning the award twice.

When Few surveys his current crew of guards, he likes what he sees in terms of talent, savvy and potential, but there's a shortage of collegiate experience. Demetri Goodson, who started the last two seasons, transferred and he's playing football at Baylor.

"This is as much youth as we've ever tried to play with, especially in the



Associated Press

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Elias Harris, F

The 6-foot-7, 235-pound junior had a strong freshman season, but his production tailed off last year, in part because of early season shoulder and Achilles injuries. In conference games, Harris averaged nearly 4.5 fewer points in 2011 than he did in 2010. Harris trimmed down by 10 pounds in the offseason and says he feels quicker and more explosive without losing any of his strength.

The Bulldogs need Harris to return to form with the frontcourt expected to carry the scoring burden, particularly early with Gonzaga's inexperience at the guard positions.

Harris figures to be a go-to option on critical possessions in tight games. He's capable of scoring in transition, from the 3-point line (45.1 percent as a freshman) and on the low block. One key will be Harris' ability to get to the foul line. He attempted 185 free throws two years ago, and only 123 last season.

backcourt," Few said. Sophomore David Stockton, the former walk-on who often played more minutes than Goodson in WCC games last season, returns at point guard. Senior Marquise Carter operated primarily at wing and earned 2011 WCC newcomer of the year honors in his first season as a Bulldog.

True freshman guards Kevin Pangos and Gary Bell Jr. bring impressive resumes and they've had shining moments in scrimmages. Their development figures to greatly influence the team's prospects.

"They're as ready to play as freshmen as Blake (Stepp) and (Mart) Bouldin were," assistant coach Tommy Lloyd said. If the backcourt develops, the Bulldogs could be on to something because the frontcourt is regarded as one of the top units in the nation.

Led by senior center Robert Sacre, junior forward Elias Harris and

sophomore forward Sam Dower, the Bulldogs should be a handful in the paint.

Harris, who bypassed playing for the German national team this summer, stayed in Spokane and dropped 10 pounds to reach his current weight of 234.

"He's in much better shape, his game is tighter," Few said. "It's tough when you play in Germany and then you show up (in Spokane) in September. It's like you're a free-agent signing and I don't think he feels like that now. I think he's all in."

Gonzaga appears to have the personnel to run a three-guard lineup or go with more size at the wing. Guy Landry Edj, who won't be available at the start of the season after being ruled ineligible by the NCAA, is an athletic 6-foot-6, 218-pounder. Returning players Mathis Mönninghoff, Mathis Keita and Mike Hart are among the other options.

"There is some depth," Few said. "It's just young depth."

Bulldogs fast facts

Conference: West Coast
Colors: Blue, white and red
Ticket Office: (509) 313-4046
Home Court: McCarthy Athletic Center (6,000)
Website: gozags.com
Coach: Mark Few, 13th year
Record at GU: 316-81
Career Record/Division I Only: 316-81
Assistant Coaches: Tommy Lloyd, Ray Giacoletti, Donny Daniels
2010-11 Overall Record: 25-10
2010-11 WCC Record/Finish: 11-3/1st
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/3
Starters Returning/Lost: 2/2
Newcomers: 6

Key games

It's another rugged non-conference schedule, but the difference this season is many of the biggest showdowns (**Notre Dame, Michigan State, Butler**) will be in the McCarthy Athletic Center.

Two huge December road challenges loom:

- **Illinois** (Dec. 3) has reportedly cut back practices because the intense sessions were resulting in injuries.
- **Xavier** (Dec. 3), which is in the top 15 in both major polls, carries the highest preseason ranking on GU's schedule and features TU Holloway, one of the nation's top point guards.
- **Arizona** (Dec. 17 in Seattle) enters the season ranked 16th.
- The biggest games in the WCC in recent years have been Gonzaga's clashes with Saint Mary's. But the most anticipated conference matchups this season will likely be GU's contests with WCC newcomer **BYU**. The Cougars are 166-16 at the 22,700-seat Marriott Center the last 12 years, including winning streaks of 44 and 53 games.

WCC predictions

1. Gonzaga
2. Brigham Young
3. Saint Mary's
4. San Francisco
5. Loyola Marymount
6. Santa Clara
7. Portland
8. San Diego
9. Pepperdine

GU on Twitter

Gonzaga's top three scorers will be interior players: C Robert Sacre, F Elias Harris and F Sam Dower, with Dower again supplying instant offense off the bench.



Follow Jim Meehan at twitter.com/SRJimm

2011-12 Bulldogs roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Prev. School)
00	Robert Sacre	C	7-0	260	Sr.	North Vancouver, B.C.
2	Marquise Carter	G	6-4	178	Sr.	San Diego
3	Kyle Dranginis	G	6-5	175	Fr.	Nampa, Idaho (Skyview)
4	Kevin Pangos	G	6-1	180	Fr.	Newmarket, Ontario (Denison)
5	Gary Bell, Jr.	G	6-1	205	Fr.	Kent, Wash. (Kentridge)
10	Guy Landry Edj	F	6-6	218	Jr.	Agboville, Ivory Coast (Midland Col.)
11	David Stockton	G	5-11	152	So.	Spokane
13	Kelly Olynyk	F	7-0	238	Jr.	Kamloops, B.C.
14	Chris Sarbaugh	G	6-3	195	Fr.	Spokane (Gonzaga Prep)
15	Ryan Spangler	F	6-8	232	Fr.	Blanchard, Okla. (Bridge Creek)
20	Elias Harris	F	6-7	240	Jr.	Speyer, Germany
22	Mathis Mönninghoff	F	6-7	189	So.	Ilbenbüren, Germany
25	Mathis Keita	G	6-5	200	So.	Thionville, France
30	Mike Hart	G	6-6	206	Jr.	Portland
35	Sam Dower	C	6-9	248	So.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.

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EASTERN WASHINGTON EAGLES



COLIN MULVANY colinm@spokesman.com

New coach Jim Hayford is high on senior forward Tremayne Johnson, who averaged 10 points and 5.1 rebounds last season.

EAGER EAGLES

New coach, receptive players need time to jell

By Steve Bergum
steveb@spokesman.com, (509) 475-9689

Jim Hayford isn't having any problem with the product he's trying to sell as a first-year Division I men's basketball coach. His players at Eastern Washington University are buying into his new system in a big way, and have been since he was introduced last March as the successor to Kirk Earlywine, who was fired after going 42-78 in four seasons in Cheney.

Hayford's major concern is centered, instead, on his own selling technique — especially with Friday night's season opener at Gonzaga so close at hand.

"The guys are eager to learn what I'm teaching," said Hayford, who made the jump to Eastern following a successful 10-year stint at Division III Whitworth.

"But if I had to assess those first few weeks of practice, I'd say the weak point has been my teaching.

"I can teach calculus, but with everything being so new to these guys, we've got pre-algebra to teach first. They're really, really eager to try to pick things up, so it's just a matter of finding a common building ground everyone is comfortable with and

keep going from there."

EWU finished 10-20 overall last winter and 7-9 in the Big Sky Conference to qualify for the 6-team league tournament for the first time in five seasons. Eight lettermen, including six of last year's top seven scorers, return, giving Hayford reason to believe that this year's team can be a part of the postseason picture, as well, despite the absence of last year's scoring and assists leader Glen Dean, who transferred to Utah following Earlywine's dismissal.

"I really think that if we can avoid injury and keep a collective confidence in the midst of a very difficult nonconference schedule, we'll emerge as a very good team in January and February," Hayford said.

Among EWU's top returnees is a trio of smurf-like guards — senior Cliff Colimon and juniors Kevin Winford and Jeffrey Forbes — who combined to average just over 30 points a game last winter. Add in the senior low-post trio of Tremayne Johnson, Cliff Ederaine and Laron Griffin, who combined to average almost 24 points and 20 rebounds, and it becomes obvious that experience is not a problem.

Johnson, a 6-7 forward who averaged 10 points and 5.1 rebounds as a junior, is the most naturally gifted.

"Tremayne is a guy with tremendous potential," Hayford said. "But he has to figure out how to take his athleticism and fit

it into this team's new structure. He really wants to do that, and is working hard at it, so it then becomes incumbent on us, as coaches, to find a way to use his skills and strengths in the best way for our team to be successful."

Hayford also points out that his three returning guards are mainly spot-up perimeter shooters, while his three bigs accounted for only 20 3-point baskets last season — with 19 of those coming from Johnson, who shot only 29.7 (19-64) from beyond the 3-point line.

Which is why he is so high on Collin Chiverton, a junior forward and first-year transfer from City College of San Francisco. "Size-wise, he's in the middle of those other two groups," Hayford said of the 6-6, 200-pound Chiverton, who averaged 19 points and five rebounds in leading CCSF to a state championship last winter. "And because of his skills, he can move between the two and give us some things that weren't, maybe, in the mix before."

Under Hayford, the Eagles will be much more structured, offensively, than they have been in recent years. And that seems to set well with the returning players.

"There's not as much freedom in his system," explained Forbes, "but everybody is really held accountable in it, and we're keeping the same pace — maybe even pushing the ball a little more."

Eagles fast facts

Conference: Big Sky
Colors: Red and White
Ticket office: 1-866-4GO-EAGS
Home court: Reese Court (6,000)
Website: goeags.com
Coach: Jim Hayford, first season
Assistant coaches: Craig Fortier, first year; Craig Ehlo, first year; Shantay Legans, third year
2010-2011 Record: 10-20
Big Sky Record/finish: 7-9/6th
Letterwinners Back/Lost: 8/3
Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1
Newcomers: 7

Key games

For Big Sky teams, the postseason is all about winning the conference tournament and nailing down the league's automatic berth in the NCAA's 68-team field.

• So while Eastern will learn a lot about itself during a brutal nonconference schedule that includes road games against **Gonzaga** (Nov. 1), **Oregon** (Nov. 17) and **UCLA** (Dec. 14), the circle-your-calendar dates for the Eagles are Dec. 30, when the travel to Missoula to take on **Montana**, and Jan. 5, when they welcome defending BSC champion and preseason favorite **Weber State** to Reese Court.

Those two games against the teams picked to finish 1-2 in this year's Big Sky regular-season title race will give Hayford, his players and EWU fans a good idea of just how much the Eagles benefitted from testing themselves against some of the nation's best in nonconference play, and how the match up against the Big Sky's elite programs.

Big Sky predictions

1. Weber State
2. Montana
3. Northern Colorado
4. Northern Arizona
5. Eastern Washington
6. Portland State
7. Montana State
8. Sacramento State
9. Idaho State

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Collin Chiverton, F

The kind of excitement created by the arrival of junior wing Collin Chiverton rivals any since Detroit Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey made his way to Cheney back in 2005, and with good reason.

Chiverton, a 6-foot-6, 200-pounder, originally signed with WCC power Saint Mary's College, where he redshirted in 2008-09 before opting to go the junior college route, which led to a brilliant sophomore year at City College of San Francisco last winter.

As an Eagle, Hayford is expecting Chiverton, who averaged 19 points, five rebounds and 2.5 assists in leading CCSF to last year's California's state community college title, to have a deep and immediate impact because of his ability to shoot the ball from the perimeter, as well as finish plays at the rim.

"We have three small veteran guards, who are mainly 3-point shooters, and three veteran bigs, who score primarily down low," Hayford explained. "But in Collin, we've got a guy who can do both."

"He brings a kind of versatility that, maybe, wasn't there in those other two groups."



COLIN MULVANY colinm@spokesman.com

EWU on Twitter

There is no shortage of ways to follow Eastern Washington progress after Jim Hayford's coaching leap from Division III Whitworth to the Big Sky.



Follow Steve Bergum at twitter.com/SRBergum

2011-12 Eagles roster

No.	Name	Po.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Last School)
1	Tyler Harvey	G	6-4	175	Fr.	Torrance, Calif. (Bishop Mont. HS)
2	Rocky Brown	F	6-6	200	So.	Fresno, Calif. (Central HS)
4	Willie Hanks	G	6-3	190	Fr.	Los Angeles (California Technical HS)
5	Justin Crosogle	G	5-11	170	Jr.	Patterson, N.J. (St. Joseph's, Pa.)
10	Parker Kelly	G	6-4	195	Fr.	Spokane (Gonzaga Prep)
11	Cliff Colimon	G	6-0	170	Sr.	Brooklyn, N.Y. (Eastern Utah JC)
12	Martin Seifert	F	6-10	230	So.	Berlin, Germany (Oregon)
15	Laron Griffin	F	6-8	220	Sr.	Los Angeles (L.A. Southwest Col.)
20	Tremayne Johnson	F	6-7	200	Sr.	Los Angeles (L.A. Southwest Col.)
21	Justin Omogun	C	6-8	240	So.	Brooklyn, N.Y. (Western Nebraska CC)
22	Jeffrey Forbes	G	5-10	170	Jr.	Federal Way, Wash. (Federal Way HS)
23	Kevin Winford	G	5-11	170	Jr.	Anchorage, Alaska (Bartlett HS)
24	Collin Chiverton	F	6-6	200	Jr.	San Jose, Calif. (CC of San Francisco)
25	Jordan Hickert	F	6-9	225	Jr.	Bunbury, Australia (Neosho Co. CC)
34	Jaylen Henry	F	6-7	230	So.	Las Vegas (Cheyenne HS)
42	Cliff Ederaine	F	6-7	205	Sr.	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Col. of Sequoias)

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WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

Cougs want all in

Team concept crucial in light of star vacancy

By Vince Grippi
vinceg@spokesman.com, (509) 459-5436

PULLMAN – It's seems as if it's all in the numbers.

Start with the statistical subtractions (minus 1,128 points, 403 rebounds, 2,119 minutes) from last season's two junior stars, Klay Thompson and DeAngelo Casto. Both left WSU a year early, Thompson for the NBA draft and Casto for pro ball in Turkey.

Add in the percentages of team totals (44.2, 36.8, 29.8, respectively) to last season's records (22-13 overall and 9-9 in conference play) and what do you have?

Simple. It equates to this year's Washington State Cougar men's basketball team. And it seems like it adds up to a challenging year.

But coach Ken Bone wants to introduce a multiplication factor. Call it the team coefficient.

"We are definitely a team and that's great," Bone said, "because if we're going to have success we need to play as a team on both ends of the court."

"We don't have that shot blocker sitting back there in DeAngelo, like he was the last few years. ... We don't have a Klay Thompson. ... So we really need to be a team in every aspect."

That team begins with three returning starters: point guard Reggie Moore, power forward Abe Lodwick and wing Marcus Capers. The three combined to average just 18.4 points a game last year, less than Thompson himself.

But that number is a bit misleading, especially in Moore's case.

The junior from Seattle averaged 12.7 points and 4.2 assists as a freshman, but started last season with a broken wrist, suffered through a suspension due to a marijuana citation and never really got going.

"As a freshman, he was relentless, attacking the rim continually," said Bone of Moore, who came into the season having subtracted a couple pounds. "And last year, he rarely did



Washington State junior point guard Reggie Moore is expected to attack the rim more this season, much like he did when he was a freshman.

that. We're now seeing that out of Reggie almost daily."

Lodwick and Capers, both captains for a second consecutive year, are more of role players, contributing intensity, rebounding effort, defense and an occasional bucket.

But it's the two newest starters who are expected to carry the scoring load.

Junior Brock Motum returned from a summer in Australia with about 15 pounds of muscle and more post moves. He'll step into the lineup expecting to improve on his 7.6 points and 3 rebounds a game from last season.

"(He's) one of our big kids who is a go-to guy when it comes time to score," Bone said.

The other weapon is Faisal Aden, the former junior college star who had an up-and-down first year at WSU, averaging 12.7 points on 42 percent shooting. He'll step into

Thompson's wing spot. There is also a trio of newcomers who should play often.

Junior wing Mike Ladd transferred last season from Fresno State, where he averaged 10.3 points as a sophomore. After adding energy to each practice last season, Ladd earned his teammates trust, being voted a captain this season.

Junior college transfer D.J. Shelton is still developing, according to Bone, but at 6-10 and 240 pounds, will have to contribute inside.

But the newcomer that has Bone the most excited is freshman DaVonté Lacy, a 6-3 guard from Curtis High in Tacoma.

"DaVonté is going to be a good player here at WSU," Bone said. "He's strong physically, tough mentally. He has a really good feel for the game for a freshman."

"He's going to be able to contribute right away."

Cougars fast facts

Conference: Pac-12
Colors: Crimson and Gray
Ticket Office Phone: 1-800-GO-COUGS
Home Court (Capacity): Friel Court (11,671)
Website: wsucougars.com
Head Coach: Ken Bone, third season
Record at WSU: 38-28
Career Record/Division I Only: 373-195 (19)/115-77 (6)
Assistant Coaches: Curtis Allen, third season; Jeff Hironaka, third season; Ben Johnson, eighth season
2010-11 Overall Record: 22-13
2010-11 Pacific-10 Record/Finish: 9-9/6th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/6
Starters Returning/Lost: 3/2
Newcomers: 5

Key games

- **At Gonzaga,** Nov. 14: The Cougars agreed to open the season with the 23rd-ranked Zags so the game could kick off ESPN's 24 hours of basketball. Playing your backyard neighbor in an opener with a radically different lineup is a tough assignment.
- **Oregon,** Dec. 29, at Spokane Arena: With the students gone for Christmas break, athletic director Bill Moos has decided to give Spokane a chance to support the Cougars in their Pac-12-opening series with the Oregon schools.
- **At Washington,** Jan. 15: Every game against the Huskies is a key one, but this will mark the last of five conference-opening games away from Beasley Coliseum.
- **UCLA,** Feb. 4: The Bruins, ranked 17th in the preseason, are the one Pac-12 team with size to spare inside.
- **Washington,** Feb. 25: The final home game of the season will be senior night for Marcus Capers, Abe Lodwick, Charlie Enquist and Faisal Aden.

Pac-12 predictions

1. UCLA
2. California
3. Washington
4. Arizona
5. Southern California
6. Arizona State
7. Oregon
8. Washington State
9. Stanford
10. Oregon State
11. Colorado
12. Utah

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Brock Motum, F

Brock Motum arrived on the Washington State campus as thin as a young Golden Wattle tree from his native Australia.

At 6-foot-9 and 205 pounds, he didn't fit anyone's description of a power forward.



That's changed. As has Motum's physique. He's now 6-10 and weighs 245 pounds. He can handle himself around the basket against the bigs in the Pac-12, and he needs to.

"When DeAngelo (Casto) departed, I thought my role would change a bit from my first two years playing here," said Motum, who averaged 7.6 points and 3 rebounds last season. "So I thought this offseason I would add some strength and add some weight. And I would work on some of my inside moves, add that to my game."

WSU coach Ken Bone is on record as saying the Cougars need to replace the 6-8 Casto's inside presence if they want to be successful. The key element of that will be Motum. He will have to score but also rebound on the defensive end.

"I expect both of myself," he said. "I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that happens."

WSU on Twitter

Cougars coach Ken Bone is looking to "tighten the screws" concerning his team's execution before Gonzaga opener.



Follow Vince Grippi at [twitter.com/Vince55](#)

2011-12 Cougars roster

No.	Player	Po.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr	Hometown (Last school)
0	Marcus Capers	G	6-4	179	Sr	Winter Haven, Fla. (Montverde Aca.)
1	Reggie Moore	G	6-1	178	Jr	Seattle (Brewster Academy-N.H.)
2	Mike Ladd	G	6-5	195	RJr	Seattle (Fresno State)
3	DaVonté Lacy	G	6-3	206	Fr	Tacoma (Curtis HS)
4	Chuks Iroegbu	G	6-3	200	Fr	Elk Grove, Calif. (Franklin HS)
5	Will Dilorio	G	6-5	190	So	Bainbridge Island, Wash. (Bainbr. HS)
11	Faisal Aden	G	6-4	179	Sr	San Diego (Hillsborough CC)
12	Brock Motum	F	6-10	245	Jr	Brisbane, Australia (AIO5)
21	Dominic Ballard	G	6-4	199	Fr	Seattle (Bothell HS)
22	Royce Woolridge	G	6-3	175	So	Phoenix (Kansas)
23	D.J. Shelton	F	6-10	240	RSo	Rialto, Calif. (Citrus College)
31	Abe Lodwick	F/G	6-7	215	RSr	Bend, Ore. (Mountain View HS)
33	Dave Wink	C	6-8	245	So	Bellevue, Wash. (Sheridan College)
34	Dexter Kernich-Drew	G	6-6	182	RFR	Melbourne, Australia (Cauffield)
40	Charlie Enquist	F	6-10	230	RSr	Edmonds, Wash. (Kings HS)
44	Patrick Simon	F	6-8	215	So	Ephrata, Wash. (Ephrata HS)

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WASHINGTON HUSKIES

Huskies fast facts

Conference: Pac-12
Colors: Purple and gold
Ticket Office Phone: (206) 543-2200
Home Court (Capacity): Alaska Airlines Arena (10,000)
Website: gohuskies.com
Coach: Lorenzo Romar, 10th yr.
Record at UW: 195-102
Career Record/Division I Only: 288-190
Assistant Coaches: Raphael Chillous, 3rd year; Paul Fortier, 7th year; Jim Shaw, 8th year
2010-11 Overall Record: 24-11
2010-11 Pac-12 Record/Finish: 11-7/3rd
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7/5
Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3
Newcomers: 7

Key games

- **At Saint Louis** (Nov. 20): This matchup doesn't look particularly daunting on paper, but it's the Huskies' first road game of the season. How Romar's young team responds to being away from home will tell a lot about its character.
- **Duke** at Madison Square Garden (Dec. 10): The second of two games the Huskies play during a week-long trip to New York. The game against Marquette – four days prior – is big in its own right, but victories against high-profile teams like Duke have eluded the Huskies in recent years. If they're intent on proving they belong, this would be a good one to get.
- **UCLA** (Feb. 2): The Bruins were picked by the media to win the Pac-12. Huskies haven't lost at home to UCLA since 2004. And since this game follows a road contest against Arizona, it could be pivotal in determining the top half of the conference standings.

Pac-12 predictions

1. UCLA
2. California
3. Arizona
4. **Washington**
5. Oregon
6. Stanford
7. Southern California
8. Oregon State
9. Arizona State
10. Colorado
11. Washington State
12. Utah

Media picks

DIFFERENCE MAKER

Tony Wroten, G

Tony Wroten scored plenty at Garfield High School, averaging 25 points per game as a senior. But it's the freshman's passing ability that makes him one of the most intriguing point guard prospects the Huskies have seen, as well as a safe bet to fill a big chunk of the minutes left behind by Isaiah Thomas.

Considered by Scout, Rivals and ESPN as one of the nation's top 10 high school point guards last season, Wroten's size (6-foot-5) and court vision already have Romar making Magic Johnson comparisons. No pressure, or anything.

But what Romar really loves about his brash blue-chipper? "His ability to defend," the coach said. "His ability to just make plays whether he's bringing the ball in transition or coming off of a screen or getting an offensive rebound. He is just a high-level play maker."

One concern: Wroten had his knee scoped in mid-October, though he's expected back in plenty of time for Nov. 12 the regular-season opener.



DEAN RUTZ Seattle Times

SACRE

Continued from O3 basketball hoop?" Leslie Sacre's response could probably serve as a handbook for parents with children involved in sports. "I said, 'OK, on a couple of conditions,'" she said. "I won't coach you because this has to be your passion and your drive. I will be mom and you need somebody to complain to when the coach frustrates you. "The other condition was when the game was over he was never to look at stats because it was how the team performed, not the stats, that made the difference. And he was only



Junior point guard Abdul Gaddy is fully recovered from an ACL injury that ended his sophomore season early.

Young Dawgs all ears

Romar has talent that's willing to play as team

By Christian Caple

Special to The Spokesman-Review

SEATTLE – It's an odd coincidence that Lorenzo Romar, one year removed from losing his team's three leading scorers, actually has something on this year's squad that he's never seen before – as a coach or a player. "This team is unique in that there's zero resistance to what we're trying to do," the Washington Huskies basketball coach said. "We usually have one, two, three guys that are just going to do it their way until you make it clear that they're not going to do it their way and still play. So far, this group is trying to do it the team way."

They don't have any other choice. Because it's what the Huskies don't have that could be their biggest obstacle.

Isaiah Thomas, Matthew Bryan-Amaning and Justin Holiday, all starters last season and key cogs during Washington's consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances the past three years, are gone. In their place the Huskies welcome seven newcomers to a team as young as any Romar has had in his 10 years as the Huskies coach.

The Huskies roster lists just two scholarship seniors – forward Darnell Gant and guard Scott Suggs – though they do return six players who played significant minutes last season.

They'll miss Thomas' big-play capability, Bryan-Amaning's interior presence and Holiday's defense. Still, the guard-heavy Huskies have enough firepower to inspire notions of another NCAA trip.

Junior point guard Abdul Gaddy is fully recovered from an ACL injury that ended his sophomore season early. Sophomore C.J. Wilcox was one of the more dangerous 3-point shooters in the conference last

allowed to talk about the game from when we left the gym to when we got home. Then it was time to talk about real life."

Real life, for Sacre, revolved around his friends, his family, his pets and eventually basketball. When the family lived in Louisiana, Sacre routinely brought home stray dogs and asked his parents if he could keep them.

Sacre enjoys horseback riding and the family has a collection of 65 horses – leather, miniature, rocking, spring, etc. His first word wasn't mom or dad. It was horse.

"He used to tease me, "When I grow up I'm going to ride

horses," Leslie said. "I'd always tell my friends I don't think he knows that he's not going to be a jockey."

• • •

Sacre is a self-described "goof," but he has a serious and compassionate side.

"I work with people with disabilities and Robert has always looked out for the underdog," Leslie said. "There was a young man at his high school that looked up to Robert and he was a bit quieter than the other kids. Robert went to the coach to ask if he could be the manager to be part of the group.

2011-12 Huskies roster

No.	Players	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Last school)
0	Abdul Gaddy	G	6-3	185	Jr	Tacoma (Bellarmine Prep)
4	Hikeem Stewart	G	6-2	175	Fr	Seattle (Rainier Beach)
5	Aziz N'Diaye	C	7-0	260	Jr	Dakar, Senegal (Southern Idaho)
10	Martin Breunig	F	6-8	210	Fr	Leverkusen, Germany (St. John's NW)
12	Andrew Andrews	G	6-2	195	Fr	Portland (Benson Tech)
14	Tony Wroten	G	6-5	205	Fr	Seattle (Garfield)
15	Scott Suggs	G	6-6	195	Sr	Washington, Mo. (Washington)
20	Alex Wegner	G/F	6-7	190	Fr	Vashon Island, Wash. (Vashon Island)
23	C.J. Wilcox	G	6-5	185	So	Pleasant Grove, Utah (Pleasant Grove)
30	Desmond Simmons	F	6-7	220	RFr	Vallejo, Calif. (Salesian)
31	Terrence Ross	G	6-6	195	So	Portland (Jefferson)
33	Jernard Jarreau	F	6-10	195	Fr	New Orleans (McDonogh 35)
40	Shawn Kemp, Jr.	F	6-9	265	Fr	Canton, Ga. (Hargraves Military)
42	Brendan Sherrer	F	6-8	255	Sr	Monroe, Wash. (Archbishop Murphy)
44	Darnell Gant	F	6-8	230	Sr	Los Angeles (Crenshaw)

season. Suggs, expected to return from a foot injury by mid-December, led the team in 3-point shooting last season (45 percent).

Then there's sophomore Terrence Ross, whom Romar said last year might be the most talented player he's ever recruited to Washington. Ross lent credence to that thought when he averaged 15.3 points per game in the Pac-10 tournament.

First, though, the Huskies need the 6-foot-6 guard to play some defense, an area in which Ross was so deficient last season that it affected his playing time – he lists "not getting blown by" as a goal.

"If he scores the way he's capable of, people will say he's a pretty good offensive player," Romar said. "But if he can turn it up on the defensive end and rebound and do those little things, people will see him as a great player."

Freshman Tony Wroten, a much-heralded point guard from Garfield High School in Seattle, is also seen as a youngster whose impact can be both sizeable and immediate.

The frontcourt is a bigger concern, though what it lacks in experience it makes up for in size. Seven-foot junior Aziz N'Diaye returns, and figures to start alongside Gant. Behind them are a bunch of kids – freshmen Martin Breunig (6-9), Jernard Jarreau (6-10) and Shawn Kemp Jr. (6-9) will compete for time, and redshirt freshman Desmond Simmons (6-7) will earn minutes as a hustle specialist.

Romar has consistently downplayed the Huskies' lack of a true inside scoring threat – they'll miss Bryan-Amaning in that regard, though bigger guards like Ross and Wilcox can post-up smaller defenders – and could point out that from a size perspective, across the roster, this is likely the biggest team he's had at Washington.

And, so far at least, the most cohesive.

Without a proven star, they'll have to be. "Everyone's willing to lay out everything on the line in terms of what the coaches are asking us to do," Gant said. "When you've got a team full of guys willing to do that, I feel like things can't really go wrong."

they're just big pussycats. That's what I am."

Fatherhood has brought about more changes in Sacre – Quinton was born Oct. 4. Sacre tries to see him every day, but it's getting tougher with the Bulldogs about to embark on the season.

"We're trying to make sure he has a good environment, make sure we're positive and we want him to have a good, happy life," Sacre said. "He's going to look up to you so you have to be responsible."

Sacre phoned Leslie from the hospital. "He told me that he now See SACRE, O10

WHITWORTH PIRATES



COLIN MULVANY colinm@spokesman.com

New Whitworth basketball coach Matt Logie doesn't shy away from the lofty expectations of the men's basketball program.

CARRYING ON

Whitworth's tradition of winning drives new coach, returning players

By Steve Bergum | steveb@spokesman.com, (509) 475-9689

Matt Logie is a firm believer that tradition never graduates. So the former associate head coach at Lehigh University was well aware of the lofty expectations at Whitworth when he agreed to take over the Pirates men's basketball program last April.

"It was actually something that attracted me to this opportunity," Logie said of the expectations he inherited after last year's Whitworth team rose to the top of the NCAA Division III national rankings, won a 5th-consecutive Northwest Conference title and advanced to the sectional finals of the D-III tournament before losing to host and 5th-ranked Wooster 76-66.

"I think they're a very positive thing that helps hold your players to high standards of excellence. They've had a lot of different players come through this program, and the one constant with all of them has been that Whitworth has won."

Last year's team won a school-record 28 games, while losing only two. And despite the graduation losses of NCAA Division III Player of the Year Michael Taylor, second-leading scorer David Riley and lockdown defender Clay Gebbers, the Pirates are ranked 12th in this year's DShoops.com preseason poll.

That doesn't surprise Logie, who felt "very fortunate" to have several veteran players – including returning starters Felix Friedt and Wade Gebbers and super sixth-man Jack Loofturrow – at his disposal as he attempts to build on winning tradition built under his predecessor Jim Hayford.

Friedt, a 6-foot-8, 243-pound senior, was a second-team all-NWC selection after averaging 12.4 points and a team-high 7.3 rebounds as a junior, and Gebbers, a 5-11,

168-pound junior point guard, averaged 9.1 points and 3.1 assists. Loofturrow, a 6-7, 240-pound senior wing, averaged 12 points and six rebounds, while shooting a 45.9 percent (73-159) from 3-point range.

"Felix was pretty much a staple on the interior for us, and has also been a tremendous leader for our program during this transition," Logie said of Friedt. "And Jack and Wade both played a ton of minutes and had a lot of success in their own right."

"In those three I feel like we have three really strong components of a good basketball team, in terms of interior play (Friedt), solid point-guard play (Gebbers), and then somebody (Loofturrow), who can score in a variety of ways."

Logie is also high on several returning players, like sophomore guards Dustin McConnell and Colton McGargar, who both gained valuable experience as backups last winter. And he likes his first recruiting class, which included senior wing Idris Lasisi, a transfer from North Idaho College, and freshman center Taylor Farnsworth, a Mead High graduate, who redshirted at the University of Montana last year.

Under Logie, the Pirates will look to be a little less structured and faster paced this winter. But they will still rely on many of the same defensive concepts used by Hayford – all of which seems to set well with his players.

"It hasn't been that big a change, really," Gebbers said of the coaching change. "Last

year we had a lot more set plays than we have this year, and we might run a little more. But I like the new style of play."

And when asked about the Pirates' lofty preseason ranking, despite some heavy graduation losses, Gebbers added:

"We lost a lot of talent, sure, but every good team is going to lose talented players, and I'm confident in the guys we have coming back. I think we have a great team, and we're not about to take a step back."

"If anything, we're going to try to take that next step forward and maintain the respect that Whitworth players in the past have built up."

Whitworth women

Helen Higgs, in her 18th year as Whitworth's head coach, returns four players – including scoring leader Emily Guthrie – who started all 25 games on last year's 11-14 team, which finished 7-9 in the Northwest Conference.

Guthrie, a 5-foot-7 junior guard, averaged a team-high 11.9 points as a sophomore, while also finishing as the Pirates' second-leading rebounder with an average of 4.7 per game.

The other returning starters are former Lewis and Clark High School standout Emily Travis, a 5-8 junior wing; Lauren Picha, a 5-7 junior guard; and Jamie Lyons, a 5-10 sophomore forward.

Also returning is Lexi Belcher, a 5-10 senior forward, who played in 17 games as a junior after transferring from Centralia Community College, and averaged 9.6 points and 3.9 rebounds.

Five other letterwinners, all of whom played in at least 18 games, are also back from last year's team, leaving Higgs with only one major graduation vacancy – that of last year's top rebounder and second-leading scorer, Taylor LaMoreaux – to fill.

Pirates men fast facts

Conference: Northwest
Colors: Crimson and Black
Ticket Office Phone: (509) 777-3224
Home Court (Capacity): Whitworth Fieldhouse (1,625)
Website: whitworth.edu
Head Coach: Matt Logie, first year
Record at Whitworth: First year
Assistant Coaches: Damion Jablonski, Jase Wambold, Matt Melka
2010-11 Overall Record: 28-2
2010-11 NWC Record/Finish: 16-0/1st
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/5
Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3
Newcomers: 7

Pirates men key games

- The Pirates will get an early nonconference test on Nov. 20, when they entertain perennial national power **Washington University**, from St. Louis, Mo., at Whitworth Fieldhouse.
- On Dec. 21 they travel to San Antonio, where they will face another tough nonconference foe in **Wisconsin-Whitewater**, which is coming off a 17-win season, in the first of back-to-back games in the Trinity (College) Invitational.
- And, on Jan. 17, the Bucs entertain **Whitman College**, the team that handed them their only Northwest Conference loss last season, and the team picked to finish second again in his year's title NWC title race.

NWC predictions

- Men**
1. Whitworth
 2. Whitman
 3. Lewis & Clark
 4. Puget Sound
 5. Willamette
 6. Pacific Lutheran
 7. Linfield
 8. George Fox
 9. Pacific

- Women**
1. George Fox
 2. Lewis & Clark
 3. Puget Sound
 4. Whitworth
 5. Whitman
 6. Linfield
 7. Pacific
 8. Pacific Lutheran
 9. Willamette

Pirates women fast facts

Conference: Northwest
Colors: Crimson and Black
Ticket Office Phone: (509) 777-3224
Home Court (Capacity): Whitworth Fieldhouse (1,625)
Website: whitworth.edu
Head Coach: Helen Higgs, 18th year
Record at Whitworth: 252-178
Assistant Coaches: Heather Bowman, Danny Beard
2010-11 Overall Record: 11-14
2010-11 NWC Record/Finish: 7-9/6th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/2
Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1
Newcomers: 4

2011-12 Pirates men's roster

No.	Player	Po.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Last School)
1	Kyle McEachran	G	6-3	178	Fr.	Belleuve, Wash. (University Prep HS)
4	Dustin McConnell	G	5-11	170	So.	Clarkston (Clarkston HS)
5	Idris Lasisi	G/F	6-2	200	Sr.	Leuven, Belgium (North Idaho)
12	Wade Gebbers	G	5-11	168	Jr.	Brewster, Wash. (Brewster HS)
15	Zach Payne	F	6-6	230	Jr.	Danville, Calif. (Diablo Valley Col.)
20	Colton McGargar	G	6-1	182	So.	Richland (Richland HS)
22	Robby Douglas	G	6-1	170	So.	Spokane (Shadle Park HS)
23	Mack Larkin	F	6-4	199	Jr.	Anacortes, Wash. (Anacortes HS)
24	Taylor Farnsworth	C	6-8	225	So.	Spokane (Mead HS)
32	Michael Taylor	C	6-8	220	Sr.	Aspen, Colo. (Aspen HS)
35	Matt Roth	F	6-4	195	So.	Spokane (West Valley HS)
40	Matthew Gasparine-Young	G	6-0	208	Fr.	Kailua, Hawaii (Kalaheo HS)
41	Felix Friedt	C	6-8	243	Sr.	Düsseldorf, Germany (Humboldt)
42	Jack Loofturrow	F	6-7	240	Sr.	Yakima (EWU)
44	Adam Wilks	F/P	6-7	205	Fr.	Andover, Kan. (Andover Central)
50	Lucas Peterson	G	6-3	172	Fr.	Redmond, Wash. (Bear Creek)

2011-12 Pirates women's roster

No.	Player	Po.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Last School)
2	Lexie Zappone	G	5-7	Fr.	Spokane (Lakeside, Nine Mile Falls)
3	Jamie Lyons	F	5-10	So.	Kennewick (Southridge HS)
4	Lauren Picha	G	5-7	Jr.	Puyallup, Wash. (Puyallup HS)
10	Emily Guthrie	G	5-7	Jr.	Snohomish, Wash. (Snohomish HS)
11	Allena Sommer	G	5-4	Fr.	Sunnyvale, Calif. (Homestead HS)
12	Jenna Cacchillo	G	5-7	So.	Boise (Capital HS)
15	Kendra Knutsen	G	5-4	Fr.	Spokane (Shadle Park HS)
21	Kendra Lahue	F/P	5-10	So.	Nine Mile Falls (Lakeside HS)
22	Emily Travis	G/F	5-8	Jr.	Spokane (Lewis and Clark HS)
24	Bethany Fleming	F	5-9	So.	Newberg, Ore. (Newberg HS)
32	Kayla Johnson	G	5-8	So.	Colfax (Colfax HS)
33	Katara Belton-Sharp	F	5-9	Fr.	Spokane (Ferris HS)
42	Lexi Belcher	F	5-10	Sr.	Mossyrock, Wash. (Centralia CC)
44	Jessine Yost	P	6-0	So.	Spanaway, Wash. (Bethel HS)

SACRE

Continued from O8

understands the role I took as a parent and all the responsibilities he was feeling," Leslie said. "I asked him what life lessons he wanted to teach Quinton. He said, 'When things get tough you have to persevere and work through.'"

• • •

Lloyd noted Sacre's ability to balance fun with hard work

elevates practice sessions and prompts teammates to compete harder.

"He plays with a high level of intensity when it's time and he has a good time when it's not," head coach Mark Few said. "I love his enthusiasm, his zest for life. He picks us all up when he walks into the gym."

Sacre has developed better moves in the lane and his ability to run the floor often leads to early post-up opportunities. He's a presence defensively, blocking 131 shots the last two

years, while possessing the agility to cover guards on the perimeter.

His scoring average improved from 10.3 points as a sophomore to 12.5 last season. His rebounds per game climbed from 5.4 to 6.3. His free-throw percentage soared from 62.9 to 82.3.

"He's come a long way," Lloyd said. "He has a lot of natural gifts with size, mobility, but he wasn't blessed with the greatest hands. For a guy to overcome that deficiency, it's very, very rare. You don't see

many guys make that progress. All credit to Rob, he's worked so hard year round."

Leslie sees that her son has developed a deft jump hook, an improved understanding of the game and smoother free-throw stroke. She recalled Robert missing a couple of free throws in a big high school game. That night, Robert couldn't sleep and the two found a hoop to practice his free throws.

Leslie sees the most growth in her son beyond the court. Sacre, who was diagnosed with

a learning disability in second grade, has earned his degree and is working on his Master's.

"When I brought him to Spokane July 1 five years ago, he was a young man who was pretty immature, a bit of a goof," she said. "Now I see him and all the lessons he's learned through being at Gonzaga and he's much more mature and much more in charge. He knows what he wants out of life and he's willing to work for it."

"I'm proud of my kid. He's a nice person to be around."

COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Cardinals women fast facts

Conference: Scenic West Athletic
Colors: Maroon and gray
Ticket Office Phone: (208) 769-3348
Home Court (Capacity): Christianson Gym (1,520)
Website: nicathletics.com
Head Coach: Chris Carlson, 8th year
Record at NIC: 174-59
Assistant Coach: Carey Carlson
2010-11 Overall Record: 27-3
2010-11 SWAC/Finish: 12-3/1st
Letterwinners Returning: 2

Cardinals men fast facts

Conference: Scenic West Athletic
Colors: Maroon and gray
Ticket Office Phone: (208) 769-3348
Home Court (Capacity): Christianson Gym (1,520)
Website: nicathletics.com
Head Coach: Jared Phay, 8th year
Record at NIC: 150-72
Assistant Coach: Corey Symons
2010-11 Overall Record: 23-9
2010-11 SWAC/Finish: 7-8
Letterwinners Returning: 2

Sasquatch women fast facts

Conference: Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC)
Colors: Navy, Columbia Blue and Gold
Ticket Office Phone: (509) 533-7445
Home Court (Capacity): SFCC Gymnasium (3,200) and Walter S. Johnson Sports Complex at SCC (1,200)
Website: athletics.spokane.edu
Head Coach: Bruce Johnson, 24th year
Record at CCS: 408-191
Assistant Coaches: Bernice Tobeck, Adam Washburn
2010-11 Overall Record: 22-8
2010-11 NWAACC/Finish: 10-4/3rd
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 4/7
Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3
Newcomers: 10

Sasquatch men fast facts

Conference: Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC)
Colors: Navy, Columbia Blue and Gold
Ticket Office Phone: (509) 533-7445
Home Court (Capacity): SFCC Gymnasium (3,200) and Walter S. Johnson Sports Complex at SCC (1,200)
Website: athletics.spokane.edu
Head Coach: Clint Hull, 4th year
Record at CCS: 66-22
Assistant Coaches: Jeremy Groth, Kevin Cameron
2010-11 Overall Record: 22-8
2010-11 NWAACC/Finish: 11-3/2nd
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 6/4
Starters Returning/Lost: 3/2
Newcomers: 6



NIC standout Korina Baker played her high school ball at Freeman, where she helped the Scotties to three state trophies from 2007-2010.

Baker's role alters for national champs

Sophomore looks to penetrate more

By Mike Vlahovich
 Correspondent

As far as Korina Baker is concerned, playing basketball at North Idaho College is not much different from her days at tiny Freeman High.

"Freeman is small and the NIC campus is little," she said. "It's like I really have not left (high school)."

Besides, the Valleyford athlete has something in common at both schools. She helped the Scotties to three Washington Class 1A state places, including the state title in 2010. A year later she wound up a major part of the Cardinals NJCAA national junior college championship, taking over after the original starting point guard suffered a groin injury just before the postseason.

Coach Chris Carlson said Baker's play was a revelation and calls her this season's impact player on a team filled with newcomers.

"What she gave us was her strength with the ball," Carlson said. "She is a ball handler, sees the floor, can beat pressure and break down defenses. She did not have to score for us."

This year will be different. With 11 freshmen, Baker, one of just two sophomores on the team, will be asked to score more.

"I'm a lot stronger and have seen my playing style change,"

she said. "I will penetrate and be aggressive."

But can this young outfit duplicate last year's title? Carlson admits the Cardinal women's basketball bar has been set high.

"As far as repeating, I don't know," Carlson said. "I think we've loaded up pretty good and will have a good solid team. Hopefully we can do it again."

NIC has an international presence and size in its newcomers. Ashleigh Kelman-Poto, a 6-foot New Zealander, was originally ticketed for the University of Idaho. Sophomore Julia Salmimo, 6-1 from Finland, backed up All-American Tugec Canitez last year. The Cardinals are deep at the wing position, including Aimee Durbridge from Australia.

Joining them is Danika Johnson, 6-3 freshman from Kalspell, who didn't play as a high school senior due to a shoulder injury.

Leading them is seasoned veteran Baker, who went from role player to starter on the national stage and is now getting looks from four-year Division I colleges.

NIC men

In some ways, succeeding at the national level might be easier than competing in the Scenic West Conference and Region 18. The last four years the region champion has

finished third or higher nationally, two of them champions.

Under Cardinals coach Jared Phay, NIC has won or shared three league championships and had 27-win seasons in 2009 and 10. But it hasn't gotten to nationals.

"It's nice we're close and right there," Phay said. "At the same time it's frustrating. We want to get over the hump."

This year's NIC men's team has a lot of new players. Connor White and Petar Joksimovic came off the bench last year. Jordan McCloud is a redshirt returnee. The Cardinals have size, including 7-foot Kai Sherman from Mercer Island. Point guard Antoine Hosley comes by way of the University of Washington.

"I like them," said Phay. "We are very athletic. We'll be right there again."

CCS women

Twenty-win seasons have been the norm for CCS coach Bruce Johnson. He's won more than 450 games in 23 years because of his ability to adapt.

"I'm not a systems guy," Johnson said. "I take whatever we get and try to figure out and mold them into something they can do. I think we've been successful at that."

This year a 6-foot-5 player with Division I potential left the team after a day, leaving the Sasquatch, quite literally,

short. It changed what Johnson planned to do. This guard-oriented team must press and run.

Two of six returnees were starters. His best wing, Coeur d'Alene's Amanda Buttrey, average nine points a game. Freshmen, all locals, will fill most other positions and Joni Nagy is expected to join them when volleyball season ends.

"They have good speed and can shoot it," said Johnson. "If a 6-1 girl walked in, I'd be a happy guy."

CCS Men

So close, yet so far away, the Sasquatch lost in the NWAACC semifinals last year and wound up third in the tournament.

"Obviously it left a sour taste in our mouths," said coach Clint Hull. "We had a good summer to get better and closer to our goal."

CCS has nine returnees, four of whom started at some point last year. Preston Wynne, from Wellpinit, led scoring at 18.8 points per game. DeAngelo Jones (Cheney) is much improved. Taylor Petterson (Shadle Park), coming off injury, and Luke Evans (NC), a red-shirt, are among 10 locals on the roster.

Along with other newcomers, Hull envisions a 9- or 10-player rotation, the better to run his utempto, pressure defense style.

"I definitely like our group," Hull said. "We're deep enough for sure."

2011-12 Cardinals women's roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown
5	Angela Woods	G	5-9	Fr	Lynnwood, Wash.
10	Katie Buskey	G	5-8	Fr	Maple Valley, Wash.
15	Tori Davenport	G	5-3	Fr	Post Falls
21	Shanee McBride	F	5-11	Fr	Caldwell, Idaho
22	Hailey Petit	G	5-8	Fr	Coeur d'Alene
23	Korina Baker	G	5-7	So	Valleyford
24	Dani Kastrava	G	5-5	Fr	Albany, Ore.
25	Aimee Durbridge	F	5-11	Fr	Boambee East, Australia
30	Julia Salmimo	F	6-1	So	Vantaa, Finland
32	Mollie Kramer	G	5-10	Fr	Colton
33	Hannah Love	F	5-10	Fr	Spokane
35	Danika Johnson	P	6-3	Fr	Kalspell, Mont.
44	Ashleigh Kelman-Poto	P	6-0	Fr	Auckland, New Zealand

2011-12 Sasquatch men's roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	High school
1	Tyler Edwards	G/F	6-4	Fr	Cusick
3	Kennedy Seyler	G	6-0	Fr	Wellpinit
4	Preston Wynne	G	6-0	So	Wellpinit
5	Ahbrae Harvey	G	5-11	So	Rogers
10	Ross Buchert	G/F	6-3	So	Ephrata
13	Eric Holbrook	G	6-2	Fr	Priest River
14	DeAngelo Jones	G	6-3	So	Cheney
15	Taylor Petterson	G	6-2	So	Shadle Park
20	Brady Begby	G	6-5	Fr	West Valley
22	Christian Parrott	F	6-9	So	Caldwell (Idaho)
24	Nate Frisbie	F	6-5	So	Lake City
40	Luke Evans	F	6-7	Fr	North Central
50	Marlowe Brim	F	6-5	So	Kent-Meridian

2011-12 Cardinals men's roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown
	Andrew Baracco	W	6-1	So	Coeur d'Alene
	Kwame Bates	W	6-3	So	Seattle
	P. J. Beene	G	5-10	So	Chicago
1	Jordan McCloud	W/F	6-6	Fr	Federal Way
3	Antoine Hosley	G	6-1	So	Portland
4	Connor White	G	5-10	So	Coeur d'Alene
10	Casey Ward	P	6-6	Fr	Post Falls
11	Ryan Neve	W	6-0	Fr	Salt Lake City
14	Keon Lewis	G	6-2	Fr	Seattle
15	Michael Middlebrooks	P	6-9	Fr	Seattle
20	Edrico McGregor	P	6-8	So	Nassau, Bahamas
22	Joel Underdahl	W	6-5	Fr	Rathdrum
23	Tyrell Lewis	G	6-4	Fr	Seattle
24	Cole Luckett	W	6-4	Fr	Auburn
31	Petar Joksimovic	W	6-5	So	Coeur d'Alene
44	Kaj Sherman	P	7-0	Fr	Mercer Island

2011-12 Sasquatch women's roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	High school
4	Jenna Humphrey	G	5-5	Fr	Shadle Park
10	Amanda Buttrey	G	5-8	So	Coeur d'Alene
12	Kylie Tareski	G	5-6	Fr	Medical Lake
14	Jozlin Hicks	PG	5-4	Fr	Ferris
20	Blake Jacobs	PG	5-4	So	Kamiah
22	Kayla Griffin	G/F	5-8	So	Troy
24	Bresana Wilson	G/F	5-8	Fr	Travis AFB
30	Megan Tullis	F	5-10	So	Durango
31	Jordan Brons	G	5-6	Fr	Colville
32	Amelia Cook	G	5-7	Fr	Medical Lake
34	Carli Elwin	G	5-10	Fr	Bonney Lake
40	Kendra Scott	G	5-10	Fr	Eastmont
42	Lalkyn Brophy	F	5-10	Fr	Cheney
44	Emily Abbott	C	6-0	So	Cashmere