FROM: WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY MEDIA INFORMATION

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May 13, 2004 Men's Basketball Contact: Craig Lawson

BENNETT GUIDES COUGARS TO PAC-10 TOURNAMENT

WSU COUGAR MEN				
Date			re	Opponent
11/20	W	66-46	%	vs. VMI
11/22	W	57-51	%	at Alaska Fairbanks
11/23	L	49-64	%	vs. Rice
11/28	L	36-55		at Southern Utah
12/1	W	66-46		IPFW
12/6	W	73-52		TCU
12/13	W	64-50		at Montana
12/20	W	62-55		IDAHO
12/22	L	29-46		at Fresno State
12/28	L	58-96		at Gonzaga
1/2	L	51-73	*	at Stanford
1/4	W	55-50	*	at California
1/8	L	45-48	*	UCLA (Spokane)
1/10	W	76-61	*	USC (Spokane)
1/15	L	41-52	*	at Oregon State
1/17	L	45-60	*	at Oregon
1/24	L	62-75	*	WASHINGTON
1/29	W	63-56	*	ARIZONA STATE
1/31	L	57-61	*	ARIZONA
2/5	W	55-48	*	at UCLA
2/7	W	60-51	*	at USC
2/12	L	58-65	*	OREGON STATE
2/14	L	62-67-OT		OREGON
2/19	L	67-71	*	at Washington
2/26	W	83-70	*	at Arizona State
2/28	L	62-70	*	at Arizona
3/4	L	61-63	*	STANFORD
3/6	W	70-58	*	CALIFORNIA
3/11	L	47-68		Stanford#
% - BP Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska) * - Pacific-10 Conference Game # - Pacific Life Pacific-10 Tournament				
All times are Pacific.				

WASHINGTON STATE (13-16, 7-11 Pac-10)

WSU HEAD COACH DICK BENNETT: Washington State Head Coach Dick Bennett finished in his first season at WSU with a 13-16 record...coached at Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1976-85), Wisconsin-Green Bay (1985-95) and Wisconsin (1995-2000)...owns a .631 career winning percentage (467-273)...career highlights include a 1984 NAIA national runner-up finish at Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a 2000 Final Four appearance at Wisconsin...with 70-58 win vs. California, March 6, Bennett tied Bill E. Foster for 74th place on the NCAA career wins list.

BENNETT MAGIC: WSU won 13 games in 2003-04, a six-win improvement over the previous season, under first-year mentor Dick Bennett...only other time a Cougar head coach had a better improvement during his inaugural season was John R. Bender in 1907-08...Bender's squad finished 12-3 after Everett M. Sweeley's 1906-07 team posted a 5-4 record...WSU tallied seven Pac-10 wins after winning just seven of its last 46 conference games entering this season.

WSU IN PAC-10 TOURNAMENT: The Cougars participated in the Pac-10 Tournament for the first time since 1990 when all 10 schools qualified...no Pac-10 Tournament held from 1991-2001...WSU is 2-5 in Pac-10 Tournament games...Cougars lost 68-47 to No. 2 Stanford in first round of 2004 Pac-10 Tournament.

COUGARS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION: WSU was named men's basketball national team of the week (Feb. 2-8) by ESPN.com after winning games at UCLA and USC, Feb. 5/7.

COUGARS SWEEP PAC-10 TRIO: Washington State swept the season series with USC, Arizona State and California...first time since 1994-95 Cougars swept three Pac-10 opponents (Oregon State, Oregon, California).

STREAK BREAKERS: WSU snapped several losing streaks in 2003-04…here is a look at the streaks:

GAME	DATE	SCORE	ENDED
@Alaska Fairbanks	Nov. 22	57-51	27-game road losing streak
@California	Jan. 4	55-50	22-game Pac-10 road losing streak
			8-game losing streak at California
			6-game losing streak to California
vs. USC (Spokane)	Jan. 10	76-61	9-game losing streak to USC
@UCLA	Feb. 5	55-48	46-game losing streak at UCLA
			38-game losing streak at Pauley Pavilion
			(first WSU win at UCLA)
			22-game losing streak overall to UCLA
@USC	Feb. 7	60-51	7-game losing streak at USC

WSU ROAD SUCCESS: The Cougars posted six road wins in a season (6-8) for the first time since 1995-96 (7-7)...with the 57-51 win at Alaska Fairbanks, Nov. 22, WSU broke a 27-game road losing streak...previous win was 58-57 at Arizona State, Feb. 8, 2001...WSU was 6-65 in last 71 road games prior to 2003-04 dating back to January, 1998.

PAC-10 ROAD SWEEPS: A 60-51 victory at USC, Feb. 7 gave the Cougars their first road sweep of the Los Angeles schools in school history...Cougars closed the first half with a 26-9 run over the final 14:53...first season sweep of USC since 1985-86...first road sweep in conference since defeating Oregon State and No. 19 Oregon, Feb. 16/18, 1995 and 11th in school history since Pac-10 began in 1978-79...history of Pac-10 road sweeps:

ROAD TRIP	DATES	SCORES
Bay Area	Feb. 7/9, 1980	80-68 at California, 93-75 at Stanford
Arizona	Jan. 8-9, 1982	53-43 at Arizona State, 59-53 at Arizona
Bay Area	Jan. 20/22, 1983	76-64 at Oregon State, 54-51 at Oregon
Bay Area	Feb. 24/26, 1983	79-69 at Stanford, 56-54 at California
Bay Area	Jan. 14/16, 1988	59-37 at California, 70-68 (OT) at Stanford
Oregon	Jan. 23/26, 1992	90-55 at Oregon, 81-69 at Oregon State
Bay Area	Jan. 28/30, 1993	64-59 at Stanford, 83-75 at California
Oregon	Jan. 20/22, 1994	95-85 at Oregon, 81-66 at Oregon State
Oregon	Feb. 16/18, 1995	94-85 at Oregon State, 76-59 at No. 19 Oregon
Los Angeles	Feb. 5/7, 2004	55-48 at UCLA, 60-51 at USC

SLAMMING THE DOOR SHUT: The Cougars were 9-1 when leading at halftime and 1-0 when tied at intermission...in 2002-03, WSU was 6-6 after outscoring its opponent in the first stanza.

SUCCESS AT THE LINE: WSU was 8-3 when attempting more free throws than its opponent...Cougars shot 86 percent (130-for-156) during their seven Pac-10 wins...Cougars recorded season-high in free throws and free throw attempts with 27-for-33 outing in 70-58 win over California, March 6...WSU finished 13th nationally in free throw percentage (.749).

GETTING TO THE GLASS: Cougars were 9-0 when grabbing more boards than opponent...WSU was 1-0 when rebounds are equal to its opponent.

TAKING CARE OF THE BASKETBALL: WSU turned the ball over at a rate of 12.1 per game...Cougars finished 14th nationally in fewest turnovers per outing

FROM ZERO TO SEVENTY: Washington State was 4-0 when scoring 70 or more points...Cougars registered a season-high 83 points at Arizona State, Feb. 26...most points by WSU in a Pac-10 road game since 98-87 loss at No. 8 Arizona, Jan. 7, 1999.

FORTY-FIVE-FORTY: WSU was 8-1 when shooting 45 percent or better from the field...Cougars shot season-high 58 percent in 76-61 win over USC, Jan. 10...Cougars 7-0 when holding opponent under 40 percent from the floor...when the Cougars shot under 40 percent, they were 2-9.

DEFENSIVE IMPROVEMENT: Washington State gave up 59.7 points per game in 2003-04, a 19.1 points per game improvement over 2002-03...since Arizona and Arizona State joined the Pacific-8 to form the Pacific-10 for the 1978-79 season, no team recorded such a dramatic improvement from one season to the next.

COUGAR DEFENSE: In 2002-03, WSU yielded 78.8 points per game and was last in the Pac-10 in scoring defense...in 2003-04 the Cougars were best in the conference, allowing just 59.66 points per outing...the 59.66 points per game were the fewest given up by a Pac-10 team since Oregon State yielded 57.7 points per game in 1984-85, two years before the 3-point shot was implemented...WSU finished 12th nationally in scoring defense.

MORE COUGAR DEFENSE: The Cougars held opponents to 55 points or less in 13 games...WSU held 12 opponents to 55 points or less over the last six seasons combined prior to 2003-04...last time Cougars limited 13 or more opponents to 55 points or less was 1951-52 when WSU accomplished the feat in 17 of 35 games...WSU held six straight opponents to 55 points or less (Nov. 28-Dec. 22) for the first time since Dec. 21-Jan. 5 (seven games) during the 1950-51 season....Cougars held five opponents under 50 points...prior to 2003-04, the last time WSU held a team under 50 points was an 80-46 win at Eastern Washington, Dec. 7, 1996...Cougars had not held multiple opponents under 50 points since 1989-90 season...last time WSU held five opponents under 50 points was 1987-88 season in Kelvin Sampson's first season on the Palouse...WSU also limited Montana and California to 50 points each while posting road wins.

WSU LIMITS OPPONENT SCORING IN PAC-10 GAMES: The Cougars held every Pac-10 opponent below its season scoring average...a look at the numbers:

TEAM	AVG.	PTS vs. WSU
Arizona	87.1	66.5 Avg. (-20.6)-Two meetings
Washington	82.0	73.0 Avg. (-9.0)-Two meetings
USC	75.4	56.0 Avg. (-19.4)-Two meetings
Oregon	74.9	63.5 Avg. (-11.4)-Two meetings
Arizona State	74.1	63.0 Avg. (-11.1)-Two meetings
Stanford	73.6	68.0 Avg. (-5.6)-Three meetings
Oregon State	72.1	59.5 Avg. (-12.6)-Two meetings
California	66.9	54.0 Avg. (-12.9)-Two meetings
UCLA	66.5	48.0 Avg. (-18.5)-Two meetings

GETTING A FRESH START: WSU used 12 different starting lineups, with 11 players making at least one start...a breakdown of the lineups:

STARTERS	GAME(S)	W-L
Gill, Grant, Kelati, Moore, Schlatter	(1, 12-13)	2-1
Gill, Green, Kelati, Moore, Schlatter	(2, 7-8, 10)	3-1
Gill, Kelati, Moore, Paterick, Schlatter	(3, 5-6)	2-1
Bellegarde, Gill, Kelati, Moore, Schlatter	(4, 11, 23)	0-3
Gill, Kelati, Moore, Ukeagu, Varem	(9, 25)	1-1
Gill, Kelati, Moore, Schlatter, Varem	(14-15, 17-18, 20, 27, 29)	3-4
Gill, Grant, Green, Moore, Schlatter	(16)	0-1
Gill, Kelati, Moore, Simmons, Varem	(19)	0-1
Bellegarde, Gill, Kelati, Moore, Varem	(21)	1-0
Gill, Grant, Kelati, Moore, Varem	(22, 26)	0-2
Gill, Grant, Kelati, Moore, Ukeagu	(24)	0-1
Bellegarde, Kelati, Moore, Ukeagu, Varem	(28)	1-0

WSU WIN STREAK: The Cougars won four straight, Dec. 1-20...WSU's first four-game winning streak since Dec. 2-20, 1998.

WSU A TRAVELING TEAM: The Cougars played 19 of their 29 games away from Pullman...WSU traveled over 20,000 combined miles via airplanes and buses.

PROTECTING THE HOUSE: WSU's 62-55 win over Idaho, Dec. 20, the Cougars closed our their 2003-04 non-conference home schedule at 3-0...WSU is 63-2 since 1990-91 in non-conference games played in Pullman...the mark includes a 5-0 record in Bohler Gym during the 1990-91 campaign.

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS UP: WSU averaged 4,540 fans at Friel Court, the most since 1998-99 ...the 8,176 vs. Stanford, March 4 was the largest crowd at Friel Court since 8,373 watched WSU-Washington, Jan. 18, 1997...WSU drew 14,139 for games against Stanford and California, March 4/6...largest weekend for WSU basketball since 18,674 came to see California and Stanford, Jan. 25/27, 1996...Cougars drew 18,262 over three games (Feb. 14-March 6), best since Feb. 22-March 8, 1997 (21,017)...the 6,409 attending the Washington game, Jan. 24 was the most for a non-ranked opponent since 8,373 attended Washington, Jan. 18, 1997.

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COUGAR PLAYER NOTES

#1 Marcus Moore (Inglewood, Calif.) - Named Pacific-10 Honorable Mention...only Cougar to start all 29 games...finished career on WSU all-time list in assists average (second-4.15 per game), steals (third-168), assists (fourth-423), scoring (fifth-1,458 points) and 3-point field goals (fifth-152)...averaged 14.8 points per game and shot .344 from 3-point range in his last 11 outings...committed 2.93 turnovers per game in 2003-04, the best mark of his career...scored season-high 29 points against No. 9 Arizona, Jan. 31...finished his Cougar home career with 16 points, season-high seven rebounds and six assists as Washington State defeated California 70-58, March 6 to earn a spot in the Pacific-10 Tournament...one of three players in WSU history with 1,000 points, 300 assists and 125 steals...Keith Morrison (1983-86) and Bennie Seltzer (1990-93) are the others...led WSU in points, assists and steals...scored in double figures 23 times...named to the all-tournament team at the BP Top of the World Classic after averaging 16.7 points and 3.7 assists in three games...scored 20 points at Alaska Fairbanks, Nov. 22 and 22 points vs. Idaho, Dec. 20....Pac-10 rankings: Ninth in steals (1.48 per game) and 12th in scoring (13.5 points per game).

MOORE ASSISTS: Senior Marcus Moore recorded the 23rd 100-assist season in WSU history and the third of his career...Cougar 100-assist seasons:

PLAYER	SEASON	ASSISTS
Dan Steward	1970-71	118
Brad Jackson	1973-74	145
Marty Giovacchini	1974-75	102
Marty Giovacchini	1975-76	106
Marty Giovacchini	1976-77	106
Bryan Rison	1979-80	100
Craig Ehlo	1982-83	135
Keith Morrison	1983-84	115
Keith Morrison	1984-85	137
Keith Morrison	1985-86	129
Anthony Kidd	1986-87	105
	1989-90	114
David Sanders	1989-90	100
Bennie Seltzer	1990-91	109
Bennie Seltzer	1991-92	123
Bennie Seltzer	1992-93	127
Tony Harris	1993-94	115
Donminic Ellison	1994-95	192
Donminic Ellison	1995-96	151
Blake Pengelly	1997-98	120
	2000-01	100
Marcus Moore	2001-02	131
Marcus Moore	2003-04	108

MOORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Senior point guard Marcus Moore became the 12th player in Pac-10 history to have 1,400 points, 400 assists and 160 steals...finished with 1,458 points, 423 assists and 168 steals.

PLAYER	SCHOOL	POINTS	ASSISTS	STEALS
Tyus Edney	UCLA	1,515	652	224
Jason Gardner	Arizona	1,984	622	225
Brandon Granville	USC	1,430	779	229
Eddie House	Arizona State	2,044	405	258
Brevin Knight	Stanford	1,714	780	298
Gary Payton	Oregon State	2,172	938	321
Pooh Richardson	UCLA	1,461	833	189
Damon Stoudamire	Arizona	1,849	663	174
Stevin Smith	Arizona State	1,673	416	246
Jason Terry	Arizona	1,461	493	245
Earl Watson	UCLA	1,449	607	235

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- #2 Terry Ayers (Pearl City, Hawaii) Walk-on appeared in three games...played three minutes off the bench in first half at Montana, Dec. 13.
- #3 Lance Den Boer (Sunnyside) Played in 13 games...scored season-high 11 points off the bench at Montana, Dec. 13 while celebrating his 19th birthday.
- #5 Chris Schlatter (Lafayette, Calif.) Started 21 games...tied season-high with 11 points at USC after scoring just two points in previous three games...four times tied his career-high with seven rebounds...scored nine points at No. 15 Gonzaga and added six boards...tallied eight points at No. 5 Stanford, Jan. 2...played career-high 39 minutes against USC, Jan. 10.
- #11 Thomas Kelati (Walla Walla) Named Pacific-10 Honorable Mention...scored in double figures 16 times...averaged 17.5 points during six-game span, Feb. 14-March 6...ranks second on WSU all-time list with .431 mark from 3-point range... has 151 career treys, sixth on WSU's all-time list...tallied career-high 27 points on the strength of 11-for-13 shooting at No. 17 Arizona, Feb. 28...registered 24 points at Washington, Feb. 19...scored 18 points vs. IPFW, Dec. 1...tallied team-high 15 points at No. 15 Gonzaga, Dec. 28...shot .444 from beyond the arc for sixth-best single season in WSU history...his 71 treys rank seventh on Cougar single-season list...Pac-10 rankings: Second in 3-point field goal percentage and fifth in 3-pointers per game (2.45).
- **#12 Randy Green (Renton)** Made five starts in 2003-04...scored 12 points off the bench in 67-62 overtime loss to Oregon, Feb. 14...averaged 16.7 points per game during three-game stretch, Dec. 6-20.
- **#21 Anthony Grant (Seattle)** Appeared in 27 games, including seven starts...scored season/career-high 11 points and added four rebounds at Washington, Feb. 19...shot .417 from the field .438 from beyond the arc during five-game stretch, Feb. 19-March 6.
- #22 Shami Gill (Mission, British Columbia) Started 28 games...led WSU with 5.3 rebounds per game...matched his career-high with 13 rebounds, including seven offensive, at Oregon, Jan. 17...grabbed 10 boards at Alaska Fairbanks, Nov. 22 and at Southern Utah, Nov. 28...named all-tournament at BP Top of the World Classic...tied his career high with 17 points against USC, Jan. 10...Pac-10 ranking: 16th in rebounding.
- #25 Isaiah Simmons (Tacoma) Walk-on who made 15 appearances...made first career start vs. No. 9 Arizona, Jan. 31...played season/career-high 29 minutes against the Wildcats...recorded seven points and two assists against Arizona...tallied five points, three assists, two rebounds and one block against Washington.
- #32 Ezenwa Ukeagu (Coral Springs, Fla.) Played in 25 games, including four starts...tied career high with 15 points vs. Idaho, Dec. 20...added eight rebounds against the Vandals...scored 11 points in final home game vs. California, March 6...averaged six points and three rebounds off the bench games at UCLA and USC...averaged 8.3 points and 5.0 rebounds during three games at BP Top of the World Classic.
- #40 Julius McMillion (Seattle) Walk-on who did not appear in a game during 2003-04.
- #44 Justin Garcia (Mira Loma, Calif.) Played in seven games...scored buckets vs. IPFW, Dec. 1 and at Oregon State, Jan. 15...recorded a pair of rebounds against the Mastadons and at Fresno State, Dec. 22.
- #45 Jeff Varem (Benue, Nigeria) Played in 20 games...made 14 starts...tied for team-high honors with 21 points in 83-70 victory at Arizona State, Feb. 26...scored team-high 15 points in loss to Oregon State, Feb. 12...Made 16-of-21 free throws during road games at UCLA and USC...recorded 15 points at California, Jan. 4...added five boards against Golden Bears...registered season/career highs with 22 points and seven rebounds against USC, Jan. 10...recorded team-high 14 points against Washington, Jan. 24...scored game-high 17 points against Arizona State, Jan. 29...sat out WSU's first eight games due to impermissible benefits received prior to attending WSU.
- #55 Justin Bellegarde (Ukiah, Calif.) Tied his career high with eight points against Arizona State, Jan. 29...pulled down season-high five rebounds in opener vs. VMI, Nov. 20...made four starts.