

Servanthood

Make teammates better.

2004-05 SEASON REVIEW

No team played more close games in 2004-05 than Washington State. Of the 28 games the Cougars played, a dozen were decided by three points or less.

WSU won 12 games giving Cougar Head Coach Dick Bennett 25 victories in his first two seasons on the Palouse. Included among the triumphs last season was a 70-63 upset at No. 11 Arizona, the Cougars' first over the Wildcats since 1986.

In addition, senior Thomas Kelati became the first Cougar player in seven seasons and the 13th in school history to be named first team All-Pacific-10 Conference.

If not for several close losses, WSU was 4-8 in the games decided by three points or less and 0-4 in overtime, the Cougars may have found themselves in postseason play.

WSU began its season 3-1 thanks largely to a stifling defense. The Cougars opened their season by knocking off Montana State 59-42. It was the fewest points WSU gave up in a season opener since the 1948-49 season.

The Cougars defeated Georgia Southern at home and Idaho on the road sandwiched around a loss at Kansas State. During the first four games, WSU yielded 182 total points, its best four-game stretch since Dec. 1951. The Cougars finished the season ranked sixth nationally in scoring defense at 56.9 points per game. It was the best scoring defense mark by a Pac-10 team since Oregon State in 1983-84, prior to the 3-point line and shot clock in college basketball.

WSU dropped its next two games, losing at No. 6 Oklahoma State and at home to No. 25 Gonzaga. In the latter, freshman Josh Akognon's 3-point attempt at the buzzer hit the front of the rim and the Bulldogs escaped Pullman with a 54-52 victory.

The Cougars followed with a pair of close wins away from home, defeating BYU 49-46 at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City and downing Portland 55-54 in the Rose City.

WSU made 5-of-6 free throws in the final 39 seconds to preserve its victory against BYU. Freshman Robbie Cowgill scored four points in the final 1:20 of the win at Portland.

The Cougars' nonconference portion of the schedule concluded with a 49-47 loss at Wyoming despite 16 points from Kelati on the strength of 4-for-9 shooting from beyond the arc

Spokane was the site of WSU's first two Pac-10 games. The Cougars opened their conference season with a 60-51 win over Stanford behind senior Jeff Varem's 18 points and



Chris Schlatter

12 rebounds. The victory broke a 17-game losing streak against the Cardinal dating back to 1996 and marked the first time in six seasons WSU captured its conference opener.

After a loss to California, WSU headed to Los Angeles looking for a second straight road sweep of UCLA and USC. Only a tremendous second half effort by the Bruins stopped the Cougars short of their goal.

WSU led UCLA by 15 at halftime and increased its lead to 17 just shy of three minutes into the second half. UCLA's Josh Shipp made 1-of-2 free throws with 11 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 62 and send it into overtime. This time it was the Cougars' turn to make a comeback. WSU trailed 69-64 with 1:18 remaining in the first overtime before Kelati scored five straight points, including a trey as time expired to force a sixth period.

The Bruins' Dijon Thompson scored five points in the

RECORD				
	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRA
All games	(12-16)	(6-6)	(5-9)	(1-1
Conference	(7-11)	(4-5)	(3-6)	(0-0
Nonconference	(5-5)	(2-1)	(2-3)	(1-1

SCORE BY PERIODS

	1ST	2ND	OT	2OT	TOTAL
Washington State	707	823	28	8	1566
Opponents	706	840	37	11	1594

second overtime as UCLA came away with an 80-77 win.

The Cougars rebounded with victories at USC and at home against Oregon State. Varem tallied a game-high 21 points in a 69-52 win over the Trojans and added 14 points and 13 rebounds in a 63-45 victory over the Beavers.

Following losses at home to Oregon, at No. 10 Washington and at Arizona State, WSU found itself below .500 for the first time in 2004-05 and faced with the unenviable task of playing at No. 11 Arizona.

Even the staunchest of Cougar supporter did not feel WSU would end its three-game slide against the eventual NCAA regional final participant Wildcats. After all, the Cougars had lost 20 straight at Arizona, 38 consecutive overall to the Wildcats, 26 straight road games against ranked opponents and 48 consecutive overall to top 25 foes. Someone forgot to tell Dick Bennett's Cougars.

5725

557-1369 .407 131-436 .300

Opponents

WSU led by as many as six in the first half and trailed 34-33 at intermission. The second half was a see-saw battle that featured nine lead changes. The last of those came when Kelati's 3-pointer put the Cougars up 61-59 at the 3:10 mark. With the game tied at 63, Kelati connected from beyond the arc for the seventh time in the game to give WSU a 66-63 advantage with 52 seconds left. The Walla Walla native added a pair of free throws with 32 seconds remaining to cap a 27-point game, including 22 in the second half. Freshman Derrick Low and Varem each added a free throw in the waning moments to secure WSU's historic win.

The Cougars returned home to host the Los Angeles schools. Just like the road trip to southern California earlier in the season, WSU came within an eyelash of a weekend sweep.

WSU trailed 46-40 with just over three minutes remaining in regulation before Kelati's seven points keyed a 9-0 run and gave the Cougars a 49-46 advantage over the Bruins with six seconds left. Once again UCLA's Thompson played spoiler as a defensive mix up by WSU left him open for a game-tying 3-pointer that forced overtime. In the extra session, Thompson's jumper with 41 seconds remaining proved to be the winning points as the Bruins won 58-56.

WSU evened its record at 10-10 with a 61-53 conquering of USC as four players scored in double figures. The win gave the Cougars back-to-back season sweeps of the Trojans for the first time in 28 years.

After being swept on the Oregon road trip and losing

WASHINGTON STATE SEASON 2004-05 SEASON BOX SCORE																					
## PLAYER	GP-GS	MIN	AVG	TOTAL FG-FGA	TOTAL PCT	3-PTS 3FG-FGA	3PTS PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	REBOU OFF	JNDS DEF	REBOU TOT	JNDS AVG	PF	FO	A	то	BLK	STL	PTS	AVG
11 Kelati, Thomas	28-28	1014	36.2	135-314	.430	81-193	.420	50-66	.758	27	93	120	4.3	72	1	79	68	10	43	401	14.3
45 Varem, Jeff	28-27	847	30.3	112-223	.502	3-14	.214	66-113	.584	61	158	219	7.8	78	4	58	94	21	46	293	10.5
02 Low, Derrick	23-22	735	32.0	55-147	.374	25-78	.321	27-31	.871	6	19	25	1.1	42	0	65	53	3	26	162	7.0
34 Cowgill, Robbie	28-19	670	23.9	68-159	.428	2-4	.500	31-63	.492	28	68	96	3.4	84	7	22	28	27	22	169	6.0
24 Weaver, Kyle	25-10	489	19.6	46-119	.387	2-22	.091	27-49	.551	26	53	79	3.2	41	0	50	47	9	15	121	4.8
05 Schlatter, Chris	28-20	649	23.2	54-137	.394	11-41	.268	15-25	.600	18	56	74	2.6	68	2	26	26	2	14	134	4.8
01 Akognon, Josh	27-0	311	11.5	38-130	.292	28-91	.308	2-6	.333	6	31	37	1.4	25	0	14	16	2	9	106	3.9
22 Gill, Shami	9-7	216	24.0	12-40	.300	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	17	17	34	3.8	19	1	5	9	1	6	26	2.9
32 Harmeling, Daven	26-1	337	13.0	30-84	.357	7-29	.241	7-13	.538	15	23	38	1.5	36	1	12	10	6	4	74	2.8
12 Green, Randy	21-3	226	10.8	14-47	.298	7-29	.241	8-8	1.000	2	18	20	1.0	18	0	11	15	0	11	43	2.0
14 Henry, Chris	14-1	105	7.5	9-23	.391	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	1	7	8	0.6	19	0	3	12	3	2	21	1.5
25 Simmons, Isaiah	12-2	119	9.9	7-24	.292	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	10	16	26	2.2	8	0	12	5	1	3	16	1.3
44 Plaister, Arlen	4-0	3	0.8	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
23 Kirk, Alex	4-0	4	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM										39	52	91	3.3	0	5						
Total	28	5725		580-1447	.401	167-505	.331	239-385	.621	256	612	868	31.0	512	16	358	388	85 2	01	1566	55.9

349-533 .655

299 420 74 143 1594 56.9

980 35.0 442 -



Jeff Varem

at home to No. 15 Washington, the Cougars were 10-13, 5-9 in the Pac-10. With the Arizona schools coming to Pullman and a road trip to the Bay Area looming, most felt WSU needed two wins to advance to Staples Center in Los Angeles for the Pac-10 Tournament.

The Cougars played host to No. 9 Arizona seeking their first sweep of the Wildcats in 22 years. WSU led by as many as eight points in the first half and held a 32-30 advantage at intermission. Arizona took its first lead of the game at 44-42 with 5:10 remaining in regulation on a jumper by Channing Frye.

A pair of Varem free throws, a Low 3-pointer and a jumper by Kelati produced a 7-1 run that gave WSU a 49-45 lead with 2:34 left. Arizona's Salim Stoudamire made two free throws to cut WSU's lead to 49-47 and Frye tallied two of his game-high 26 points with 51 ticks remaining to tie the score at 49 and send the game into overtime.

The extra period produced five lead changes, the last coming with 10 seconds left on a pair of Ivan Radenovic free throws that gave Arizona a 57-56 victory.

Two days later, WSU scored the first eight points of the game and built a 14-point halftime lead against Arizona State. In the second half, the Sun Devils used runs of 10-2 and 9-1 to take their first lead of the game at 44-43 with 6:11 remaining.

The lead changed hands four times over the next two minutes before Arizona State surged ahead 55-52 with 1:38 left. The Cougars pulled within a point on a layup by Varem and the senior gave WSU the ball back when he stole it from Sun Devils' All-American Ike Diogu with 36 seconds remaining.

Kelati missed a jumper that would have given the Cougars the lead, but Low rebounded to give WSU a second chance. Kelati found senior Chris Schlatter on the left wing and the Lafayette, Calif., native drained a 3-pointer with 10 seconds left to give the Cougars a 57-55 win.

Cowgill registered a season-high 15 points in a 59-48 win at Stanford, the Cougars' first win on The Farm since 1996 and first home-and-home sweep of the Cardinal since 1992-93. The win was the seventh Pac-10 victory of the season for WSU and clinched a spot in the conference tournament.

In their final game before the Pac-10 Tournament, the Cougars lost 63-57 in overtime at California despite a career-high 29 points by Kelati.

Facing Stanford for the third time in 2004-05, WSU again played well in the first half. The Cougars never trailed in the opening stanza, led by as many as 10-points, and were on top 31-24 at halftime.



WSU increased its cushion to 36-27 before Stanford went on a 15-2 run to gain the lead at 46-38 with 10:37 to play. The Cougars chipped away at the Cardinal lead and pulled even at 54 on Kelati's 3-pointer with 4:32 remaining.

Schlatter's trey put WSU back on top 57-56 with 1:13 left. A layup by Stanford's Nick Robinson and a Varem free throw knotted the game at 58 with 40 seconds remaining.

The Cardinal's Rob Little scored in the low post to put Stanford up 60-58 with 15 seconds left. The Cougars played for a shot that would tie or take the lead, but Schlatter's jumper as time expired was off the mark and WSU's season came to a heartbreaking end at 12-16.

Kelati finished his career ranked in several WSU season

and career categories including 18th in scoring with 1,081 points and second in 3-pointers with 232, one shy of the school record.

WSU showed promise for the future as five true freshmen made a least one start for the first time in school history and combined for 53 starts overall. Both Low and Cowgill earned All-Pac-10 Freshman honorable mention honors.

		GAM	1E-B	Y-GAME	POIN	TS-REBC	DUNDS	-ASSIS	TS			
Opponent	Date	Score	W/L	AKOGNON	LOW	SCHLATTER	KELATI	GREEN	HENRY	GILL	KIRK	WEAVER
MONTANA STATE	11/19/04	59-42	W	8- 1- 1	DNP	4- 3- 2	12- 2- 1	0- 1- 1	DNP	DNP	DNP	6- 4- 2
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	11/24/04	61-42	W	0- 2- 0	DNP	10- 5- 1	13- 2- 3	0- 0- 1	DNP	12- 5- 0	0- 0- 0	5- 4- 2
at Kansas State	11/27/04	53-62	L	8- 0- 1	DNP	7- 6- 0	11- 2- 2	2- 1- 1	DNP	5- 6- 1	DNP	6- 4- 6
at Idaho	11/30/04	37-36	W	3- 2- 0	DNP	2- 2- 1	11- 4- 0	0-1-2	DNP	0- 7- 0	DNP	7- 5- 3
at #6 Oklahoma State	12/04/04	29-81	L	6- 1- 0	DNP	3- 3- 0	8- 5- 2	0- 0- 2	DNP	2- 1- 1	DNP	0- 2- 1
#25 GONZAGA	12/07/04	52-54	L	12- 1- 1	0- 0- 0	0- 1- 1	7- 0- 4	12- 2- 0	DNP	2- 3- 1	DNP	DNP
vs Brigham Young	12/11/04	49-46	W	9- 1- 0	0-1-2	2- 4- 3	15- 7- 3	6- 0- 0	2- 0- 0	1- 5- 0	DNP	0- 0- 1
at Portland	12/18/04	55-54	W	0- 0- 2	10-0-3	4- 2- 0	17- 7- 2	5- 4- 1	DNP	0- 3- 2	DNP	DNP
at Wyoming	12/22/04	47-49	L	0- 0- 0	9- 0- 1	0- 1- 0	16- 6- 5	0- 1- 0	0- 1- 0	2- 4- 0	DNP	6- 1- 1
STANFORD	12/31/04	60-51	W	0- 0- 0	10- 1- 4	10- 4- 1	17- 6- 2	0- 0- 0	0- 0- 0	2- 0- 0	DNP	DNP
CALIFORNIA	01/02/05	47-59	L	0- 0- 0	4- 2- 2	3- 3- 0	4- 4- 1	2- 2- 1	1- 1- 1	DNP	DNP	8-1-2
at UCLA	01/06/05	77-80	OL	15- 2- 1	0- 0- 0	3- 3- 1	18- 4- 6	2- 1- 1	2- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	10- 7- 4
at USC	01/08/05	69-52	W	5- 4- 1	10- 2- 2	4- 3- 1	6- 4- 5	8- 2- 0	0- 0- 0	DNP	0- 0- 0	10- 7- 2
OREGON STATE	01/13/05	63-45	W	3- 6- 0	4- 1- 3	9- 1- 0	11- 1- 5	2- 2- 0	2- 0- 0	DNP	0- 0- 1	12- 3- 3
OREGON	01/15/05	52-55	L	5- 2- 1	10- 2- 2	3- 1- 0	15- 5- 2	0- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	DNP	2- 4- 3
at #10 Washington	01/23/05	48-66	L	6- 2- 2	3- 0- 3	6- 4- 0	12- 3- 3	2- 1- 0	2- 3- 0	DNP	0- 0- 0	3- 3- 0
at Arizona State	01/27/05	62-68	L	0- 0- 0	7- 2- 5	4- 1- 1	17- 9- 4	DNP	0- 0- 1	DNP	DNP	2- 1- 0
at #11 Arizona	01/29/05	70-63	W	0- 0- 0	13- 1- 6	4- 3- 0	27- 7- 5	2- 0- 0	2- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	0-2-2
UCLA	02/03/05	56-58	OL	0- 1- 0	4- 0- 2	4- 4- 0	1 <i>7- 7-</i> 1	DNP	0- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	2- 4- 1
USC	02/05/05	61-53	W	2- 2- 0	8- 1- 8	10- 2- 1	11- 3- 3	DNP	6- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	0- 2- 0
at Oregon State	02/10/05	51-58	L	0- 1- 0	6- 0- 4	0- 2- 1	17- 4- 0	DNP	0- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	5-2-2
at Oregon	02/12/05	66-69	L	9- 0- 2	19- 3- 2	6- 1- 2	14- 2- 3	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	7- 5- 5
#15 WASHINGTON	02/19/05	55-68	L	6- 1- 0	2- 0- 1	0- 3- 2	11- 2- 6	DNP	4- 3- 1	DNP	DNP	15-8-2
#9 ARIZONA	02/24/05	56-57	OL	DNP	12- 1- 5	8- 0- 3	16- 6- 3	0- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	DNP	4- 5- 0
ARIZONA STATE	02/26/05	57-55	W	3- 2- 1	9- 4- 5	9- 2- 1	15- 5- 3	0- 1- 0	DNP	DNP	DNP	2- 0- 0
at Stanford	03/03/05	59-48	W	0- 1- 0	10- 2- 2	2- 3- 0	14- 4- 1	0- 0- 0	DNP	DNP	DNP	1- 2- 3
at California	03/05/05	57-63	OL	0- 3- 1	2- 0- 1	12- 4- 2	29- 8- 1	0- 1- 1	DNP	DNP	DNP	4- 3- 2
vs Stanford	03/10/05	58-60	L	6- 2- 0	10- 2- 2	5- 3- 2	20- 1- 3	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	4- 0- 3

Opponent	Date	Score	W/L	SIMMONS	HARMELING	COWGILL	PLAISTER	VAREN
Montana State	11/19/04	59-42	W	6- 8- 4	10- 1- 0	7- 5- 1	DNP	6- 7-
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	11/24/04	61-42	W	0- 2- 2	2- 1- 2	8- 2- 0	0- 1- 0	11-14-
at Kansas State	11/27/04	53-62	L	DNP	6- 2- 0	7- 3- 0	DNP	1- 8-
at Idaho	11/30/04	37-36	W	0- 0- 0	2- 4- 0	5- 3- 0	DNP	7- 4-
at #6 Oklahoma State	12/04/04	29-81	L	2- 0- 0	0- 1- 0	4- 4- 0	DNP	4- 2-
#25 GONZAGA	12/07/04	52-54	L	2- 7- 5	2- 0- 0	7- 5- 1	DNP	8- 9-
s Brigham Young	12/11/04	49-46	W	3- 0- 0	0- 1- 1	3- 2- 0	DNP	8-11-
at Portland	12/18/04	55-54	W	2- 0- 0	DNP	6- 1- 1	DNP	11- 9-
at Wyoming	12/22/04	47-49	L	DNP	2- 4- 0	4- 3- 0	DNP	8- 2-
STANFORD	12/31/04	60-51	W	0- 2- 0	DNP	3- 5- 0	DNP	18-12-
CALIFORNIA	01/2/05	47-59	L	0- 3- 0	2- 1- 0	8- 4- 1	DNP	15- 8-
at UCLA	01/06/05	77-80	OL	DNP	6- 2- 0	4- 4- 0	DNP	17-15-
at USC	0 1/8/05	69-52	W	1- 3- 1	0- 0- 0	4- 2- 1	0- 0- 0	21- 4-
OREGON STATE	01/13/05	63-45	W	DNP	0- 0- 1	6- 3- 0	0- 0- 0	14-13-
OREGON	01/15/05	52-55	L	DNP	0- 0- 1	8- 4- 0	DNP	9- 6-
at #10 Washington	01/23/05	48-66	L	DNP	2- 3- 0	6- 7- 1	0- 0- 0	6- 6-
at Arizona State	01-27-05	62-68	L	DNP	2- 2- 0	6- 3- 3	DNP	24- 4
at #11 Arizona	01/29/05	70-63	W	DNP	0- 0- 0	12- 4- 1	DNP	10- 8-
JCLA	02/3/05	56-58	OL	DNP	8- 2- 0	4- 2- 2	DNP	17- 9-
JSC	02/5/05	61-53	W	DNP	2- 1- 1	11- 3- 0	DNP	11- 9-
at Oregon State	02/10/05	51-58	L	0-1-0	10- 6- 2	7- 6- 0	DNP	6- 8-
at Oregon	02-12-05	66-69	L	0- 0- 0	5- 2- 0	0-1-2	DNP	6- 7-
#15 WASHINGTON	02/19/05	55-68	L	DNP	2- 1- 0	4- 4- 1	DNP	11- 7-
#9 ARIZONA	02/24/05	56-57	OL	DNP	0- 0- 1	10- 2- 2	DNP	6- 7-
ARIZONA STATE	02/26/05	57-55	W	DNP	0- 1- 0	6- 2- 3	DNP	13- 5-
at Stanford	03/03/05	59-48	W	DNP	9- 2- 1	15- 7- 2	DNP	8-14
at California	03/05/05	57-63	OL	DNP	0- 0- 1	4- 4- 0	DNP	6- 5-
vs Stanford	03/10/05	58-60	L	DNP	2- 1- 1	0- 1- 0	DNP	11- 6-