Volleyball heads to nationals for 14th straight year — Page 8
The Western Nebraska Community College men's basketball team entered this season with unknown qualities after graduating all five starters from a year ago that went on to the Division I level.

But, the Cougars have showed a lot of promise their first contests of the season as a team that can score.

"We are relatively young but we have a lot of talent," WNCC head coach Russ Beck said. "We are still trying to pull it together in defining our roles and comprehend what we want to accomplish. I think as soon as we tie it together, we will be really good. The important thing is we are good at the right time. Right now we are learning, growing, and building, and we want to be the best team we can in March."

After the opening weekend in Gillette, Wyo., Nov. 2-3, the Cougars showed plenty offensively. WNCC dropped Gillette College 98-78 and then lost a heartbreaking overtime contest 107-104 to Sheridan College.

Against Gillette College, Trey More poured in 25 points, while against Sheridan, Willie Mangum had 39 points and Charles Ward had 37 points.

Beck said the Gillette win was a perfect way to start the season.

"This was a great team win," he said. "The bench production was awesome. We need to improve our defense and limit our turnovers. We are taking everything we do one game at a time."

The Cougars continued their hot offensive start against Sheridan, scoring the 104 points, but they fell on the scoreboard. Still, it was a good start to the season as they averaged 101 points after the first weekend.

WNCC cooled off a bit in a game against No. 1 South Plains College, who won the national title a year ago. WNCC might have fell 102-49, but the one thing that is in their favor is playing a tough schedule should pay off in the final two months of the season when the games mean the most.

"We will take some bumps and bruises early, but that will help us build character and toughness that we want," Beck said. "I think if we can learn something from every game, win or lose, then we will be in the hunt for a Region IX championship."

"The positive on the team is we have really good depth. There are a lot of interchangeable parts. When we substitute, we really don't drop off. This team also has a really good chance to be good defensively and to do some things we haven't seen in the past three years in terms of our full-court pressure. I think they have a chance to be a special defensive team."

WNCC's tough schedule continues as they face Salt Lake Community College and the College of Southern Idaho on Nov. 16-17. Both of these opponents have won the national title as well in the past four years.

There is no doubt that the Cougars are a young team with just Tahir Little and Sebastian Sebastian Suarez back from last year. Both players started off and on for the Cougars last season. Also back from a year ago are red-shirt players Cody Johnson, 6-foot-10 center from Salt Lake City, Utah, and Charles Ward, 6-2 guard from Phoenix, Ariz.

WNCC has one other sophomore on the team in Chad Calcalerra, a 6-10 center. Calcalerra transferred in from Colorado State University.
The Cougars also have plenty of firepower with the freshmen class, including the trio from Scottsbluff High School in Rich Williams, Isaiah Castellaw and Zach Clemens. The three former Bearcats won the Class B state championship last season.

Also making a return trip to the west it Trey Moore, a 6-0 guard from Papillion-La Vista High School near Omaha. Moore played at North Platte before transferring to Papillion. He also has relatives that live in the valley.

Other newcomers include Quante Cooley (6-3) and Willie Mangum (6-1) of Richmond, Virg., and Doudou Gueye (6-8) and Youssoupha Kane (6-10) of Dakar, Senegal.

WNCC has just three home games during the first semester. The first will be Nov. 20 when they face Western Wyoming. The Cougars will then host Casper College on Nov. 27 before taking on Northwest Kansas Technical College on Dec. 7.

**VOLLEYBALL — Tania Torres**
Former WNCC volleyball player Tania Torres was named a COSIDA All-District team member recently for Barry University. Tania had a 3.95 GPA in biology. She is Barry’s leader in kills with 282 and is second in blocks with 70.

**VOLLEYBALL — Debora Araujo**
Former Cougar volleyball player Debora Araujo helped the Cal State-Bakersfield volleyball team to a five-set win over New Mexico on Nov. 11. Araujo’s 17 kills increased her total to 457 on the season, which puts her on the top 10 list in program history for most kills in a season at No. 10. Araujo also posted nine digs.

**SOCCER and BASEBALL — Sidney Jones**
Former Cougar baseball player Sidney Jones is playing soccer and baseball at Arizona Christian University. At WNCC in 2010, he struck out eight batters and allowed six hits in just 9 2/3 innings. At ACU, Jones was a starting pitcher for the first two baseball teams, where he struck out 26 in 43 innings. He went 1-1 in 2012 with 12 strike outs in 17 1/2 innings. In soccer, Jones was both a scorer and a goalkeeper. This season Jones has scored two goals in 18 games played and six starts. Jones hails from Honduras.

**SOCCER — Riley Mathis**
Former Cougar defensive specialist in soccer has been a leader for the Arizona Christian University soccer team. Mathis has started 16 of 18 games and has an assist for the Firestorm.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL — Du’Vaughn Maxwell**
Former Cougar Du’Vaughn Maxwell led the Hampton University men’s basketball team in a season-opening 69-51 loss to William & Mary on Friday, Nov. 9. Maxwell led the Pirates with 10 points while also pulling down nine rebounds.

**Several men’s soccer players named all-region**

Five WNCC men’s soccer players earned all-region honors this season.

Jack Cutler of Bristol England, was the only Cougar to earn first team honors as a defender for the 4-13 Cougars.

Cougars garnering second team all-region honors included Jacob Santos and Kyle Gonzales. Santos, of Hovma, La., earned all-region honors as a midfielder, while Gonzales, of Windsor, Colo., made it as a forward.

Joey Rasnic and Thomas Wright earned honorable mention honors. Rasnic, a Gering High graduate, earned all-region as a goalkeeper, while Wright, of Portiaose, Ireland, made it as a defender.

Rasnic is seventh in the nation in saves as a goalkeeper with 132 saves.

All-region Most Valuable Player went to Laramie County’s Gleydson Neri, while Freshman of the year went to Mitch Jensen of Western Wyoming.

The Region IX Coach of the Year went to Western Wyoming’s Jeff Adkinson. Adkinson led his team to the Region IX title over Northwest College.

Northwest would then beat Western Wyoming in the district playoffs, where both Region IX teams qualified for nationals.
**Cougar women cruising along with 4-0 start**

The Western Nebraska Community College women’s basketball team is off to a blazing start so far this season after winning its first four contests.

What makes the start impressive is how young the team is with just three players back from last year that saw action.

The Cougars started the season with an 88-29 win over the Nebraska All-stars at home. They followed that up by going 3-0 at the Colby Classic in dropping Colby 62-24, Colorado Northwestern 58-41, and Ft. Carson Army Base 75-40.

What has been the Cougars bread and butter in the early part of the season has been their defense and WNCC coach Dave Harnish, who is in his 25th year as head coach, believes the defense will be their strength.

“You never know what your strengths will be offensively until you play some games, but I hope we will shot the ball pretty well this year,” Harnish said. “We are not tall based on having five or six kids over six-foot, but we are tall in other positions. I really do believe defensively, we have the capabilities of being one of the better defensive teams I have ever had here. We do a very good job in both the half court and full court, and we rebound the ball very well. I would say right know our strength will be our defense and we will find out where our strength is offensively.”

If the women are to fight for a regional title, they will need plenty of the newcomers to step up as just three players are back from the 21-9 season a year ago.

The returners back include Jessica Aratani, a 5-foot-10 forward/guard from Morrill; 5-8 Kelsey Doddrige of Windsor, Colo., and Idil Ozbayrak, a 5-8 guard from Ankara, Turkey. Ozbayrak is coming off an ACL tear that happened last February.

A big addition to the team is sophomore transfer Gritt Ryder of Rungsted Kyst, Denmark. Ryder earned GNAC Conference Freshman of the Year honors while playing for the University of Alaska Anchorage where she averaged 5.7 points, 2.9 rebounds and 3.3 assists a game in helping the Seawolves to their third straight NCAA Division II Elite Eight appearance in five seasons.

The rest of the roster is all comprised of freshmen, including two Wyo-Braska standouts in Ashley Stevens, the 5-9 forward from Bridgeport, and Mikayla Brower, the 5-7 guard from Torrington, Wyo., who was named the top female ath-

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**All in a Number**

8 The number of goals scored by the Cougar women this season. Ari Herrera led the way with three goals.

14 The number of consecutive years the Cougar volleyball has qualified for the national tourney. The Cougars now have the longest active streak after Miami Dade failed to make nationals this year.

132 The number of saves by Joey Rasnic this season for the WNCC men’s soccer team.

221 The number of wins that WNCC head coach Giovana Melo has as she enters the national tournament. Melo is in her fifth year as the coach for the volleyball team.

651 The number of career wins Dave Harnish has after the Nov. 10 win.
What’s on tap

- Nov. 13 — WBB vs. Colorado Christian J.V., Cougar Palace, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 15-17 — VB at NJCAA National Tournament, West Plains, Mo.
- Nov. 16-17 — MBB at Region 18/9 Challenge, Casper, Wyo.
- Nov. 16-17 — WBB at Central Wyoming Classic, Riverton, Wyo.
- Nov. 20 — WBB vs. Casper College, Cougar Palace, 5 p.m.
- Nov. 20 — MBB vs. Western Wyoming C.C., Cougar Palace, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 27 — MBB vs. Casper College, Cougar Palace, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 30 — MBB at Holiday Classic, Sheridan, Wyo.
- Dec. 1 — MBB at Holiday Classic, Sheridan, Wyo.
- Dec. 6-8 — WBB vs. Holiday Classic, Cougar Palace.
- Dec. 7 — MBB vs. Northwest Kansas Technical College, Cougar Palace, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 — WBB at Colorado Christian J.V., Lakewood, Colo.

Continued: Women’s basketball team undefeated after four games

WNCC sophomore transfer Gritt Ryder drives to the basket during the Lady Cougars home opener against the Nebraska All-stars on Nov. 3. Ryder has helped lead the Cougars to a 4-0 start.

le in Wyoming with the Milward-Simpson Award in July.

The big addition to the team this year is Evgenia-Jess Samorodova. Samorodova is a 6-3 center from Russia, who can shoot from inside and outside.

Other newcomers to the team include 5-4 Lauren Rivera, 5-10 Michelle Brassard, and 5-9 Shalisa Moffit of Colorado Springs, Colo., 5-6 Katie Kerkhoff of Parker, Colo., 5-6 Maurissa Ortega of Lafayette, Colo., 5-3 Simone Evans of Aurora, Colo., 5-9 Alyssa Yates of Spokane, Wash., and 6-0 Jenna Lindquist of Ft. Collins, Colo.

Harnish is pleased with the progress of the freshmen both on the court, the weight room and in the classroom so far this season. Harnish said he is looking for plenty of success this season.

“I honestly can say that this team will be tough to beat whether at home or on the road because we defend well, and you have to defend well when you to on the road. I think we are that,” Harnish said. “I am really excited and I think we will be fun to watch. I hope people come and watch us play because they will see a great work ethic, and they will see the game the way it is supposed to be played, the blue-collar way. I am excited to show this team to the public and watch them play.”

So far the team has shown plenty of depth on the team as any where from 10 to 14 players have contributed scoring. Samorodova leads the team averaging about 12 points a game and the big girl in the middle had a double-double against Ft. Carson with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

While defense will be the strong suit for the Cougars, Harnish said the offensive side still needs to come around. In the first two games of the Colby Classic against Colby and CNCC, the team did not shoot well from the field, the 3-point area or the free throw line.

That is an area of concern that he hopes is turned around as they head into a tough slate of games the end of November when they have to face Central Wyoming College and Miles Community College the weekend of Nov. 16-17 and then later when they face Casper College at home Nov. 20.

Harnish was pleased how the team improved through the games at the Colby Classic, especially in the shooting aspect in the Ft. Carson game.

“We had a very good weekend and a very good start to the season to go 4-0,” Harnish said. “We played hard and competed all weekend. We have done everything well this weekend [in all the games] except shoot and we shot better today [against Ft. Carson].”
Meet the Men’s Basketball Team

#2
Tahir Little
Richmond, Virg.

#5
Rich Williams
Scottsbluff, Neb.

#15
Isaiah Castellaw
Scottsbluff, Neb.

#23
Sebastian Suarez
Ancud, Chile

#33
Chad Calcaterra
Cloquet, Minn.

#3
Zach Clemens
Scottsbluff, Neb.

#10
Willie Mangum
Richmond, Virg.

#21
DouDou Gueye
Dakar, Senegal

#25
Cody Johnson
Salt Lake City, Utah

Redshirt
Peter Dewtang
Akobo, Sudan

#4
Quante Cooley
Richmond, Virg.

#12
Trey Moore
La Vista, Neb.

#22
Charles Ward
Phoenix, Ariz.

#32
Youssoupha Kane
Dakar, Senegal

Redshirt
Jamont Elery
Louisville, Kent.

Good Luck Cougars Men!
Meet the Women’s Basketball Team

#4  Mikayla Brower
    Torrington, Wyo.

#5  Lauren Rivera
    Colorado Springs

#11 Gritt Ryder
    Denmark

#13 Shalisa Moffit
    Colorado Springs

#22 Maurissa Ortega
    Lafayette, Colo.

#23 Simone Evans
    Aurora, Colo.

#10 Kelsey Doddridge
    Windsor, Colo.

#21 Katie Kerkhoff
    Parker, Colo.

#24 Idil Ozbayrak
    Ankara, Turkey

#11 Gritt Ryder
    Denmark

#32 Michelle Brassard
    Colorado Springs

#33 Alyssa Yates
    Spokane, Wash.

#21 Katie Kerkhoff
    Parker, Colo.

#24 Idil Ozbayrak
    Ankara, Turkey

#34 Ashley Stevens
    Bridgeport, Neb.

#42 Jenna Lindquist
    Ft. Collins, Colo.

#40 Jessica Aratani
    Morrill, Neb.

#32 Michelle Brassard
    Colorado Springs

#33 Alyssa Yates
    Spokane, Wash.

#34 Ashley Stevens
    Bridgeport, Neb.

#50 Jess Samorodova
    Russia

Good Luck Lady Cougars!
Western Nebraska Community College volleyball coach Giovana Melo knows that if her team wants to be the best, they will have to play the best.

Well, that is definitely what they have done this season; play some of the toughest competition in the nation and to prove it, the Cougars finished the regular season with a 37-2 record, a No. 2 ranking in the final volleyball poll, and a 31-match winning streak to finish the season.

More importantly, though, the Cougars captured their 14th straight trip to the national tournament. When this bunch of 14 ladies make that trip to West Plains, Mo., for the Nov. 15-17, they will be doing so in facing some of the best teams in the country.

And, their road to a third national title in six years won’t be an easy one either. The Cougars open play on Thursday, Nov. 15 against No. 15-seed Wallace State-Hanceville (33-6) at 10 a.m. The Cougars also have No. 3 Iowa Western Community College (43-2) and No. 7 North Idaho College (22-5) on their side of the bracket. Iowa Western and North Idaho are the only teams to defeat the Cougars this season.

“Winning a national title is never easy no matter what kind of opponents you get,” Melo said. “That is why not many people can say they are national champions.”

College of Southern Idaho earned the top-seed at the national tournament with a 29-1 record. CSI’s only loss came at the hands of WNCC at the Salt Lake Invite on Aug. 31. The rest of the top five seeds include San Jacinto College at number four and Tyler Junior College at number five.

If WNCC wins its opening round contest, they will face the winner of North Idaho and No. 10 Hutchinson Community College (27-8) at 6:30 p.m. A loss will put the Cougars into a Friday, Nov. 16 contest against the loser of North Idaho and Hutchinson. WNCC could also meet up with Iowa Western in a semi-final match if both teams win their matches on Thursday. Melo said it won’t be an easy chore to win a national title as all 16 teams will be fighting for the right to be national champs.

“Every single team who made to nationals is there because they have earned it,” she said. “They had to beat some other great teams in their region to be there so, yes, I believe this is the best 16 teams in the country and everybody will be battling out for the title.”

Complete first round pairings has Iowa Western taking on No. 14 Temple College (22-17) and No. 6 College of Central Florida (33-6) facing No. 11 Western Texas College (26-8) at 8 a.m. No. 1 College of Southern Idaho facing No. 16 Faulkner State Community College (27-7) and No. 8 Hillsborough Community College (27-12) taking on No. 9 Missouri State-West Plains (25-9) at noon. The final slate of first-round contests had No. 5 Tyler Junior College (29-5) facing No. 12 Redlands Community College (23-9) and No. 4 San Jacinto College (32-2) taking on No. 13 Casper (23-17) at 2 p.m.

All the matches can be watched on the Internet at www.njcaavbd1.com.
Volleyball players excited with way season has gone

Just how great of a regular season did the WNCC volleyball team have this season. Sure, they finished with a 37-2 record, but what makes their accomplishments even more spectacular was the fact of how much they have improved this season.

And, to show for this incredible season, the Cougars will be making their 14th straight trip to the national tournament. The consecutive streak, in fact, is now the longest active streak of attending nationals after Miami Dade College failed to qualify this year. Miami Dade has been to the national tournament since 1989, marking an end to a 23-year active string.

Miami Dade, during those 23 years, won seven national titles and finished in the top four 17 times. WNCC, during their current active streak of attending nationals, has won two national titles – 2007 and 2010 – and have finished in the top four for the past eight seasons.

What makes this trip to nationals even more special is just how much this team has come together. At the beginning of the season after the first scrimmage against Regis University, a lot of people thought it was going to be a rough season. The team even had to take a step back and look at how they played in that Regis scrimmage and wonder.

“Coming in we had a big group of freshmen coming into the system and they had to get used to it [Melo’s system],” a sophomore Alex Rivera said. “Now, seeing how we started to now, it is unbelievable. We really worked hard to get better and we really are good. I feel proud of seeing my teammates doing so well.”

Well, this team persevered to winning 37 matches with a team that had a host of new players on the squad.

One of those new players was sophomore transfer Kat Agson, who was amazed at the latent on the team when practices began in August.

“This [going to nationals] means a lot to me because I never have experienced playing on a team that is this competitive and talented,” she said. “It also is a lot of pressure to perform at this level. There was definitely a lot of pressure coming in after playing at a Division I school and then transferring to a junior college. Coming here, the expectations are really good and everyone one is really talented. I was a little anxious of what we were going to do this season.”

This team has plenty of depth and talent and it starts with the hitters, where the leading hitter, through 95 percent of the season averaged around 11 kills a game, which says a lot about the chemistry of the team.

WNCC finished with 1,802 kills as a team which transcribes to 14 kills a set. Individually, they had six hitters finish with near 150 kills or more. Danika Youngblood led the way with 414 followed by Priscila Mendes with 260, Yoro Tovar with 244, and...
Agson with 218, Megan Johnson with 47 and Allora Tanner with 145. Even Taylor VanderWerff and Lauren Knox have provided sparks off the bench with 92 and 85 kills this season.

Agson said having this many hitters has been a plus to this team.

“That is definitely an asset for our team because we can go to multiple players in the front row and everybody has the ability to put the ball away,” she said.

The balanced hitting attack has been a plus for the Cougars during the season. WNCC enters the national tournament with the longest win streak, having won 31 straight matches. College of Southern Idaho enters nationals with a 25-game streak, followed by Iowa Western Community College at 24 games. San Jacinto, the nation's No. 1 team, had a 29-game win streak before falling to Tyler Junior College at their regional tournament.

WNCC’s last loss came on Sept. 1 when they lost to North Idaho College at the Salt Lake Classic. Since then, the Cougars have been nearly perfect dropping just six sets.

At one time, the Cougars won 45 straight sets. WNCC also had just two five-set contests, beating Salt Lake Community College on Aug. 31 and then topping Miami Dade on Sept. 8. The Cougars also defeated then-No. 1 ranked Southern Idaho on Aug. 31 as well.

Agson believes this team is ready for the task at hand.

“I think we are prepared in our ability; we just have to go in mentally,” she said. “What will really need to do is set the tone so we come out strong. We definitely have to play our game and have a strong serve and pass. We just need to do what we do and not worry about what other teams do. We need to focus on our assets and what we can do.”

Rivera also is excited for the national tournament and couldn't be happier with how they played this season.

“I am so proud of my team. This is a step closer to what is our ultimate goal, and we are focused,” she said. “We know it [how we are playing] is not enough and we have been working hard. I know our mind is set to working even harder.”

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Volleyball memories from the season

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Sit-down Chat ...

Luiza Martins learning the ropes of being a setter for a national powerhouse team like WNCC

Luiza Martins has handled the role as the Cougar setter with great work ethic after she was selected as the Region IX Setter of the Year and Freshman of the Year. Martins, however, said the honors she receives is a team award with the abundance hitters on the team and the push to get better from back-up setter Morgan Broussard, who in Martins’ words, is on equal levels. Martins hails from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She excels not only on the court, but also in the classroom. Martins is currently ranked in the top five in the nation in setting with a 10.8 assists per set average. Recently, here is a sit-down conversation with the freshman setter on her volleyball background, her goals after school, and the volleyball team.

What does it feel like to be going to the national tournament?
I never have played at nationals before. I just feel so good to think about the nationals because I think we have a team to win nationals.

You were named the Freshman of the Year and Setter of the Year at regionals, what was that like to be honored for your accomplishments on the court?
I think the honors I received is for all of us. It is just not for me, it is the work that we are doing together. Those awards show that we are working hard. I feel good in getting that because it is my first year here and it is amazing.”

This team as two good setters so what is that like to be pushed by Morgan?
Playing with Morgan is amazing. Just pushes me and I push her.

Why did you decide to come to WNCC?
I like the way coach Giovana Melo teaches us and I like the program so I decided to come to get the experience to continue playing volleyball. If I was in Brazil, I would have stopped playing volleyball.

How did you find out about WNCC? Did Giovana find you or did you find the program?
Giovana found me. I had a coach who had a friend here in the United States and he told Giovana about me. He texted and emailed me and then me and Giovana started to talk.

Talk about your volleyball background?
I started when I was 10 years old and it was funny because I never thought I would be playing volleyball. I got started because my PE teacher at my school during a volleyball class though I was a good player so he invited me to play with his club. It was a small club because we don't play in high school. In 2008, I was invited to go to a big club. I was an outside hitter and I was small compared to the other girls. In 2009 I started to set and then in 2010 I went to the Brazilian national team and that was an amazing experience. I didn't stay there because I was the last cut, but I was there for 2 1/2 months and it was amazing and learned a lot of things. From that experience, I learned I need to keep working hard and never give up for what I love.
If you would not have came here, you probably would have stopped playing volleyball?
Yeah. I want to go into Biomedicine and it is very hard. In Brazil, the universities don't give scholarships for sports. So I would have had to go to a public university but it is hard.

So you want to go into what when you are done with school?
I don't want to be a doctor, I want to work in laboratories.

When Giovana came here, she didn't speak very good English but she learned. You are the opposite where you talk good English. How did you learn to speak English like you are doing?
I can still more English. When I was 12 years old, my mom put me in an English school do that I could learn English for my parents. English is an important language for my parents. They forced me to learn English. I travel a lot. When I was 15 years old, I went to Australia to learn English and stayed there one month. I think that has helped me a lot.

You were forced to learn English from your parents?
Yeah. At first I didn't like English. On the first impression, I thought it was so hard and that I can't learn that. Bu after I started to know it, I liked it and told myself that I can do it.

What has been the hardest part of playing volleyball up here? Has it been a while different style?
Volleyball here is different from Brazil like the block is different, and the balls I need to set is so much faster. So, I am learning a lot of new things. It is like I have the technique, but I need to learn how to play again. Every girl here as helped me.

What is it like to set to so many different hitters with as much hitting depth that you have on the team?
It is hard to decide who to set to. Sometimes coach fights with me saying this is not the hitter. But, I trust all the hitters and that has helped me a lot. On my first team back in Brazil, there were some hitters I didn't trust and here is different because I trust them all to put the ball away.

What will it take for this team to win a national title?
We need to work hard this week [the week before], but we are ready. We are fighting to win and we are like we want the national championship. We need to play like a team and stay together. We need to stay together to win the championship. If we don't play together, it will be hard for us.

What are goals after WNCC?
I want to go to a good university and have a full scholarship and to graduate. After that, I don't know if I will go back to Brazil or stay here. I just want to be good in what I choose.

Are your classes going pretty good and are classes harder or volleyball harder?
Volleyball is harder. I like to study so for me it is not too hard. So, this first semester, I think volleyball is harder because I am learning a lot of new things that I need to work on and need to change.

Did you mom or anyone in your family play volleyball?
My mom played volleyball just for fun, but my grandfather played on the national team, but that was a long, long time ago.

What do you like to do outside of volleyball and studying?
I like to hang out with my family and friends, and go to the cinema. Here I like to hang with my friends because I don't have family here. I also like to sleep because here I am always tired because we work a lot so we need to rest.

How much has this team grown from the first of the season to now?
We have grown a lot. You can't compare. We are still growing and that is a good thing.

Watch all the National Tournament matches online at www.njcaavbdi.com
Cougar men’s soccer team ends season at playoffs

The WNCC men’s soccer team finished the season with a 4-13 record after falling in the regional playoffs 3-0 to Northwest College.

The Cougar men’s four wins this season came to Northwest Kansas Technical College at home 4-3 back on Sept. 8. After that, the Cougar men won two straight, dropping Northeastern Junior College on the road 3-2 before easily beating Lamar Community College 8-1. The last win for the team came on Oct. 10 when they beat Northeastern Junior College in overtime 2-1.

The Cougar men had plenty of highlights on the season but at the same time they struggled with injuries that hurt the depth of the team, especially on the defensive side.

Still, the Cougars managed five players on the all-region team, led by Jack Cutler as a first team defender. The other all-region players included Kyle Gonzales and Jacob Santos as second team, and Joey Rasnic and Thomas Wright as honorable mention.
Women’s soccer team struggles through a snake-bit season
NJCAA National Volleyball Tournament Bracket
Cougars in the Community

(left) Volleyball player Allora Tanner helps a first-grader at Roosevelt Elementary carve a pumpkin.  
(right) Softball player Shelby McGraw walks students at Northfield Elementary to school on International Walk to School the first Wednesday in October.

(middle left) The men’s basketball team plays catch with a youngster while helping out at Buckboard Riding Academy in September.  
(above) Women’s soccer player Megan Patrick guards the goal while a youngster kicks the ball at national night out.  
(left) Women’s basketball players Katie Kerkhoff and Mikayla Brower help a youngster play a game at Geil Elementary School’s back to school bash in September.
Alumni News

Alumni, changes occur each year and if there is a change, please forward it to me at mrein@wncc.net. Also, if you don’t see your name in here, pass along your current information and I will include you.

Lyall Foran (2003-05) — Lyall played baseball for the Cougars and after finishing at WNCC, he played one year at Tusculum College and then his final year at Norfolk State University before a shoulder injury ended his career. He spent two years after that as a graduate assistant at Norfolk State and he currently is the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for Okanagan College in Kelowna, British Columbia. He is also the assistant for the Kelowna Falcons of the West Coast Summer Collegiate League.

Herb Chambers (1963-65) — Herb played basketball for Shelby Edwards when the college was known as Scottsbluff Junior College located where Centennial Park is now. Herb retired from teaching and coaching full-time but still coaches middle school volleyball part-time. Herb lives in Minnesota.

Diego Campoverde (2006-08) — Diego is now playing soccer for the DE Soccer Club while working at Braum’s. Diego got married to Martha in December and had become a daddy on Nov. 15, Diego’s birthday, to his son, Kendall.

Leonard Owens (1998-2000) — Leonard Owens is from Salisbury, N.C. and the same high school as Bobby Jackson. He played from 1998-2000 and then played at UTEP. He also played professionally after that for a semi-pro team in Mexico, where he won back-to-back championships in 2006 and 2007 for Camargo, and then won championship for Juarez Gallos in 2008. He also played in the ABA for Juarez. He is now coaching and teaching at Chaparral High School.

Cassie Drinkwalter (2004-06) — Cassie played volleyball for the Cougars in 2004 and 2005 and attended Chadron State College. Cassie is now a 7th grade math teacher and coaches 8th grade volleyball and 9th grade basketball in Gillette, Wyo.

Dave Cashman (1970-72) — Dave Cashman played basketball and ran track at NWC from 1970-72. The late coach Bill Brauneck was his basketball coach and Mert and Ted Davis were the track coaches. Dave now lives back in Illinois where he originally came from where he works for John Deere in East Moline, IL as a project manager after having graduated from Iowa State University on a track scholarship. “I have many memories of those years spent at what was then known as Nebraska Western College and the whole Scottsbluff/Gering area. Good luck to all the Cougar athletes.”

Maggie (Sharp) Rembou (1990-92) — Maggie played basketball for Dave Hamish in the early 1990s. She is now a stay-at-home mom while doing daycare in her home. She lives in Loveland, Colo. She has three kids, Cameron is 17 and a junior at Loveland High, Tatum is 11 and is a 6th grader, and Avery is 8 and is in the 3rd grade.

Colin McGrane (2004-2005) — Colin played baseball at WNCC as a walk-on in the fall of 2004. Since WNCC, Colin has been very active in baseball coaching. He was an assistant coach at Benson’s Legion program in Omaha in 2006. In the spring of 2008, he was an assistant coach at Sierra Vista High in Las Vegas, Nev. He then was the head coach of the Legion program at Sierra in the summer of 2008. He is currently the assistant varsity coach for infielders/hitters at Liberty High in Las Vegas, Nev., and head legion coach of the Las Vegas Patriots (Liberty High).

Nimroy Cannon (1976-78) — Nimroy played on the team with Dave Harnish when Ron Brillhart was coach. He is originally from Indianapolis and still lives there. Nimroy is the materials manager for The Surgery Center of Carmel. He has two daughters ages 29 and 26 and three grandchildren. He added that he and his wife have been together for 23 years.

Beth (Elliott) Lanoue (1987-89) — Beth played volleyball for the Cougars from 1987-89, helping them to the national tournament in 1988. Beth went on to play volleyball at Southwest Minnesota State University, where they retired her No. 12 jersey. Beth was a first team All-American at SW Minnesota her senior year (1990). Beth now works for State Farm Insurance in Tracys, Minn.

Brooke (Ehler) Talkington (1991-92) — Brooke played volleyball for the Cougars under Coach Michelle Gomez. She is now a physical education teacher in Scottsbluff and is married to Shane. They have two kids, Brayden (13) and Tate (5).

Peggy Johannsen (1980-82) — Peggy graduated from Bayard High School and played for women’s basketball for Harvey Schmidt. She also wrote for the college newspaper the Spectator and went on to have a broadcasting job. She is now a civil rights investigator for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Development in Miami.

Chrsty (Johnson) Torrens (1995-97) — Christy Johnson played volleyball for WNCC from 1995-97, graduating in May of 1997. From WNCC she was offered a full-ride scholarship to Eastern Kentucky University. EKU is a
Alumni News

DI program within the Ohio Valley Conference. Unfortunately, all of my credits transferred as electives so I lost 56 of my 62 credit hours by transferring to EKU. Although they were willing to keep me on the roster and continue to pay for 3 more years of my schooling, I decided it was time to go back home.” So, Christy went back to Denver and started working in the professional world while taking some time off from school. “Eventually, I put myself through college and graduated in March of 2007 with a BA of Science in Interior Design. I am currently attending Indiana University - Purdue University in Indianapolis and working on a Master’s in Technology with an emphasis on Facilities Management.” Christy is living in Highlands Ranch, Colo., where she is a facilities manager for Comcast Cable. She said she thoroughly loves her career. Christy is now playing the sport again that she enjoyed when she played here. 

Roxanne (Rohn) Chintale (1989-1990) — Roxanne played for volleyball for Michelle Overby-Gomez and is excited to see the volleyball program excel. Roxanne was a setter when she played. She is now coaching at Meeker High School in Meeker, Colo.

Alejandro Barrientos (2005-06) — Alejandro played for the Cougars in the 2005 and 2006 seasons, graduating with an associates degree. He is now attending the University of Wyoming in Laramie, pursuing a bachelor’s degree in structural engineering, as well as working as a resident assistant.

Jackie Jensen (1997-1999) — Jackie played for Harnish from 1997-99 helping the team to the national tournament. Jackie was a lively player, who ran the guard position. She later went up to Chadron State. Jackie is now living in Douglas, Wyo., and working as a food service manager for the Converse County School District.

Doug Chappell (SJC 1953-55) — Doug played basketball for the Scottsbluff Junior College teams from 1953-55. He played for Bob Conner his freshman year, helping the team to a 12-6 record, and then Roy Kising his sophomore year as the team went 14-7. After college, Doug worked at Scottsbluff High School from 1957-1995 as a math instructor and later as a guidance counselor. He also was a part-time math instructor at WNCC for four years.

Julie (Cook) Kuhlman (1982-84) — Julie competed for the women’s basketball team during the 1982-84. After WNCC, Julie transferred to the University of Wyoming and then started her teaching and coaching career at Albin, Wyo. After two years at Albin, Julie moved to Glenrock where she was an assistant volleyball and track coach, and the head girls basketball coach. Julie is still at Glenrock, serving as the activities director as well as teaching PE. She is married to Mark, who is a math instructor at Casper College, and has two sons ages 13 and 8.

Travis Ottey (WNCC 2001-2003) — Travis played baseball for the Cougars from 2001-03. Travis came to WNCC from Australia. He is currently married and living in Perth, Australia, managing a picture framing company.

Roy Pedersen (SJC 1958) — Roy played football for the Cougars back in 1958. He later went to Southern Nazarene University and prepared for his Pastoral Ministry, graduating in 1963. He has been the pastor of seven churches. He currently lives in Colorado. He has written a book, “The Gift of the Journey.”

Nikki Marotta (WNCC 2003-2004) — Nikki played soccer on the school’s first two teams, helping them to a 19-1 record in 2003. She is now coaching Neosha County Community College in Kansas.

Adam Freeburg (WNCC 2000-2003) — Adam红-shirted for the Cougars 2000-2001 and then played in the 2001-2002 and the 2002-2003 seasons under Trace Bevell. He came to WNCC after a successful year at Southeast High School in Wyoming. He is currently teaching physical education at Gering High School where he is an assistant football coach and the head girl’s basketball coach. He also is the sprint coach for the track team. Adam lives in Gering.

Rick Kinner (WNCC 1994-1996) — Rick came to WNCC after a heroic career at Scottsbluff High School. He graduated from WNCC in 1996 after two years of playing basketball and then accepted an athletic scholarship to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and played for two years in the Big West Conference. Rick set the Cal Poly record with eight 3-pointers in a game against University of Pacific. He graduated from Cal Poly with degrees in MIS and Criminal Justice. Rick has lived in San Francisco for five years, working for software companies Peoplesoft and Oracle. He now lives in Paris, France, since 2005, working for Business Objects and SAP. Rick currently enjoys the arts, improving his French and visiting regions in Europe. He said he enjoys spending time with his parents, who still reside in Scottsbluff and brothers living in Vermont.

Jennifer Kaan (WNCC 2001-2003) — Jennifer played volleyball for Chris Green for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons after being an standout athlete at Crawford High School. She then went on to Colorado State University where she got her degree in Apparel Merchandising. Jennifer then moved to Las Vegas in 2005 and works at MaxMara at the Palazzo.

Brenda (Schwartzkopf) Pszanka (WNCC 1990-92) — Brenda played volleyball for the Cougars from 1990-92 as a middle hitter. Brenda still stays involved in Cougar and area sports. She is currently a third grade teacher at Northfield Elementary in Gering.

Shelly (Donahue) Yank (WNCC 1977-79) — Shelly was the Cougar mascot Cougars during the late 1970s.
Remember When ...
Alumni Photo Album

Do you recognize any of these former Cougars? An extra bonus is where is the baseball player pitching in the indoor hitting building and someone can tell me what is in it now, they win. If so, just let me know by emailing me at mrein@wncc.net. There are some names I don’t know, too.
**Cougar Word Search**  Can you find the 27 current Cougar Athletes in the following word search. It could be difficult, but it could be easy. Have fun.

L P T O R T E G A S P E N C E R N L  
N E L C E S N R R K X W R A S N I C  
I T F I X O E V C L E M E N S C X R  
B E Z P S R B F C M C C E S I U K M  
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O S A E I T E U E G R W M I H L A C  
U O H T M A K R S R O E M E J E S H  
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A L M P G E O S M W R A R B O V L Y  
R X J A T R T K B C J M E R N N L W  
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<th>Cougar Culture</th>
<th>Favorite Thanksgiving Food</th>
<th>Best Toy you had as a Kid</th>
<th>Worst Food</th>
<th>What cartoon character would you like to be</th>
<th>Disney Land or Disney World</th>
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<td>Megan Johnson Volleyball</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Game Ball</td>
<td>Artichokes</td>
<td>Patrick from Spongebob because he is same color as me</td>
<td>Disney World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Ward Men's Basketball</td>
<td>Dressing or Stuffing</td>
<td>Sega</td>
<td>Sushi</td>
<td>Hancock because he is strong and saved lives</td>
<td>Disney Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura James Women's Soccer</td>
<td>Pumpkin Pie</td>
<td>Game Boy</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>Spongebob because he laughs a lot</td>
<td>Disney World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Calcaterra Men's Basketball</td>
<td>Turkey and Pumpkin Pie</td>
<td>Power Rangers</td>
<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Johnny Bravo because he is a stud</td>
<td>Disney Land</td>
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<td>Angel Council Softball</td>
<td>Pumpkin Pie</td>
<td>Softball Glove</td>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>Yogi Bear because I eat a lot</td>
<td>Disney Land</td>
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