

CONTENTS

Athletic Media Relations

Washington State University
Bohler Athletic Complex 195
Pullman, WA 99164-1602

OFFICE:
509-335-COUG (2684)

FAX:
509-335-0267

WEB SITE:
wsucougars.com

DIRECTOR:
Rod Commons

HOME:
509-332-8309

E-MAIL:
rodco@wsu.edu

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MEN'S BASKETBALL:
Craig Lawson
Home: 509-338-4556 E-mail: craigl@wsu.edu

Credits

The 2004-05 Washington State University Men's Basketball Media Guide has been published by the WSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, written by the Office of Athletic Media Relations, designed and printed by the Office of University Printing and Publications.

DESIGNER:
Eric Limburg

EDITOR/WRITER:
Craig Lawson, Rebecca Faulds

CONTRIBUTORS:
Danny Barnts, Linda Chalich, Rod Commons, Richard B. Fry, John Gilger, Jason Hickman, David Hirsch, Jason Krump, Jim Muldoon, Joe Nickell, the Pacific-10 Conference, Margaret Peyou, Rachel Porter, Greg Walker, Laura Warner, Wes Werner.

COVER DESIGN:
Eric Limburg

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY:
Rod Commons, Shelly Hanks, and Bob Hubner.

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Rachel Bayne, R.O. Bullis, Rod Commons, Richard B. Fry Collection, Shelly Hanks, Bob Hubner, Jason Krump, Craig Lawson, Darcy Wakaluk, WSU Libraries, WSU Office of University Printing and Publications, WSU Photo Services.

SPECIAL THANKS:
Sports Information Office at Wisconsin-Green Bay

Cougar Basketball

- 2 Men's Success
- 3-4 Friel Court
- 3 Cougar Practice Facility
- 5 Spokane Arena
- 6 Outlook
- 9 Coaches
- 18 Support Staff
- 20 Player Bios
- 39 Alphabetical Roster
- 40 Numerical Roster
- 41 Pacific-10 Conference
- 45 2004-05 Opponents
- 53 2003-04 Review

The University

- 59 Traditions
- 60 World Class. Face to Face.
- 61 Diversity
- 62 Colleges
- 64 Notable Alumni
- 66 Student-Athlete Development
- 68 Mentor Program for Student-Athletes of Color
- 69 Student Recreation Center
- 70 Athletic Medicine
- 72 Weight Room
- 74 President Rawlins
- 75 Director of Athletics Jim Sterk
- 76 Athletic Administration

Record Book

- 81 103 Seasons
- 92 WSU Players in the NBA
- 94 Individual Records
- 95 Team Records
- 96 Season/Career Leaders
- 99 30-Point/20-Rebound Games
- 100 Yearly Results
- 101 Yearly Team Statistics
- 103 Year-by-Year Results
- 115 Series Records
- 120 All-Time Roster
- 124 Cougar Team Honors
- 125 Athletic and Academic Honors

Media

- 126 Media Information
- 128 Media Roster



MEN'S SUCCESS

Over the past three years, the Washington State Cougars have placed themselves as one of the top football programs in the nation.

Since 2001, WSU has posted a 30-8 record, tying it for the eighth best mark among Division I-A teams over the period. The Cougars have registered three consecutive 10-win seasons (not to mention four in the last seven seasons) to be one of only four teams in the nation to achieve such a feat over the past three years.

In his first season at the helm of the Cougars, **Bill Doba** led WSU to a 10-3 mark, which was capped by a 28-20 victory over No. 5 Texas at the Holiday Bowl. The Cougars finished the year ninth in both major polls (Associated Press, ESPN/USA Today).

On the hardwood, first-year coach **Dick Bennett** led the men's basketball team to a berth in the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament for the first time since 1990 (when all 10 schools advanced). WSU won 13 games in 2003-04, a six-win improvement over the previous season.

In track & field, eight Cougars competed in six events at the NCAA Championships. Seniors **Curt Borland** and **Anthony Buchanan** earned All-America honors with their performances in the javelin and 100m dash, respectively.

In addition, three Cougars earned All-America status at the NCAA Indoor Championships. **Matt Mason** finished sixth in the long jump, **Danny Wolf** was 10th in the 3000m and **Tim Gehring** took 13th in the shot put.

The baseball team capped off its most successful season since 1994 by finishing the year 29-26. The 29 wins were the most for the program since the team won 34 in 1994.

In golf, **David Fern** and **Ben Bryson** made a presence on the national stage qualifying for the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, respectively over the summer. In addition, Fern captured the Pacific Northwest Amateur Championship, a tournament won by Tiger Woods in 1994.



COUGAR PRACTICE FACILITY



FRIEL COURT



FRIEL COURT

The Washington State men's basketball team enters its 32nd straight season at Friel Court of the Wallis Beasley Performing Arts Coliseum. WSU won its 200th game all-time at the venerable facility Dec. 2, 1998 when the Cougars defeated Portland State 74-71.

The Cougars first moved to Friel Court Dec. 1, 1973, and christened their new home with an 80-78 victory over Louisiana State in front of 9,000 fans.

WSU has earned a postseason berth six times while calling Friel Court home. The 1979-80 season marked the first of those six occasions as the Cougars advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since the 1940-41 team finished as the national runner-up.

The Cougars won 12 of 13 games at Friel in 1979-80 and drew a season-record 110,206 fans. George Raveling's squad won its last four games at home that season, including a 69-51 win over fourth-ranked Pacific-10 champion Oregon State, Feb. 16 in front of a then Friel Court record 12,327 fans.

The 1982-83 season saw the Cougars return to the NCAA Tournament on the strength of a perfect 14-0 record at Friel. The season finale was a thriller as WSU's Bryan Pollard's tip-in at the buzzer gave the Cougars a 70-68 victory over sixth-ranked UCLA triggering a Friel Court record crowd of 12,422 to storm the court in celebration.

Kelvin Sampson's 1991-92 Cougar team advanced to the National Invitational Tournament and finished the season 22-11, including a 14-3 record at Friel. WSU notched its 20th win in a season for the first time since 1982-83 when it defeated No. 8 USC 82-68 March 8 in Pullman.

Two years later, the Cougars made their first of three consecutive postseason appearances as Sampson guided WSU to a 20-11 season. That year, WSU was 10-3 at home, including a 94-82 victory over 16th-ranked California in the final game of the regular season, March 12.

Kevin Eastman's first season as head coach on the Palouse, 1994-95, saw the Cougars post an 18-12 record and advance to the quarterfinals of the National Invitational Tournament.

WSU won 13 of its 15 games at Friel, including four wins over ranked opponents. The Cougars swept 17th-ranked California (83-71, Jan. 5) and 23rd-ranked Stanford (77-63, Jan. 7) to begin Pacific-10 play. WSU made it three straight home wins over ranked opponents with an 83-78 victory over 17th-ranked Oregon, Jan. 19. The final home game of the year resulted in an 84-71 win over 15th-ranked Arizona State, March 4.

The 1995-96 campaign marked WSU's most recent appearance in the postseason as the Cougars advanced to the second round of the National Invitational Tournament and finished with an 18-11 record.

The Cougars recorded a 9-3 mark at Friel and drew 97,284

FRIEL COURT RECORDS

Year	G	W	L	Pct.	Att.	Average
1973-74	10	4	6	.400	66,000	6,600
1974-75	12	5	7	.417	78,700	6,558
1975-76	12	11	1	.769	83,350	6,946
1976-77	10	8	2	.800	93,852	9,385
1977-78	11	8	3	.727	73,914	6,719
1978-79	10	7	3	.700	82,383	8,238
1979-80	13	12	1	.923	110,206	8,477
1980-81	13	5	8	.385	80,061	6,159
1981-82	12	7	5	.583	76,300	6,358
1982-83	14	14	0	1.000	96,127	6,866
1983-84	12	5	7	.417	63,500	5,292
1984-85	13	8	5	.620	47,100	3,623
1985-86	13	8	5	.620	61,279	4,714
1986-87	11	8	3	.727	37,050	3,368
1987-88	13	6	7	.462	55,829	4,295
1988-89	11	5	6	.454	36,308	3,301
1989-90	14	5	9	.357	45,957	3,282
1990-91	10	6	4	.600	56,060	5,606
1991-92	17	14	3	.824	79,697	4,688
1992-93	12	9	3	.750	65,559	5,463
1993-94	13	10	3	.769	79,030	6,079
1994-95	15	13	2	.867	87,603	5,840
1995-96	12	9	3	.750	97,284	8,107
1996-97	11	6	5	.545	57,775	5,252
1997-98	11	5	6	.455	45,701	4,155
1998-99	11	6	5	.545	51,527	4,684
1999-2000	13	5	8	.385	45,140	3,472
2000-01	14	10	4	.714	39,972	2,855
2001-02	14	6	8	.429	32,094	2,292
2002-03	14	6	8	.429	32,334	2,310
2003-04	10	5	5	.500	45,404	4,540
Total (31)	381	236	145	.619	2,002,550	5,256

fans, second most in school history. WSU's biggest home win came March 14 when the Cougars defeated Gonzaga 92-73 in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament.

In 2000-01, WSU recorded 10 wins at Friel, the most since the 1994-95 squad went 13-2 in Pullman.

Friel Court has been the site of NCAA first and second round games (1975, 1982 and 1985). In fact, Friel Court was the first stop on UCLA's 1975 NCAA title run, the 10th and final championship for head coach John Wooden. The Bruins needed overtime to defeat Michigan 103-91.

The arena, which currently seats 11,566 for basketball, was formally dedicated in honor of longtime Washington State Head Coach Jack Friel, who directed the Cougars to the 1941 NCAA title game. Then in the spring of 1981, the coliseum was named in honor of former Washington State Vice-President Wallis Beasley.

The first athletic event held in the coliseum was a National Basketball Association exhibition game between the Seattle SuperSonics and the Portland Trailblazers Sept. 25, 1973. The first University event held at the facility was the Washington State commencement June 3, 1973. Commencement has been held there every year since.

the **SPOKANE ARENA**

the Cougars' home away from home



For the 10th consecutive year, the Spokane Arena will serve as the "home away from home" for the Washington State men's basketball team. Located just 75 miles north of Pullman, the Spokane Arena and WSU have teamed to host the 1997 NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship, the 2001 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship West Regional and the 2003 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship First/Second Rounds. The most recent event was named the Festival and Event of the Year at The Inland Northwest Tourism Awards. The venue will also serve as host for the 2007 NCAA Basketball Championship First/Second Rounds.



TICKET INFORMATION

Spokane Arena Box Office
800-325-seat
509-325-seat

Online: www.ticketswest.com
G&B Ticket Outlets

2004-05 OUTLOOK

Last season, the Washington State University men's basketball team won 13 games, the most Cougar victories in seven seasons. In 2004-05, WSU looks to take the next step toward building a foundation for the future.

"The rebuilding process is clearly not an overnight thing, not if you want it to last," Cougar Head Coach Dick Bennett said. "We're in the phase where we're trying to build the nucleus of players who are fitted to what we want to accomplish on and off the floor. We are doing that with our recruiting as well as with our kids who remain."

Bennett, a master of rebuilding programs, enters his second season after directing WSU to as many wins in his first campaign as the Cougars produced in the two previous seasons combined prior to his arrival on the Palouse.

The Cougars return six letterwinners who combined for 97 starts last season. Senior guard **Thomas Kelati (Walla Walla)** is the leading returning scorer at 11.1 points per game. Last season, he started 28 of 29 games and finished second in the Pacific-10 Conference with a .444 percentage from beyond the arc and fifth in the conference with 2.45 3-pointers per game. He earned Pacific-10 Honorable Mention. His 71 treys last season rank seventh on the Cougar single-season list. He enters this season with a .431 career mark from long range, second all-time at WSU, and is sixth on the Cougar all-time 3-pointer list with 151.

Senior guard **Jeff Varem (Benue, Nigeria)** made 14 starts and showed flashes of brilliance last season. He scored in double figures 10 times, including a 22-point effort to go along with seven rebounds in a home win over USC. Consistency was a problem for Varem though, as he tallied four points or less in five outings.

"You would expect the scoring load to fall on the shoulders of Thomas Kelati and Jeff Varem, but I don't think either one of them is a dominant scorer," Bennett said. "We need more balance than we had last season."

Senior forwards **Shami Gill (Mission, British Columbia)** and **Chris Schlatter (Lafayette, Calif.)** will be two of the players Bennett counts upon to pick up

2004-05 OUTLOOK

the scoring slack. Last season, Gill and Schlatter made 28 and 21 starts, respectively, but combined to score just 10.5 points per game.

"Every one of the returning guys has to have a more consistent offensive game," Bennett said. "They all lacked that last season."

Gill led WSU in 2003-04 with 5.3 rebounds per game and finished 16th in the Pac-10. Schlatter finished second to Gill among Cougars in total rebounds with 110.

"If Shami Gill has the same effort as last season, with the some improved strength, he will remain very valuable," Bennett said. "The same is true about Chris Schlatter. I never expect guys to improve in feet and yards. I just want inches."

Other returnees include senior guard **Isaiah Simmons (Tacoma)** and junior guard **Randy Green (Renton)**. Simmons joined the team as a walk-on last season and played in 15 games, including one start. His effort earned him a scholarship for his senior season. Green played all 29 games, made five starts and shot .333 from 3-point range.

The Cougars will have a new point guard this season in freshman **Derrick Low (Honolulu)**. His prep accolades include "Mr. Basketball" as the top player in the State of Hawaii each of his last three seasons at Iolani School where he led his team to three straight State titles.

Low will have big shoes to fill after Marcus Moore departed following a brilliant four-year career. Moore left WSU ranked in several career categories, including assists per game (second, 4.15), steals (third, 168), assists (fourth, 423), scoring (fifth, 1,458) and 3-point field goals (fifth, 152).

"The older kids are going to have to make it possible for Derrick to play like he can," Bennett said. "He is more of a distributor than a scorer. Marcus Moore is a huge loss because he did everything for us with the ball from baseline to baseline. You can never overestimate the loss of a player like him."

In addition to Low, there are a half dozen other new faces in Pullman this season, all freshmen. Among them are centers **Chris Henry (Santa Ana, Calif.)** and **Robbie Cowgill (Austin, Texas)**.

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

BY CLASS

SENIORS (5)

Shami Gill	F	6-7	225
Thomas Kelati	G	6-5	194
Chris Schlatter	F	6-7	220
Isaiah Simmons	G	6-2	221
Jeff Varem	G	6-6	240

JUNIORS (1)

Randy Green	G	6-4	187
-------------	---	-----	-----

FRESHMEN (7)

Josh Akognon	G	5-11	185
Robbie Cowgill	C	6-10	200
Daven Harmeling	F	6-7	215
Chris Henry	C	6-9	248
Alex Kirk	G	5-10	170
Derrick Low	G	6-1	177
Kyle Weaver	G	6-5	185

BY POSITION

FORWARDS (3)

Shami Gill	6-7	225	SR
Daven Harmeling	6-7	215	FR
Chris Schlatter	6-7	220	SR

CENTERS (2)

Robbie Cowgill	6-10	200	FR
Chris Henry	6-9	248	FR

GUARDS (8)

Josh Akognon	5-11	185	FR
Randy Green	6-4	187	JR
Thomas Kelati	6-5	194	SR
Alex Kirk	5-10	170	FR
Derrick Low	6-1	177	FR
Isaiah Simmons	6-2	221	SR
Jeff Varem	6-6	240	SR
Kyle Weaver	6-5	185	FR

2004-05 OUTLOOK

Henry has the most size among the newcomers at 6-foot-9, 248 pounds. He averaged nearly 11 points as a senior at Mater Dei High School. Cowgill is the tallest of the freshmen at 6-foot-10. He was a second team All-State selection as a senior at Westwood High School after averaging 20 points, 13 rebounds, and three blocks per game.

The other new member of the front line is **Daven Harmeling (Grand Junction, Colo.)**, a 6-foot-7, 215 pound forward out of Fruita Monument High School who averaged 21 points and eight rebounds as a senior.

The backcourt additions include **Josh Akognon (Petaluma, Calif.)**, **Kyle Weaver (Beloit, Wis.)** and invited walk-on **Alex Kirk (Prosser)**.

Akognon is the best shooter in the trio and ranked fifth in California last season with 30 points per game at Casa Grande High School. He recorded six games with 40 or more points, including a 54-point effort in his second-to-last prep outing. He has the ability to back up Low at the point guard position.

Weaver averaged over 18 points per game at Beloit Memorial High School and the Knights to the Division I State quarterfinals.

Kirk is a good ball handler who tallied 7.8 assists per game last season and registered a 3.8 to 1 assist to turnover ratio at The Hill School, a prep institution in Pottstown, Pa.

"Any number of our freshmen can contribute," Bennett said. "I have been pleasantly surprised by each of them. Having said that, we won't know what we have until we play games."

Bennett added, "Your expectations need to be high, but I don't want to be ridiculous. I'm not prepared at this point to say how high we can reach."

One reason for Bennett's caution may be the Cougars' schedule. WSU plays six of its nine nonconference games on the road, including one at 2004 Final Four participant Oklahoma State. The Cougars also play BYU at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City and host Gonzaga, both 2004 NCAA Tournament teams.

The rest of the nonconference slate includes road trips to Kansas State, Portland and Wyoming as well as home dates against Montana State and Georgia Southern.

"At this stage of rebuilding, you have to pay an initial price and go on the road," Bennett said. "The schedule is perhaps too rugged at this phase, but I didn't want to wait another year."



Randy Green

Chris Schlatter