

Critical Mass of Expectations Fuels Cougars'

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines **critical mass** as a size, number, or amount large enough to produce a particular result. Additionally, *Wikipedia* describes **critical mass** as a sociodynamic term to describe the existence of sufficient momentum in a social system such that the momentum becomes self-sustaining and fuels further growth.

Head coach Brian Heffernan, in his fourth season at the helm of the Washington State University volleyball program, believes the Cougars' 2007 team has reached a critical mass of expectations.

"There is now a level of expectation within the staff and student-athletes in the program that we believe we are capable of competing at the very highest level," Heffernan said. "This team of athletes and this coaching staff has very high expectations and a belief that we can begin to climb up the ladder in the Pacific-10 Conference. We have many returning players and they know what to expect. Our team has positioned itself to take the next logical step, getting us back to the NCAA tournament."

The Cougars finished the 2006 season with a 15-17 record and were still in contention for an NCAA tournament bid in mid-November. In the final home series, WSU was playing to finish the season at .500 but lost a tough five-game match to Arizona State and the following evening was playing well against Arizona when the team's second-leading scorer, senior Kelly Rosin, fractured her ankle.

"We were so close in so many matches last year that our team got a taste of becoming a competitive team," Heffernan said. "Right up until the final match played last season we were moving further along the continuum of where we want to go. At times we have known more about opponents than even our own team. That definitely changed this year. We have a core of athletes returning which is a great feeling for us as a staff. We have this critical mass of athletes and a staff that really believe and have expectations that we can improve our status within the Pac-10 and have the team qualify for postseason play. They are very hungry to start the 2007 season."

Two of the strengths carrying over from last season will be the Cougars' excellence on serve-receive and blocking defense. With more experienced players and more power at all positions, an area of noticeable difference for WSU will be the ability to terminate the ball. These offensive improvements are expected to increase as the season progresses and the hitters increase their efficiency.

"I think we have more balance this year," Heffernan said. "When I first arrived at WSU our strength was in the middle but we didn't have the serve-receive to capitalize on that. Our strength went from being a middle-oriented offense to more of an outside-oriented offense. Now I definitely feel we can put five hitters on the floor that can score and we have to have that in the Pac-10."

For the 2007 season, the Cougars will have five returning starters in Adetokunbo Faleti, Kelly Hyder, Brittany Johnson, Cassie Robbins and Tara West. In addition to these core team members, three more players - Stephanie Weishaar, Jackie Albright and Maureen Perez - have played critical roles for WSU over the last two years and will continue to contribute that experience to the squad this season.

"Our team's primary goal is to get this program back to the NCAA tournament," Heffernan said.

OUTSIDE HITTERS

The Cougars return a pair of OH starters in senior Adetokunbo Faleti (known as "T" or Tokunbo) Faleti and junior Brittany Johnson, in addition to end-of-season starter sophomore Jackie Albright. Johnson and Faleti were the top two WSU hitters last year with Johnson averaging 3.78 kills per game and Faleti averaging 3.51 kills per game in spite of struggling with some injuries mid-season.

"I was really proud of Tokunbo's strong finish last year. That leaves us with the visions of what she is capable of doing," Heffernan said. "As she enters her senior year, regardless of what the aches and pains are, I know she can see she has just one season left to compete at the NCAA level. I know she is going to give us her very, very best night-in and night-out."

Johnson has impressed the coaching staff as a tremendous role model for everyone in the program both on and off the court. Her self-expectations are high and she is considered her own toughest critic but has matured into a reliable all-around player.

"Brittany is going to be able to combine what she is capable of doing physically with a greater sense of mental toughness and stability out there on the court, giving us more consistency from her position," Heffernan said. "Brittany is going to be a six-rotation player. She played incredible defense this spring and we need her to step up for our team as a server and as a passer this fall."

Albright played a major role for the Cougs last year seeing time in both the front row and back row as a freshman. In the back row she added ball control and defense to the team. Heffernan considers Albright the hitter with the highest volleyball IQ on the team and is impressed with her improvement from last fall through spring.

"We're seeing Jackie assert herself on the court. This spring she cut down on her errors and increased her ability to terminate the ball. A lot of that comes from the added strength that she has and with that strength came a level of confidence," Heffernan said. "I am looking forward to Jackie having a real break-through season."

The majority of freshman Kimika Rozier's experience has been at middle blocker but the WSU coaches plan to transition her to an outside hitter position much like Brittany Johnson two years ago. Rozier has impressive athletic skills that will translate to her becoming a great outside hitter: she's explosive and she's quick.

"Kimika is a quick learner and this will be very beneficial to playing on the outside for the first time. Over the course of this next year, I look for her to be making improvements and I believe that with hard work and focus, Kimika can play a critical role for our team," Heffernan said.

MIDDLE BLOCKERS

Sophomore Cassie Robbins and senior Tara West are the returning starters at the middle blocker position and last year they combined to contribute 82 percent of the team's total of 2.69 blocks per game. West's 1.14 bpg were ninth-best in the conference and Robbins averaged 1.05 bpg.

Heffernan considers Robbins one of the Cougars' most improved players. Her 6-foot, 3 inch stature is just one of her athletic physical attributes that will make her a very successful player in the Pac-10. Though Robbins did not play club volleyball in high school, she gained experience by fire last year as she was put in a starting role as a frosh. She has shown marked improvement on the court as well as in the weight room.

"Cassie made a strong impression at the spring tournament at Minnesota (where WSU played Florida, Notre Dame, the host Gophers). She hit very efficiently, she blocked well and Minnesota coach Mike Hebert recognized that Cassie was someone who was very difficult to stop at the net. That should be a boost of confidence for her going into the season," Heffernan said.

West is considered the team's most-skilled middle blocker and although she does not have the title of team captain, she is one of the team leaders. Heffernan points out that West is constantly looking for ways to improve, always making great decisions on and off the court, and doing all she can to help build the Cougars' program.

"Tara has prepared herself for a great senior season," Heffernan said. "She had a phenomenal preseason in 2006 before fighting through some

2007 Volleyball Season

injury and illness. A year ago she had never been to a Pac-10 match and now she knows what to expect and she knows how to score. I look for her to really begin to assert herself as a middle blocker for us."

Freshman Brittany Tillman will have an opportunity to see playing time in the WSU program and is expected to push West and Robbins. Heffernan is impressed by Tillman's raw athletic ability which includes being very strong and explosive (she won the state shot championship as a prep sophomore).

"Getting Brittany Tillman in the gym and allowing her to focus just on school and volleyball will result in her becoming a force at the middle blocker position in our conference over the next year," Heffernan said. "Her strength and athleticism alone are going to put her in the mix at the middle blocker position right away as someone who can come in and make an immediate impact."

SETTERS

Senior Maureen Perez started the last half of the 2005 season at setter before playing the role of back-up setter last year. Perez, faced with being a non-starter, took the opportunity to meet the challenge head-on rather than slink away.

"I'm most proud of the fact that Maureen, day-in and day-out, continued to push herself," Heffernan said. "Maureen has improved as a setter, as a defender, as a blocker, as a server, and the biggest accomplishment is she has become a more confident leader for our team. We have high expectations of her as our starting setter. She's worked hard with assistant coach Gretchen Killebrew, and she is ready to lead our team from the setter position."

Newcomers Amy Small and Faith Hutcherson will provide depth at the setter's spot. Small is a junior college transfer (Walla Walla CC) who is a Pullman native and grew up watching Cougar volleyball. Hutcherson is a freshman who will spend the season acclimating to the collegiate tempo.

"Amy has great Cougar bloodlines, and like Maureen, this was her dream school," Heffernan said. "She is a very, very competitive person and after some technique refinement, she is going to find a way to contribute to our program and I bet it is going to be sooner than later. Faith will come to Washington State and work hard to contribute as a

setter and a back row player. She is someone we can count on everyday in training to work hard to make herself better and to make those athletes around her better."

DEFENSIVE SPECIALISTS/LIBEROS

Sophomore Kelly Hyder returns as the Cougars starting libero after setting the school's single-season record last year with 565 digs in spite of a cycle of injuries that plagued her throughout the season. Her 5.33 digs per game average was fourth-best in the Pac-10. Heffernan believes Hyder has the type of skill and ability range as a defender to become one of the best liberos in the Pac-10 which is a bold statement considering the long list of All-American liberos produced at conference schools.

"Kelly Hyder is a lot like those All-American athletes in she is extremely confident in all aspects of her position and she is a fearless competitor," Heffernan said. "Not only being fearless in what she is doing on the court but that sense of competitiveness and sense of urgency that Kelly plays with infects our team."

Junior defensive specialist Stephanie Weishaar was a consistent contributor to the Cougs in 2006 as she played in 106 of WSU's 109 games and averaged 2.80 digs per game. Her tireless work in trying to earn the libero position is admired by the coaching staff.

"We've seen Stephanie develop from someone who tried out for our team to someone who now has a level of confidence and competence to compete for playing time at the libero position. As Stephanie has gained more confidence, her performance as a passer and a defender has really elevated," Heffernan said.

Rachel Holbrook is a junior college transfer (College of the Canyons, Calif.) who is no stranger to WSU because her sister Stacey lettered for the Cougs in 2003 and 2004. But Rachel Holbrook has made it clear that she is not her sister and plans to establish her own credibility with the team vying for back row playing time at the DS and libero positions.

"Rachel wants to carve her own path in our program," Heffernan said. "She has a great all-around skill-set with hitting experience from junior college. She passes, plays good defense, is a good server and I know we'll be able to count on her, whatever role she earns within our team, to come into our program everyday in training and focus on getting better and making our team better."



*"Everything negative - pressure,
challenges, injuries - is all an
opportunity for me to rise."*
—Jackie Albright



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
 VOLLEYBALL

“Our athletes arrive from many different directions but collectively they have only one mission....to become the very best. The process of rebuilding Cougar Volleyball is an awesome challenge that our athletes embrace every day. Their work ethic is unmatched, their desire unparalleled, but what makes this Cougar team special is their commitment to each other and their ability to play with and for each other.”

These are our players.

#2 Jackie Albright



Left side Hitter
6-0, Sophomore
Lake Forest, California
El Toro High School '06
Saddleback Volleyball Club
Major: Engineering

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 17 (vs. La.-Lafayette 2006)
H.Pct: .469 (vs. La.-Lafayette 2006)
Service Aces: 3 (vs. Oregon State 2006)
Digs: 14 (vs. Arizona State 2006)
Total Blocks: 3 (vs. Gonzaga 2006)
Points: 17.0 (twice 2006)

ALBRIGHT'S WSU CAREER: FRESHMAN (2006) - Played in 73 of WSU's 109 games...career-high 17 kills and hit .469 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette...tagged 16 kills and hit .469 earlier same day in win over Duquesne...landed 10 kills against No. 6 Stanford...had career-high 14 digs versus Arizona State 11/16 in Pullman...landed three service aces and 10 digs in five-game win over Oregon State 10/6.

ALBRIGHT'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned three varsity letters for volleyball under coach Michelle Kyman...team captain junior and senior year...played on soccer team as a sweeper...played four years on the Saddleback Valley Volleyball Club...member of Coach Ki Yi's 18s-team...as a **JUNIOR** received volleyball coaches award and MVP award...selected first team All-South Coast League...as a **SENIOR** team won the Orange County Championship Tournament...voted to all-tournament team...advanced to CIF semi-finals and finished with a 24-7 record...selected to All-CIF first team and selected first team all-league...voted MVP by the team...averaged 4.18 kills per game with a .367 hitting percentage...won South Coast League's character-athlete award for El Toro high called "Pursuing Victory with Honor."

PERSONAL: Born March 22, 1988, at Mission Viejo, Calis...father Bob is an engineer...mother Trisa is a teacher...brother Jimmy (2/13/91)...named to Principal's Honor Roll all four years and holds a 4.34 GPA...top 20 in her class the past two years...planning to major in engineering at WSU.

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year:

We are going to be the sleeper team that no one knows about and we will use the experience we gained last year to upset some very good teams.

My greatest athletic moment was: Winning the semifinals at home to go to the CIF D1-A finals; experiencing the fans in our crowd screaming, cheering, doing the wave and then storming the court while our coach tried to fish us out of the crowd so we wouldn't get trampled.

The athlete I admire most: Kobe Bryant.

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: Kelly Rosin was an inspirational and unselfish player to watch and be teammates with.

Since coming to WSU I have learned: How important it is to never quit; whether it is going for a loose ball or just in general.

Best book I have ever read: *One for the Money* - Stephanie Plum

Favorite food: Mexican Food

Least favorite food: Coffee/Seafood.

Favorite TV show: *Grey's Anatomy*

Favorite actor: Will Smith and Paul Walker.

Favorite musical group: Red Hot Chili Peppers.

The best advice I ever received was: If you can walk you can run, if you can run you can jump; pain is mental.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: My family, friends and Coach Ki.

I'd like to switch places for a day with: LeBron James.

My advice to youngsters: You can do *anything* if you put your mind to it.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be: Sunshine

One wish I would make for the 21st century: Washington State Cougars *WILL* become National Champions. Go Cougs!

"Jackie has great volleyball IQ and skill. She was our most improved player this spring and as she gains strength. It has been awesome for our staff to watch Jackie gaining confidence in her abilities. Watch out for Jackie Albright!"

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#17 Adetokunbo Faleti



Right side Hitter
5-10, Senior
Arlington, Texas
James Bowie High '03/ Barton
County College '05
Major: Child Psychology

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 25 (vs. Gonzaga 2006)
H.Pct: .408 (vs. Gonzaga 2006)
Digs: 7 (vs. Oregon State 2006)
Total Blocks: 4 (vs. Oregon State 2006)
Points: 27.5 (vs. Gonzaga 2006)

FALETI'S WSU CAREER: REDSHIRT JUNIOR (2006)

- pronounced ad day tah KUN bo fa LAY tee - nick-name "T" or Tokunbo...named to South Dakota State Jackrabbit Kickoff and Baden Cougar Challenge all-tournament teams...tied for second on team with 3.51 kills per game...WSU career-high 25 kills versus Gonzaga where she hit .408...tender knee kept her out of some early season matches...double-figure kills in 15 of 28 matches played this season...had 22 kills, hit .320 and season-high 7 digs and four blocks in the Oregon State match 10/6. **(JUNIOR 2005)** - Redshirt season...worked on footwork to correct "goofy-foot" hitting approach.

FALETI'S BARTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAREER:

Played for Barton County Community College (Great Bend, Kansas) 2003-2004 for coaches John Hunter, Josh Ivans and Kirk Kohler...**FRESHMAN** year Cougars went 36-1 and won 2003 National Junior College Athletic Association Championships under coach John Hunter...named to NJCAA all-tournament team...triple jumper on the track team...finished fifth at national meet in triple jump...PR of 41-0...team won the 2003 NJCAA Indoor and Outdoor Track championships...**SOPHOMORE** year (2004) team captain...Cougars 18-9...All-Jayhawk West Conference second-team selection...named to NJCAA All-Region VI second-team...named to three all-tournament teams during season.

FALETI'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned eight letters at James Bowie High School...earned three letters as team captain for volleyball under coaches Jenna Gomez and Christy Cox...five varsity letters with coach Wanda Talton, one for basketball, four for track...as a **FRESHMAN** named most improved volleyball player...placed second at track districts and at regional meet in the 400m dash and on the 4x400m relay...during **SOPHOMORE** year, named team's offensive player of the year and MVP...track team captain...again second at track districts and at regional meet in the quarter mile and mile relay and on 4x100m relay...**JUNIOR** year repeated as volleyball team MVP and offensive player of the year...track team captain...finished second at districts in three events and fourth at regional...as a **SENIOR**, selected to first team all-conference, all-district and all-area teams...repeated as offensive player of the year...added defensive player of the year honors...captained basketball team her only year playing in high school...during track season, won district triple jump.

PERSONAL: Born Adetokunbo Adekita Faleti August 31, 1985, at Norfolk, Va...father Paul is retired...mother is deceased...two sisters, Adesewa (7/2/81) and Aderiyeke (Jennifer), (8/3/80)...one brother, Adeyinka (6/20/76)...named to the Who's Who Among High School Athletes...coached Volleytech U-18 Club team...majoring in child psychology at WSU.

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year:

WSU volleyball will be so much fun to watch this year because we have more drive and determination. You will see us succeed. We are a team that genuinely loves each other and has fun on the court.

My greatest athletic moment was:

My freshman year at Barton CC, at the indoor national track championships, I was hurt but I triple jumped a PR and we won the national team title.

The athlete I admire most:

Michael Jordan, not just because he is the greatest all time basketball player but because of what he still is accomplishing all over the world. He is a positive role model for young children everywhere.

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform:

I enjoyed watching Robbie Cowgill play basketball. He was always the smallest big guy out there but he plays big and doesn't let anyone push him around. He is a team player.

Since coming to WSU I have learned: You can make any place your home; it's all about what you give in order to make yourself feel at home. The people that surround you truly help make any experience a better one.

Best book I have ever read: *The Bible*, it is truly a lifesaver and example for all who believe.

Favorite food: Chinese Food

Least favorite food: Olives and tortillas

Favorite TV show: *Law and Order SVU*, *Martin*

Favorite actor: John Travolta,

Denzel Washington and Sandra Bullock

Favorite musical group: Boyz II Men

The best advice I ever received was:

You cannot change anyone but you can help contribute to their life with your positive actions and attitude. Everything in life happens for a reason.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life:

My mother because of the strong faith that she had in the Lord and the will to try to be a better person. Everything that she did in her time was for the benefit of others. She was beyond a wonderful person and was a gift to this world from God.

I'd like to switch places for a day with?

Janet Jackson. She is a dancer and choreographer and dancing is a passion of mine.

My advice to youngsters? The mind is very powerful so use it to your advantage. Success is not measured by what you win and lose but simply what you learn along the way.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be?

The weather because Arlington had great warm weather and my family.

One wish I would make for the 21st century?

That people truly look and interact with others without seeing the color of their skin. We have come a long way but also have a long way to go!

"We are fortunate to have Tokunbo as a Team Captain for 2007. She has developed into a strong leader for our program and she is ready for a fantastic season. She is a great point scorer for our team and we look forward to watching her fly high throughout her senior year."

—WSU Head Coach
Brian Heffernan

#16 Rachel Holbrook



Defensive specialist
5-7, Junior
Stevenson Ranch, California
Hart High '05/ College of
the Canyons '07
Major: Education

HOLBROOK'S COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS CAREER:

Played two seasons, 2005 and 2006, for coach Lisa Hooper... sophomore year captained the team and was named All-Western State Conference first team.

HOLBROOK'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER:

Earned two letters under volleyball coach Brandon Crisp...played softball and soccer...Hart High Indians won Foothill League volleyball championship freshman through junior years...captained the team as a senior...selected CIF honorable mention...was a scholar-athlete honoree all four years.

PERSONAL: Born November 11, 1987, at Tarzana, Calis... father Gary is a police officer...mother Janet is a site manager... sister Stacey (9/11/83) was a defensive specialist on the Cougar volleyball team for 2003 and 2004 seasons, and graduated from WSU...planning on majoring in education at WSU.

Why will WSU volleyball be fun to watch this year: We will bring tons of energy to the court and end up with a lot of "W's."

My greatest athletic moment was: Receiving the Western State Conference 1st team and finding out I would be coming to play at WSU.

The athlete I admire most: Payton Manning

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: My sister, Stacey.

Since coming to WSU I have learned:

How to live on my own and become the best volleyball player I can possibly be.

Best book I have ever read: *Mr. Maybe*

Favorite food: Bread, chocolate, and ice cream

Least favorite food: Mayo

Favorite TV show: *Friends* and *Grey's Anatomy*

Favorite actor: Matthew McConaughey

Favorite musician: Brad Paisley

The best advice I ever received was:

"Be present."

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: My parents.

They have always been there for me and supported everything I have done.

I'd like to switch places for a day with:

Neil Armstrong, so I can be the first one to walk on the moon.

My advice to youngsters: If you stay focused and work hard anything is possible.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU it would be: My friends and family, of course.

One wish I would make for the 21st century: World Peace!

"Rachel will add depth and skill to the back row position. She is a very self motivated person who will work hard for playing time in her first year."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#5 Faith Hutcherson



Setter/defensive specialist
5-3, Freshman
Redmond, Washington
Mount Si High '07
Kent Juniors Volleyball Club
Major: Communication

HUTCHERSON'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Lettered three years in volleyball at Mount Si High for coach Bonnie Foote...named first team all-league as a setter in both 2005 and 2006...named best all-around JV/varsity played in school as a sophomore...varsity captain senior year...2006 team record was 10-4-1...played on the Kent Juniors Club team for coaches Leslie Tuiasosopo, Dawn Colston and April Morse...team qualified for 2007 Junior Olympics.

PERSONAL: Born December 22, 1988, in Kirkland, Wash... father Kenneth is a pastor who played professional football for the Dallas Cowboys, San Diego Chargers, and Seattle Seahawks... mother Patricia is a WSU graduate as are four other members of her family...sister Avery (5/4/90)...brothers Sherman (6/11/94) and Curtis (11/3/97)...served as senior class secretary and rotary secretary...two-time homecoming princess...interested in communication and languages at WSU.

Why will WSU volleyball be fun to watch this year:

We'll be fun to watch because there is a new mix of a lot of different girls coming along with former teammates. This year, I feel, it will be exciting to see how we'll mesh and perform this season.

My greatest athletic moment was: Running down a shanked ball off the court and up the bleachers and NOT falling flat on my face.

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: ME! I'm excited to see how much I can improve, and how I will contribute to the team.

Since coming to WSU I have learned:

First and foremost to all-round sharpen my skills, just become more confident with them. Defensively to get better eye-work so I'm not ever taken by surprise on the court.

Best book I have ever read: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *White Oleander*, and *The Glass Castle*

Favorite food: Pasta Salad

Least favorite food: Real Salad; with lettuce leaves and everything.

Favorite TV show: Oh, I can't limit myself to one: *Planet Earth*, *Family Guy*, *The Office*, *Beauty and the Geek*

Favorite actor: Vince Vaughn and Will Ferrell

Favorite musical group: We're talking group: The Fray, Sublime, or Dem Franchise Boyz

The best advice I ever received was: Direct quote: "As long as you're here, you've got more to give. What are you going to do about it?"

—Tess Sollitto

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life:

Tess Sollitto, Dave Brown, my parents, and absolute closest friends.

I'd like to switch places for a day with: Someone extremely tall.

My advice to youngsters: Laugh out loud and as often as possible.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU it would be: The reason I liked WSU is because it had the feel of my hometown. I'm a crazy football (all-around sports) fan, but I know that WSU has plenty of school spirit...if we're talking about an actual "object" then I would have to say one of my closest friends that will be graduating from high school next year or my mom.

"Faith is a very hard working athlete and a tremendous team person. She has incredible drive and will work hard to improve each day."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#8 Kelly Hyder



Defensive specialist/Libero
5-9, Sophomore
Huntington Beach, California
Edison High School '05
Golden West Volleyball Club
Major: Undeclared

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 2 (vs. Idaho 2006)
Service Aces: 2 (vs. Oregon State 2006)
Digs: 34 (vs. Arizona State 2006)
Points: 3.0 (vs. Idaho 2006)

HYDER'S WSU CAREER: FRESHMAN (2006) - Named to Pac-10 All-Freshman honorable mention team...starting libero for Cougs...averaged 5.33 digs per game, fourth-best in Pac-10 standings and 44th-best nationally...tallied double-figure digs in 31 matches this year (sat out No. 6 Stanford match due to concussion suffered in 9/15 Idaho match)...career-high is 34 digs, against Arizona State 11/16, just one off the school match record...has tallied 20 or more digs in 10 matches...565 digs accumulation is the WSU single-season record...surpassed teammate Jalen Pendon's 2005 school record of 514 digs.

HYDER'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned a varsity letter all four years on the volleyball team for coach Trent Jackson...played on the soccer team as a striker...played five years on Golden West Volleyball Club...15s team won the Junior Olympics and she was named to all-tournament team...**JUNIOR** year named to the All-Sunset League...helped team win the CIF Championships...state semi-finalist...as a **SENIOR**, led the Chargers to a No. 4 ranking in the California IIAA of CIF Southern section...named to California Challenge's Gold Division all-tournament team...Steve Lewis Southern California Volleyball Association's most valuable player.

PERSONAL: Kelly Marie Hyder was born January 13, 1988, at Newport Beach, Calif...father Jeff is a Vice President of Sales and Operations...mother Jo Ann is self employed...one sister, Kacy (4/16/91).

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year: This year we are going to upset some good teams, win some big games and have fun while doing it!

My greatest athletic moment was: Winning CIF in 2004 at Edison High School vs. Mater Dei

The athlete I admire most: Lance Armstrong

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: Alison Billingsley

Since coming to WSU I have learned: I have learned what its like to play on a well connected team who gives 100% all the time.

Best book I have ever read: *It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*, Lance Armstrong's biography

Favorite food: Pasta and Meatballs (made by mom) /Bacon

Least favorite food: Sushi

Favorite TV show: *Friends*

Favorite actor: Vince Vaughn

Favorite musical group: Jack Johnson

The best advice I ever received was: Never Quit!

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: My family and coaches, they teach me something new everyday!

I'd like to switch places for a day with: Oprah

My advice to youngsters: Do what you love and make's you happy, but don't be afraid to take a chance! "You miss 100% of the shots you never take." (Wayne Gretzky)

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be: THE BEACH

One wish I would make for the 21st century: I wish we could find a cure for all cancer in the world in the 21st century.

"Kelly rewrote the defensive record book for Cougar Volleyball in 2006 and I believe she will do it again in 2007. After a season with some injuries, Kelly is strong and ready to establish herself as one of the best defenders and passers in the conference."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#19 Brittany Johnson



Left side Hitter
5-9, Sophomore
Phoenix, Arizona
Washington High '04
Arizona Thunder
Major: Management Info Systems/
Organizational Management

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 21 (twice)
H.Pct: .448 (vs. Tulsa 2006)
Service Aces: 3 (vs. Stanford 2006)
Digs: 9 (vs. Arizona State, 2005)
Total Blocks: 8 (twice, 2005)
Points: 26.5 (vs. Oregon, 2005)

JOHNSON'S WSU CAREER: SOPHOMORE (2006)

- Named MVP of Baden Cougar Challenge...also selected to Texas-Arlington all-tournament team...leading Cougar hitter averaging 3.78 kills per game...season-high 21 kills versus UC Davis...double-figure kills in 25 of 32 matches this year...career-best .448 hitting percentage versus Tulsa...tagged five blocks in loss at South Dakota State and again at ASU 10/20...connected three service aces at Stanford 11/25...Cougar points leader with 4.22 ppg...named to Pac-10 All-Academic second team in 2006...selected to *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSida Academic All America District VIII third team.

FRESHMAN (2005) - Graduated from high school in December 2004 and began classes at WSU in January 2005...participated in spring conditioning and matches...named to Pac-10 All-Freshman team honorable mention...landed career-high 16 kills against No. 4 Stanford...had 10 kills and nine digs in win over ASU...eight blocks versus Middle Tennessee State and again in Oregon win...bettered career kills to 21 in Oregon win...had double-figure kills in eight Pac-10 matches...averaging 0.90 bpg in 93 games.

JOHNSON'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Accumulated nine varsity letters at Washington High...four in volleyball as a middle blocker for coach Ashlee Miller...three in basketball for coach Ty Bauer...two in track and field for coach Randy Erwin...**FRESHMAN** year was volleyball all-region honorable mention...basketball all-defensive team for 4A Skyline Region...took first in region for high jump and long jump...broke school record in both high jump (5-4) and long jump (16-6 1/2)...as a **SOPHOMORE** first team all-region volleyball...all-state honorable mention...second team all-region in basketball...team's leading scorer averaging 16 points per game...track season saw first place region finishes in high jump and 100m dash, second in long jump...finished fourth at state in the long jump...**JUNIOR** year volleyball team qualified for state quarterfinals...MVP of Arizona 4A Skyline Region...first team all-district (North-West Valley)...second team all-state...basketball first team all-region...team captain...during **SENIOR** year repeated as volleyball region MVP...first team all region...first team all-state selection...Rams volleyball team made it to second round of state tournament...volleyball team captain...graduated in December 2004...played for the Arizona Thunder Club team with coaches Justin Blake and Dave Lamrouex.

PERSONAL: Brittany Johnson was born January 21, 1987, at Phoenix, Ariz...father Greg Johnson is retired...mother Mary Pace is vice president of an insurance company...two brothers, Trevor (2/24/90) and Jordan Pace (7/14/99)...graduated top two percent of her class with 3.97 GPA...National Honor Society...majoring in management information systems and organizational management.

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year:

This year's team will be fun to watch because we have a lot of energy and passion for the game of volleyball, and it definitely shows when we play.

My greatest athletic moment was: My greatest athletic moment came in my first Pac-10 victory experience against my hometown "rival" at our home, Bohler Gym.

The athlete I admire most: Misty May and Kerri Walsh

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: The whole WSU men's basketball team.

Since coming to WSU I have learned: I can receive the same love and support that I get from my family at home, here in Pullman from my teammates, coaches and surrounding community.

Best book I have ever read: *Intensity*

Favorite food: I love to eat meat! More specifically, steak is my favorite.

Least favorite food: I do not enjoy eating fish.

Favorite TV show: I don't really watch TV that often. If I do watch it though, it is usually some type of sporting event.

Favorite actor: My favorite actor is Johnny Depp.

Favorite musical group: I don't have a favorite musical group because I like too many types of music! The best music is something I can dance to.

The best advice I ever received was:

"Don't be so hard on yourself."

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: My parents

have had the greatest influence on my life

I'd like to switch places for a day with:

I would switch places with my Dad.

My advice to youngsters: Live, work, and play everyday in college like it's your last, because these four years go by fast!

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be:

I would bring the constant sunshine from Phoenix to WSU.

One wish I would make for the 21st century: I don't make wishes, I make demands.

I will play volleyball in the NCAA tournament.

"Brittany has made great strides as a player over the past two seasons and is ready to reap the rewards of her hard work. As her everyday consistency improves she will become a tremendous all around player for our team."

—WSU Head Coach
Brian Heffernan

#22 Maureen Perez



Setter
5-8, Senior
Vancouver, Washington
Heritage High '04/ Univ. of
Central Florida
Major: Sport Management

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 3 (four times)
H.Pct: .333 (twice)
Assists: 63 (vs. Oregon 2005)
Service Aces: 2 (vs. Oral Roberts, 2005)
Digs: 14 (twice, 2005)
Points: 6.5 (vs. Oregon, 2005)

PEREZ'S WSU CAREER: JUNIOR (2006) - Played in 19 of WSU's 32 matches...averaged 6.38 assists per game...top output was 46 assists versus Boise State...also had seven digs vs. BSU...0.91 dpg...setter for all spring 2007 tournament action.

SOPHOMORE (2005) - Took over starting setter spot midway through season...had 14 digs against Idaho State and Arizona...during second game of Idaho match, caught a teammate's elbow in face and had stitches and a swollen, black left eye for a week...career-high 63 assists and seven blocks in 11/17 win over Oregon...averaged 7.00 assists per game (9th in Pac-10) and 1.94 digs per game in 84 games.

PEREZ'S UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA CAREER: FRESHMAN (2004) - Played in 28 games averaging 4.57 assists per game...Golden Knights were 8-15.

PEREZ'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Attended Pine Creek High School, Colorado Springs, Colo. for three years and was an academic all-state selection all three years...transferred to Heritage High at Vancouver, Wash....altogether earned six letters, four in volleyball and two in basketball...as a **FRESHMAN** varsity volleyball starter...led team in blocks...team undefeated in league...regional champions...placed seventh at Colorado State Tournament...**SOPHOMORE** year starter on varsity volleyball and basketball...all-league volleyball third team...all-area honorable mention...volleyball league champions...basketball team league and regional champions...named basketball defensive player of the year...led team in steals per game...during **JUNIOR** year all-league and all-area first teams...captained volleyball team...set school record in blocks, digs, and service points...as a **SENIOR** at Heritage High, named All-Greater Saint Helens League and all-area player of the year...volleyball all-state first team...voted most inspirational and team MVP...academic all-state...basketball team starter...played club volleyball for four years...freshman year placed 11th at Junior Olympics with Colorado Juniors VBC with coach Judy Peer...sophomore year played for Front Range VBC with coach James Beasley...junior year played for Thundercats VBC with coach Greg Remaklus...senior year played for Cowlitz Red VBC with coach Bill Marshall.

PERSONAL: Born Maureen Mikael Perez January 27, 1986, at Redlands, Calif...father Tomas is a pastor who played football at Univ. of Montana...mother Shawn is a publicist and marketing director for a non-profit organization who was a gymnast at Montana...two sisters, Joelle (7/22/88) and Emily (5/18/92)...listed in Who's Who in Sports for volleyball...received Maya Angelo youth writing award and JFK public speaking award...member of National Honor Society...Fellowship of Christian Athletes...senior speaker at graduation ceremonies...majoring in sport management and secondary education fields at WSU.

Why will Washington State University

volleyball be fun to watch this year: WSU will be so much fun to watch because the chemistry that we have created over the past few years is really rare and we all have a passion to be where we are!

My greatest athletic moment was:

Playing in the state tournament with my little sister in High school!!

The athlete I admire most: My mom and dad, both were athletes in college and they have been through it all, I have learned a lot from hearing their stories and experiences.

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy

watching perform: Eric Frampton, he is an animal when he plays but I know that he is giving all to the Lord.

Since coming to WSU I have learned: That life is truly a ride, and that you have to be able to hang in there when life gets tough, and surround yourself with people who love you for you!

Best book I have ever read: *Blue like Jazz*, and *Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

Favorite food: Steak (ha) and any form of Mexican food.

Least favorite food: Fish and Vegemite

Favorite TV show: *Miami Ink*, *Sports Center*, *The Black Donnelly's*

Favorite actor: Kate Hudson, Will Ferrell, Steve Carell

Favorite musical group: Paul Simon, Bob Marley, Ben Harper, Incubus

The best advice I ever received was: "Your time's not up yet, you're not finished here, God's not done with his plan for your life."

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: My mom and dad, they both have loved me unconditionally, they have never given up on me.

I'd like to switch places for a day with:

Nobody, I like being me too much!

My advice to youngsters: Don't let anyone tell you that you're not capable of something, when you start listening to them you can lose yourself, and it may take you too long to find your way back!

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be:

Chipotle, 7-11, my favorite coffee spot in Portland.

One wish I would make for the 21st century:

That we would all look outside of ourselves, that we would learn to love who we are and appreciate the things that we have and the people in our lives more than we do now.

"Maureen is a tremendous setter and leader for our team and she takes her role as a student-athlete within Cougar Volleyball very seriously. She is the type of person who will do everything she is asked and more. We are blessed to have her in Crimson and Gray and she is ready to lead our team as one of our 2007 Team Captains."

—WSU Head Coach
Brian Heffernan

#12 Cassie Robbins



Middle Blocker
6-3, Sophomore
Yakima, Washington
Eisenhower High School '06
Major: Communication

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 15 (vs. UNLV 2006)
H.Pct: .406 (vs. UNLV 2006)
Digs: 2 (vs. UC Davis 2006)
Points: 20.0 (vs. UNLV 2006)

ROBBINS' WSU CAREER: FRESHMAN (2006) - Coming into the season was considered an "X" factor by WSU Coach Heffernan but became important cog in Cougar net game... averaged 1.05 blocks per game, second on team...tallied 10 blocks and 15 kills and hit .406 in win over UNLV...has had five or more blocks in nine matches this year.

ROBBINS' HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned two varsity letters in volleyball for coach Brad Ackerman...also three year varsity letters in basketball for coach John Triplett...**JUNIOR** year volleyball team finished with a 35-2 record...finished second in regional tournament and second in state 4A tournament...basketball team finished with a 24-4 record...voted most improved...**SENIOR** year volleyball won district championship...finished second in regional tournament and second in state...named to the All-Big Nine Conference volleyball first team...basketball team finished with a 29-2 record...district champions and finished fourth in state...named all-league defensive player and to the all-tournament second team...averaged 16 points and 9 rebounds per game.

PERSONAL: Cassie Lee Robbins was born March 11, 1988, at Yakima, Wash...father Kevin in law enforcement...mother Shelia is a registrar...sister Kelly (11/9/76) played basketball at Montana State-Northern and is now the women's basketball assistant coach at Yakima Valley CC...sister Kayla (8/22/94)...brother Tyler (3/12/86)...earned 3.2 GPA and named Student of the Month in foreign language and physical education...planning to major in communication at WSU.

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year: It will be fun to watch because we have a lot of talent and power on the court.

My greatest athletic moment was: Placing fourth in state for basketball, my team worked so hard.

The athlete I admire most: My sister Kelly. Her life is dedicated to athletics.

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: I love to watch Brittany play; she has so much compassion for the game.

Since coming to WSU I have learned: I have learned that you play for the team and play as hard as you can.

Best book I have ever read: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Favorite food: Fettuccini Alfredo

Least favorite food: Spaghetti

Favorite TV show: CSI

Favorite actor: Julia Roberts

Favorite musical group: Joss Stone

The best advice I ever received was: Life is not fair but you have to keep on fighting.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: My parents, my sister Kelly and my high school teacher/coach Jesse Stueckle

I'd like to switch places for a day with: 50 Cent

My advice to youngsters: Be active, join a club or sport and keep yourself healthy

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be: My family, friends and the Red Robin restaurant

One wish I would make for the 21st century: I would wish for the war in Iraq to stop and terrorism all together.

"Cassie's improvement is very important to our team success. She has all of the tools to become an efficient hitter and a reliable blocker at the highest levels."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#10 Kimika Rozier



Middle blocker/Right side hitter
5-10, Freshman
Murrieta, California
Vista Murrieta High '07
Temecula Valley Vipers
Volleyball Club
Major: Undeclared

ROZIER'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned six letters at Vista Murrieta High...three in volleyball for coach Kristen Roberts...three in track and field for coach Coley Candale...finished third in league in track 100m hurdles...also triple jumped and long jumped...Broncos volleyball squad won the 2005 Southwestern League title with a 10-0 record and the 2006 league crown with a 9-1 record, finishing the year 23-4 overall...named to all-league first team twice and once to second team....three-time academic all-league selection...played for the Temecula Valley Volleyball Club with wins at the 2006 Reno Volleyball Festival in the U-16s and also took bronze at the Junior Olympics.

PERSONAL: Born May 12, 1989, in Jacksonville, Fla...mother Kim Rozier is retired from the United States Navy...sister Kenya (10/27/91)...plans to study structural engineering at WSU.

Why will WSU volleyball be fun to watch this year: Great things are happening with WSU volleyball. It is going to be exciting to watch the growth and development of each athlete and as a team as a whole, especially because we are considered the underdogs, people are going to be pretty surprised.

My greatest athletic moment was: My greatest athletic moment was winning league for the second time in a row against Great Oak High School!

The athlete I admire most: Michael Jordan because the story on how he became so successful is amazing!

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: I enjoyed watching Kelly Rosin because she expressed so much passion in the game. I'm going to miss her!

Since coming to WSU I have learned: More about life outside of California.

Best book I have ever read: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom

Favorite food: Of course I love the soul food, collard greens, corn bread, chicken (fried!), etc. Also Mexican food, pastas, then you have the deserts: chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream, chips and hot sauce, Oreos and peanut butter. I mean the list goes on and on and on.

Least favorite food: That would have to be seafood! eww gross!

Favorite TV show: I love watching *America's Next Top Model*, and of course *CSI*!

Favorite actor: Denzel Washington

Favorite musical group: I AM A MUSIC LOVER SO I DON'T HAVE ONE FAVORITE! I AM INSANELY IN LOVE WITH MUSIC!

The best advice I ever received was: The best advice I ever received was to love my enemies just as much as I love those who aren't my enemies. This is the best advice I have and probably ever receive because it's not easy to do.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: The people who have honestly had the greatest influence on my life would have to be every person that I have encounter and established a friendship with. They have taught me so much about life and myself.

I'd like to switch places for a day with: Michael Jackson so maybe then I would know what the heck he was thinking!

My advice to youngsters: "The only place you can kill a DREAM is in the MIND of a dreamer."

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU it would be: The beach
One wish I would make for the 21st century: One wish I would make for the 21st century is to stop all the war that is going on in the world, its so dang depressing!

"Kimika is a very dynamic athlete and personality. Once she gains experience at the outside hitter position she will have the athletic ability to play at the highest levels."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#4 Amy Small



Setter
5-6 Junior
Pullman, Washington
Pullman High '05
Palouse Juniors Volleyball Club
Major: Psychology

SMALL'S WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CAREER: Played two years at Walla Walla Community College for coach Tim Toon...freshman year helped team win the Northwest Athletic Association Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship...named to all-conference team as a sophomore...awarded team's most inspirational player award...named to the all-academic team.

SMALL'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER:

Earned six letters at Pullman High...two in volleyball for coaches Jan Estep (2003) and Jen Greeny (2004)...earned four letters and was a three-time state champion as a doubles tennis player for coach Sue Melhart...three-time All-Great Northern League tennis first team selection...three-year captain for Greyhounds tennis team...volleyball team took fourth-place in state 2A championships in 2003, seventh-place in 2004...named GNL MVP as senior...selected to all-state team...captain and MVP of volleyball team...member of Palouse Juniors volleyball team for seven years.

PERSONAL: Born August 16, 1987, at Pullman, Wash...father Chris is a research coordinator in the WSU school of molecular biosciences...mother Tammy is a principal assistant to the senior woman administrator for WSU Athletics...sister Emily (6/11/1989)...Dean's List freshman year at WWCC...planning to major in psychology at WSU.

Why will WSU volleyball be fun to watch

this year: There is nothing better than watching a group of individuals who have the same passion for the game come together as a team and work hard to achieve the same goal of being the best.

My greatest athletic moment was: Winning the NWAACC Championship my freshman year at Walla Walla Community College.

The athlete I admire most: Misty May and Kerri Walsh

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: Sarah Silvernail and LaToya Harris

Since coming to WSU I have learned:

After leaving Pullman for 2 years and returning, I've learned that WSU is where I should be. I have always been a Cougar and I am excited to be back.

Best book I have ever read: *The Lovely Bones*

Favorite food: Cheesecake

Least favorite food: Broccoli

Favorite TV show: Anything on the Food Network

Favorite actor: Will Ferrell

Favorite musical group: There are too many to choose from, I love all kinds of music.

The best advice I ever received was:

Play hard, have fun.

The person or people who have had the

greatest influence on my life: My family
I'd like to switch places for a day with: No one, I am happy being me.

My advice to youngsters: Dream big and never give up.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU it would be: Pullman is my hometown, so everything I need is right here.

One wish I would make for the 21st century: For everyone to get along.

"Wearing crimson and gray has been a lifelong dream for Amy Small. We look forward to her arrival and know that she will do all she can to earn playing time and find ways to make us better everyday. Amy is a fierce competitor and I am sure she will be a major contributor to our success over the next two years."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#21 Brittany Tillman



Middle blocker
6-1, Freshman
Tacoma, Washington
Lakes High '07
Puget Sound Volleyball Club
Major: Undeclared

TILLMAN'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned eight letters at Lakes High...three letters for volleyball coach Chuck Carone...three letters as a center/forward for basketball coach David McEachern...four letters as a sprinter and thrower in track and field for coach Joe Clark...volleyball team advanced to district playoffs all three seasons...named to All-Western Cascade Conference second team as junior and first team senior year...team captain as junior and senior...named the *Tacoma News Tribune* prep volleyball Player to Watch in September 2006...basketball team advanced to state tournament sophomore and senior years...in track, place fifth in 4x100m relay at 2004 state 3A meet...won 2005 state 3A shot put championship with a PR of 40-11 1/2...also played for Puget Sound Volleyball Club U-18s Gold team coached by Travis Sessler...PSVC U-17s Gold team competed at the 2005 Junior Olympics in Atlanta and won flight.

PERSONAL: Born January 14, 1989, in Memphis, Tenn...father Kevin...mother Alicia is a real estate agent and mortgage broker...brother Brian (1/9/87)...member of the National Honor Society and National Honor Roll in 2006 and 2007...served as mentor in IGNITE program...interested in pursuing a degree in broadcast communications.

Why will WSU volleyball be fun to watch this year: The only direction we have to go is forward and this year we are going places!

My greatest athletic moment was: When I rolled in club practice! It was almost natural. I was a big deal because it was me who NEVER rolls.

The athlete I admire most: The athlete I admire the most is my club libero Brianna Bautista! She never complains, always works hard, and always believes in us! She is unstoppable!

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: I really like watching Brittany Johnson play! Her athleticism is amazing, and you can see how bad she wants it by the way she plays.

Since coming to WSU I have learned: I have learned how important the term "together" is to everyone!

Best book I have ever read: The best book I ever read was the *Hmm, Does a Cereal Box Count?*

Favorite food: Buffalo wings+fries w/ ranch, and/or ICE CREAM!

Least favorite food: Bell peppers. They're just so foreign-tasting!

Favorite TV show: *The Simpsons*

Favorite actor: Terrance Howard

Favorite musical group: Lloyd

The best advice I ever received was: Never think you are not good enough to do what at first seems impossible.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: Ettie Punimata, my setter on my high school team, Chuck Carone, my high school coach, and Travis Sessler, my club coach.

I'd like to switch places for a day with: Tom from MySpace. I'd love to see how it feels to be so popular and at the same time nobody know you.

My advice to youngsters: Start playing early! You never know how far it can take you.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU it would be: The people! Tacoma's what it is!

One wish I would make for the 21st century: An unlimited supply of ice cream!

"Brittany is an extraordinary person and an athlete with incredible strength. She is very physical as a blocker and as an attacker. She has the ability and the tools to develop into a dominant middle blocker for our team."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#11 Stephanie Weishaar



Defensive Specialist/Libero
5-3, Junior
Camas, Washington
Camas High '05
Cowlitz Asics Volleyball Club
Major: Sport Management

CAREER HIGHS

Service Aces: 4 (vs. UC Davis, 2006)
Digs: 18 (at South Dakota State, 2006)
Points: 4.0 (vs. UC Davis, 2006)

WEISHAAR'S WSU CAREER: SOPHOMORE (2006) - Moved from walk-on to valuable asset to Cougars' back row play...season-best 18 digs against South Dakota State...tallied double-figure digs in 16 matches...averaged 2.80 digs per game, third-best on squad...second on team in service aces with a 0.25 average...nailed four service aces against UC Davis...also scored three aces at Oregon State 11/3...named Pac-10 All-Academic honorable mention for 2006.

FRESHMAN (2005) - Walked-on the team in August...played in 90 games as defensive specialist...one ace and 13 digs in 3-1 win over Arizona State...11 digs at USC...season-high 17 digs against Oregon State...landed three aces in win over Oregon.

WEISHAAR'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER: Earned a total of seven varsity letters at Camas High...three years on varsity volleyball for coach Kit Kaneakoa, three years as a point guard on the basketball team for coach Joe Farland, and one year golfing with coach Roger Hamreus...

JUNIOR year named to All-Saint Helen's League second team for both volleyball and basketball...as a **SENIOR** the Papermakers volleyball team finished second at district and sixth in state 3A tournament...tabbed first team all-league and second team all-region...set school record for most digs in a game average with 4.28 digs per game...played on the Cowlitz Asics Volleyball Club for coach Bill Marshall...finished 11th at 2005 Reno Volleyball Festival...club MVP in 2004...awarded Candis Carter Spirit Award for "playing defense at its highest level."

PERSONAL: Stephanie Weishaar was born July 14, 1987, at Portland, Ore...father Brad is a business manager...mother Mary is a teacher and a 1984 WSU graduate...grandmother Phyllis Weishaar graduated from Washington State in 1956...one brother, Scott (12/14/89)...earned the U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athletic Award and U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award...member of Key Club, ASB treasurer...majoring in sport management at WSU.

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year: We play with passion and heart and compete everyday.

My greatest athletic moment was: Playing against the national champions in front of 5,000 people.

The athlete I admire most: Lance Armstrong

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: LaToya Harris

Since coming to WSU I have learned: Be yourself

Best book I have ever read: *In Her Shoes*

Favorite food: Cheesburger and chocolate milkshake

Least favorite food: Seafood

Favorite TV show: *Grey's Anatomy*

Favorite actor: George Clooney

Favorite musical group: Gavin Degraw

The best advice I ever received was: Don't compromise your integrity just to get ahead.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life: Dad and Mom

I'd like to switch places for a day with:

Oprah

My advice to youngsters: Have fun!

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be:

Nordstrom

One wish I would make for the 21st century:

Washington State Volleyball National Champions

"Stephanie Weishaar is fearless. She loves to compete and her skills have helped her to earn a starting role as a backrow player for Cougar Volleyball."

—WSU Head Coach Brian Heffernan

#3 Tara West



Middle Blocker
6-1, Junior
Perth, Australia
Rossmoyne Senior High School '02
Australian Institute of Sport
Major: General Biology

CAREER HIGHS

Kills: 18 (vs. Arizona, 2006)
H.Pct: .588 (vs. Duquesne, 2006)
Service Aces: 3 (vs. Weber State, 2006)
Digs: 6 (three times, 2006)
Blocks: 7 (three times, 2006)
Points: 22.5 (vs. Arizona, 2006)

WEST'S WSU CAREER: SOPHOMORE (2006) - Transferred to WSU in January 2006...landed seven blocks against Texas-Arlington and seven blocks again at No. 5 USC, and at Arizona 10/19...led team with 1.14 blocks per game, ninth-best in Pac-10...had five or more blocks in 11 matches this season...had a career-high 18 kills and hit .517 in 11/17 match against Arizona...2.16 kills per game average is fourth on team...had 112 block assists this season, just eight short of 10th on the WSU single-season best list.

WEST'S PRE-WSU CAREER: Received three bronze medals in the Australian Schools Cup...earned five gold medals in the Western Australian Volleyball Schools Cup...member of the 2001 Australian Youth team that played in the Asian Youth Championships...member of the 2002 Australian Junior team that played in Asian Junior Championships...awarded the 'Fairest and Best' award for Rossmoyne Netball Club...won five gold medals in beach volleyball in the Western Australian Beach Volleyball Championships...as a **JUNIOR** at Rossmoyne Senior High received a gold medal representing Western Australia at the Australian Volleyball Championships...selected in the Australian Youth Team...as a **SENIOR** represented Western Australia in the Under 19 Australian Volleyball Championships and received a gold medal...selected in the Australian Junior Team...in **2003** attended Curtin University and won gold medal representing Western Australia in the Australian Volleyball Championships...awarded "All Star 6" award...in **2004** represented the Australian Institute of Sport in the Australian Volleyball League and won a gold medal.

PERSONAL: Tara Louise West was born November 29, 1985, at Perth, Western Australia...father Ashley is a project manager...mother Robyn is a public servant...two sisters, Lauren (6/11/82) and Lisa (9/13/83)...named to WSU Athletic All-Academic team...majoring in biology.

Why will Washington State University volleyball be fun to watch this year:

Because we have a great team culture, both on and off the court.

My greatest athletic moment was:

Representing Australia in the VTV Cup in Vietnam, 2004

The athlete I admire most: Kerri Pottharst (Australian Beach Volleyball player- Gold medalist at the Sydney Olympic Games)

Current or former WSU athlete you enjoy watching perform: Aron Baynes, men's basketball

Since coming to WSU I have learned: I will always be a Cougar at heart. Once a Cougar, always a Cougar.

Best book I have ever read: *The DaVinci Code*

Favorite food: Pancakes and Chocolate

Least favorite food: Anchovies and olives

Favorite TV show: *The OC* and *Rock of Love*

Favorite actor: Will Ferrell

Favorite musical group: Missy Higgins

The best advice I ever received was: My mom always says, "Everything always happens for a reason." It has really helped me in the best and worst of times.

The person or people who have had the greatest influence on my life:

My Mom and Dad

I'd like to switch places for a day with:

Nobody - I am happy being me.

My advice to youngsters: Make the most of every opportunity that presents itself.

If I could bring anything from my hometown to WSU what would it be:

The beach

One wish I would make for the 21st

century: For everybody to be happy :)

"Tara is a very skilled player and is a leader for our team on and off the floor. She has worked extremely hard and I know she is ready and looking forward to a year filled with success."

—WSU Head Coach
Brian Heffernan