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National Semis Run Puts Western Washington On Top Of GNAC Volleyball Poll

PORTLAND, Ore. – They are young, they have playoff experience and now they are picked to win it all.

After winning the West Region championship and advancing to the NCAA Division II national semifinals, Western Washington is a unanimous pick to win the conference title in the 2016 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Preseason Volleyball Coaches Poll.

The Vikings earned all 11 first place votes in the poll to finish with 121 points. Defending GNAC champion Alaska Anchorage, which lost just three matches all season, is picked to finish second with 104 points. The Vikings and Seawolves are followed by Northwest Nazarene with 98 points and Central Washington with 92 points.

The conference’s top four teams are also among the teams in the AVCA’s Division II Coaches Top-25 Preseason Poll. Western Washington is ranked No. 5, while Alaska Anchorage opens at No. 14. Central Washington was third among teams receiving votes (45) and Northwest Nazarene received three votes.

Western Washington used a combination of experience and young, exciting talent to finish second in a tight conference race that saw the Vikings, Alaska Anchorage, Central Washington and Northwest Nazarene separated by a total of two matches in the GNAC standings. The Vikings proceeded to sweep through the West Region Tournament and defeat Rockhurst in four sets in the national quarterfinals before falling to eventual national champion Wheeling Jesuit in the semifinals. As a team, Western Washington led the GNAC in seven statistical categories, including hitting percentage (.251), kills per set (13.86) and assists per set (12.87).

The Vikings return five starters from last year’s squad, including three underclassmen. Outside hitter **Abby Phelps** was named the GNAC Freshman of the Year and a First Team All-GNAC selection after finishing with a .231 hitting percentage and 3.01 kills per set, ninth in the league. Middle blocker **Kaleigh Harper** also earned first team laurels as a freshman, finishing third in the GNAC with a .339 hitting percentage and was fifth in Division II with 1.45 blocks per set. Also returning to the starting lineup is senior libero **Bryce Larson**, sophomore setter **Brette Boesel** and junior opposite **Joellee Buckner**.

Alaska Anchorage put together a season for the ages in 2015, losing just 13 sets in conference play to win its second GNAC championship. The Seawolves earned the right to host the West Region Tournament, but an untimely injury to GNAC Player of the Year Katelynn Zanders led to a five-set loss to Cal State San Bernardino in the semifinals. Alaska Anchorage finished as one of the top defensive teams in Division II, ranking 15th nationally with a .130 opponent’s hitting percentage.

2016 GNAC Preseason Volleyball Coaches Poll

Team (1st Place Votes)	2015 Record (GNAC)	Pts.
1. Western Washington (11)	27-6 (17-3, 2nd)	121
2. Alaska Anchorage	27-3 (18-2, 1st)	104
3. Northwest Nazarene	19-9 (16-4, tie 3rd)	98
4. Central Washington	20-8 (16-4, tie 3rd)	92
5. Simon Fraser	15-13 (11-9, 5th)	73
6. Concordia	18-10 (10-10, 6th)	64
7. Seattle Pacific	7-21 (5-15, tie 8th)	53
8. Western Oregon	8-21 (5-15, tie 8th)	43
9. Alaska	6-21 (6-14, 7th)	41
10. Montana State Billings	6-23 (5-15, tie 8th)	23
11. Saint Martin's	2-24 (1-19, 11th)	14

Points awarded on 11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

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The Seawolves lost three of their top players in Zanders, Julia Mackey and Caitlin Hanson, but return four starters who were just as critical in their title run. Senior setter **Morgan Hooe** picked up First Team All-GNAC and Third Team AVCA All-American honors after she finished second in the GNAC with 10.56 assists per set and led the league with 1,162 total assists. Outside hitter **Leah Swiss** was a First Team All-GNAC selection as a freshman as she finished with 2.63 kills, 2.64 digs and 0.53 blocks per set. Senior middle blocker **Erin Braun** tallied a .310 hitting percentage and 1.21 blocks per set while sophomore libero **Kyla Militante-Amper** registered 4.42 digs per set.

The 2014 GNAC champion, Northwest Nazarene was in the conference title and regionals conversation right up until the end thanks to a 10-match win streak and 16 wins in its final 18 GNAC matches. The Crusaders led Division II with a GNAC single season record 2.90 blocks per set. The charge at the net was led by junior outside hitter **Madi Farrell**, who earned First Team All-GNAC honors and Honorable Mention AVCA All-American after she set GNAC single season records with 156 total blocks and 1.49 blocks per set (third in Division II). Far from one dimensional, Farrell also led the GNAC and finished 13th in Division II with a .367 hitting percentage. In addition to its blocking, NNU finished second to Alaska Anchorage with a .148 opponent's hitting percentage.

The Crusaders lose a trio of key starters in outside hitter Elayna Rice, opposite Taylor Van Valey and middle blocker Jenna Caywood, but will be well-served by their four returners. Junior outside hitter **Kendra Bodine** joined Farrell as a First Team All-GNAC selection, finishing the season with 3.20 kills per set and 282 digs. Junior setter **Hailey Cook** was an Honorable Mention All-GNAC pick after she finished with 1.15 assists and led the GNAC with 10.62 assists per set. Libero **Jacquelyn Johnson** is back for her junior season after finishing with 1.85 digs per set.

Central Washington kept themselves in the title talk in much the same fashion that Northwest Nazarene did. The Wildcats finished second in Division II in blocking at 2.87 per set while leading the GNAC with a total of 309.5 blocks. Central Washington also proved a solid hitting team, finishing third in the league with a .233 hitting percentage and 12.76 kills per set. The performances gave the Wildcats a berth in the West Regional Tournament, where they fell in the first round in a five-set loss to Cal State San Bernardino.

Of the league's top four teams, CWU loses the most with the departure of three all-conference performers in Catie Fry, Linden Firethorne and Kaitlin Quirk. The Wildcats' five returning starters are led by junior middle blocker **Sabrina Wheelhouse**, who earned First Team All-GNAC honors with averages of 3.53 kills, 2.11 digs and 0.51 blocks per set. Senior outside hitter **Kiah Jones** picked up Honorable Mention All-GNAC honors as she hit .228 with 2.48 kills per set. Outside hitter **Madison Weg** will see her role enhance as a sophomore after finishing with 1.52 kills and 0.79 blocks per set in her first season.

Simon Fraser is picked to finish fifth after amassing an 11-9 conference mark last year, marking the second time since joining the GNAC in 2010 that it has finished above .500. The Clan had weapons on both sides of the ball, leading the GNAC with 18.53 digs per set while also leading the league and ranking fifth in Division II with 40.26 attacks per set. The defense was led by senior libero **Alison McKay**, who was named the GNAC Defensive Player of the Year after she finished ninth in Division II with an average of 6.08 digs per set.

Setter **Tamara Nipp** returns for her senior season after pacing the SFU passing with 6.10 assists per set. Junior outside hitter **Christine Howlett** and sophomore middle blocker **Tessa May** will also be looked to for enhanced offensive production. May earned Honorable Mention All-GNAC honors after leading the Clan with averages of 2.50 kills and 1.13 blocks per set. Howlett provides 2.16 kills per set and finished with a .159 hitting percentage.

AVCA Division II Coaches Top-25 Poll Preseason - Released Aug. 16, 2016

Rk	School (1st)	Pts.	2015 Record	2015 Rank
1.	Concordia-St. Paul (25)	1,140	29-5	4
2.	Wheeling Jesuit (20)	1,120	38-4	1
3.	Palm Beach Atlantic (1)	1,093	28-8	2
4.	Southwest Minn. St.	1,067	26-6	8
5.	Western Washington	971	17-6	6
6.	Wayne State (Neb.)	922	28-8	3
7.	Tampa (2)	824	27-6	9
8.	Ferris State	801	33-3	7
9.	Central Missouri	760	30-5	11
10.	Minnesota Duluth	739	23-8	10
11.	Rockhurst	682	34-4	5
12.	Central Oklahoma	618	31-5	12
13.	Nebraska-Kearney	581	29-7	15
14.	Alaska Anchorage	555	27-3	13
15.	Florida Southern	499	25-9	16
16.	Washburn	472	28-6	18
17.	Northern State	411	25-4	14
18.	Lewis	383	31-5	20
19.	Arkansas-Fort Smith	348	29-4	17
20.	Cal State San Bernardino	310	28-6	19
21.	Winona State	277	20-10	22
22.	Angelo State	231	33-6	21
23.	West Florida	135	28-7	25
24.	Sonoma State	110	26-4	24
25.	Colorado School of Mines	85	27-6	23

Others Receiving Votes: Findlay 72; California Baptist 45; **Central Washington 45**; Augustana (S.D.) 30; Dixie State-Utah 25; Indianapolis 24; Carson Newman 22; UC San Diego 21; Grand Valley State 19; Colorado Mesa University 15; Metro State 14; Ashland 11; Tarleton State 9; Missouri Western 8; Hillsdale 7; North Alabama 6; Wingate 6; Saint Leo 5; New York Inst of Tech 3; **NW Nazarene 3**; Concordia (Calif.) 2. 11 teams mentioned on only one ballot for a total of 71 combined points.

Concordia is picked sixth after finishing its inaugural GNAC season with an 18-10 overall record and 10-10 conference mark. The Cavaliers put the conference on notice in their first match as Division II members, downing No. 7 ranked Grand Valley State in four sets on the Lakers' home floor. Concordia went on to win its first nine matches of the year. A solid defensive program, the Cavaliers finished third in the GNAC in both opponent hitting percentage (.160) and digs (16.61 per set).

The Cavaliers are led by First Team All-GNAC junior opposite **Lindsey Dorsey**, who finished with an average of 2.94 kills per set while amassing a .241 hitting percentage. Senior outside hitter **Brenna Huwe** returns after earning Honorable Mention All-GNAC honors, finishing with a team-leading 3.01 kills per set and 0.66 blocks per set. Junior middle blocker **Colby Barnette** also returns after amassing a .240 hitting percentage and finishing sixth in the GNAC with 1.24 blocks per set.

Seattle Pacific is projected seventh after finishing as one of three teams in a deadlock for eighth place in 2015. The Falcons struggled to find their offensive spark last season, finishing 10th in the league with a .126 hitting percentage, but should see improvement with a young lineup that is a year more experienced. Senior outside hitter **Lexi Biondi** led the team with 3.19 kills per set, earning her Honorable Mention All-GNAC honors. Junior outside hitter **Hannah Lautenbach** averaged 2.60 kills and 2.44 digs per set while sophomore middle blocker **Shaun Crespi** amassed 1.70 kills and 0.912 blocks per set. The Falcons also return setter **Symone Tran** who averaged 8.95 assists and 2.53 digs per set as a freshman.

Western Oregon is picked eighth after figuring into last year's three-way tie for eighth. The Wolves are one of three conference teams with a new head coach as **Tommy Gott** takes over a team that finished sixth in the GNAC last season in hitting percentage (.172) and fourth in digs (16.50). Western Oregon's top returner is on defense after senior libero **Christie Colasurdo** led the GNAC and finished second in Division II with her average of 6.44 digs per set. She also led the GNAC with 676 total digs, 21st best in Division II. In all, the Wolves return all seven starters and 14 letterwinners from last year's squad, including Honorable Mention All-GNAC opposite **Mariella Vandenkooy**, outside hitter **Alisha Bettinson** and setters **Maddie Mehciz** and **Leila Holt**.

After finishing seventh a year ago, Alaska is picked to finish ninth in 2016. The Nanooks will look for someone to fill the hole left by middle blocker Sam Harthun, who finished as the GNAC career leader in kills. Junior middle blocker **Maddie Davis** leads a cadre of three returning starters after she finished with 1.76 kills per set. Junior middle blocker **Riley Podowicz** averaged 1.65 kills and 0.61 blocks per set. She led the GNAC with an average of 0.43 aces per set as the Nanooks owned the top three spots in the individual statistics. Alaska also returns libero **Meagan Olsen**, who finished with 3.02 digs per set as a junior.

Montana State Billings is picked 10th in the poll as it begins play under first year head coach **Casey Williams**. The Yellowjackets finished tied for eighth last season and return five experienced starters. Senior outside hitter **Ashlynn Ward** earned Honorable Mention All-GNAC honors after leading the team with 3.30 kills per set and a .213 hitting percentage. Senior outside hitter **Stormy Siemion** will be depended upon for added offense after averaging 1.28 kills and 2.40 digs per set in 2015. The offense will be further bolstered by sophomore middle blocker **Miranda McConnell**.

Saint Martin's begins the season ranked 11th in the preseason poll. The Saints are the third GNAC team with a new coach as Central Washington alum **Jon Killingbeck** takes over. The Saints won just two matches in 2015 and will look to improve on a run that has seen them win just six over the last two seasons. Saint Martin's will be led by junior outside hitter **Rebecca Mitchell**, who returns having averaged 2.22 kills and 2.64 digs per set in her sophomore season.

Conference play begins on Wed., Sept. 14 with the first of two border clashes as Western Washington plays at Simon Fraser. The 2016 season opens on Thurs., Aug. 25, as Alaska Anchorage opens a three-match Oahu road trip at BYU-Hawaii. This year's GNAC schedule will be further bolstered by the first Division II West Region Volleyball Showcase, featuring teams from all three western Division II conferences. This year's tournament, hosted by the California Collegiate Athletic Association, takes place Sept. 8-10.

GNAC Volleyball Team Capsules Follow On Next Page



2016 GNAC Volleyball Teams At A Glance

ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Head Coach: Chris Green (Nebraska, 1991, 159-69, 9th Season)

Assistant Coaches: Sheldon Carvalho, Calli Scott

2015 Overall Record: 27-3 **Conference Record (Finish):** 18-2 (1st)

Letterwinners Returning: 7

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/3

Returning Starters: Leah Swiss (OH, So., 2.62 Kills per Set, .222 Hitting Pct., 2.64 Digs per Set, 0.53 Blocks per Set, 23 Aces, 1st Team All-GNAC), Morgan Hooe (S, Sr., 10.56 Assists per Set, 0.57 Blocks per Set, AVCA 3rd Team All-American, 1st Team All-GNAC), Erin Braun (MB, Sr., 1.89 Kills per Set, .310 Hitting Pct., 1.21 Blocks per Set), Kyla Militante-Amper (L, So., 4.42 Digs per Set)

Key Losses: Katelynn Zanders (OH), Julia Mackey (RS), Caitlin Hanson (MB)

Key Freshmen: Diana Fa`amuasili (RS/MB, 5-11, Federal Way, Wash. – Kent-Meridian), Vanessa Hayes (MB, 5-11, Salem, Ore. – McNary)

Key Transfers: Anais Vargas (OH, 5-10, Jr. Greeley, Colo. – Northeastern CC), Keala Kaio-Perez (RS/L, 5-7, Jr., Waimanalo, Hawaii – Western Nebraska CC)

ALASKA

Head Coach: Brian Scott (Weber State, 2007, 6-12, 2nd Season)

Assistant Coach: Robbie Berrett

2015 Overall Record: 6-21 **Conference Record (Finish):** 6-14 (7th)

Letterwinners Returning: 8

Starters Returning/Lost: 3/3

Returning Starters: Meagan Olsen (L, Sr., 314 Digs, 3.02 Digs per Set), Maddie Davis (MB, Jr., 183 Kills, 37 Block Assists, 1.76 Kills per Set), Riley Podowicz (MB, Jr., 45 Aces, 61 Block Assists, 172 Kills)

Key Losses: Sam Harthun (OH), Kensey Mix (MB), Miranda Grieser (S)

Key Freshmen: Tatum Upchurch (OH, 5-11, Anchorage, Alaska – South Anchorage), Paola Oliver (L, 5-3, San Juan, Puerto Rico – Winter Springs HS), Kim Wong (MB, 5-11, Spokane, Wash. – Mead)

Key Transfers: Rachel Nichols (S, 5-8, Jr., Riverton, Utah – Salt Lake CC), Angela Molesworth (OH, 6-2, Jr., Gilbert, Ariz. – Scottsdale CC)

CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Head Coach: Mario Andaya (Central Washington, 1993, 320-228, 21st Season)

Assistant Coach: Chloe Solum

2015 Overall Record: 20-8 **Conference Record (Finish):** 16-4 (Tie 3rd)

Letterwinners Returning: 12

Starters Returning/Lost: 5/2

Returning Starters: Sabrina Wheelhouse (MB, Jr., 182 Kills, 138 Blocks, 1.35 Blocks per Set, 1st Team All-GNAC), Kiah Jones (OH, Sr., 265 Kills, 15 Aces, 58 Blocks, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Madison Weg (OH, So., 155 Kills, 81 Blocks), Lindsey Milner (L, Sr., 417 Digs, 22 Aces)

Key Losses: Catie Fry (S), Rachel Hanses (OH), Linden Firethorne (OH), Kaitlin Quirk (MB)

Key Freshmen: Hannah Lasche (OH, Fr., 5-10, Missoula, Mont. – Hellgate)

2016 GNAC VOLLEYBALL TEAMS AT A GLANCE**CONCORDIA****Head Coach:** Melanie Hambelton (Portland State, 1982, 127-66, 8th Season)**Assistant Coach:** David Glass**2015 Overall Record:** 18-10**Conference Record (Finish):** 10-10 (6th)**Letterwinners Returning:** 10**Starters Returning/Lost:** 3/3**Returning Starters:** Colby Barnette (MB, Jr., 211 Kills, 124 Blocks), Brenna Huwe (OH, Sr., 293 Kills, 230 Digs, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Lindsey Dorsey (OPP, Jr., 282 Kills, 226 Digs, 57 Blocks, 1st Team All-GNAC)**Key Losses:** Jenessa Taylor (S), Ashley Jibby (OH), Amanda Goringe (OPP)**Key Freshmen:** Anna Dols (DS, 5-6, Fr., Mankato, Minn. – Northfield)**Key Transfers:** Michele Brown (S, 5-8, Jr., Issaquah, Wash. – Univ. of Idaho)**MONTANA STATE BILLINGS****Head Coach:** Casey Williams (West Alabama, 2012, 1st Season)**Assistant Coach:** Carly Wehling**2015 Overall Record:** 6-23**Conference Record (Finish):** 5-15 (Tie 8th)**Letterwinners Returning:** 5**Starters Returning/Lost:** 5/2**Returning Starters:** Ashlynn Ward (OH, Sr., 347 Kills, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Stormy Siemion (OH, Sr., 111 Kills, 2.4 Digs per Set), Mataia Robinson (DS, Jr., 17 Assists, 22 Aces, 1.79 Digs per Set), Miranda McConnell (MB, So., 133 Kills, 1.48 Kills per Set)**Key Losses:** Kyndal Williams (S), Audri Marrs (MB)**Key Freshmen:** Angala Jensen (S, 5-9, Colorado Springs, Colo. – Manitou Springs), Bre Rodrigues (MB, 5-10, Pukalani, Hawaii – King Kekaulike)**Key Transfers:** Kylee Cornelio (L, Sr., 5-4, Mililani, Hawaii – Prairie View A&M Univ.), Lexa de Jesus (OH/RS, Jr., 5-9, Guayama, Puerto Rico – New Mexico Military Institute), Casey Rich (MB, Jr., 5-9, Weston, Idaho – Northwest Coll. (Wyo.))**NORTHWEST NAZARENE****Head Coach:** Doug English (Cal State Northridge, 61-18, 4th Season)**Assistant Coaches:** Jeanette Jenkins, Collin Hartman**2015 Overall Record:** 19-9**Conference Record (Finish):** 16-4 (Tie 3rd)**Letterwinners Returning:** 7**Starters Returning/Lost:** 4/3**Returning Starters:** Kendra Bodine (Jr., OH, 336 Kills, 282 Digs, 46 Blocks, 1st Team All-GNAC), Hailey Cook (Jr., S, 1115 Assists, 24 Aces Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Madi Farrell (MB, Jr., 263 Kills, .367 Hitting Pct., 156 Blocks, AVCA All-American Honorable Mention, 1st Team All-GNAC), Jacquelyn Johnson (L, Jr., 190 Digs)**Key Losses:** Elayna Rice (OH), Taylor Van Valey (OPP), Jenna Caywood (MB), Linnea Phillips (L)**Key Freshmen:** Jessica Brennis (OH, 5-10, Snohomish, Wash. – Snohomish); Megan Nelson (S, 5-7, Meridian, Idaho – Centennial); Kayla Sale (OH, 5-9, Caldwell, Idaho – Vallivue); Kari Staples (OH, 5-10, Vancouver, Wash. – King's Way Christian); Lexi Ward (MB, 5-10, Boise, Idaho – Timberline)**SAINT MARTIN'S****Head Coach:** Jon Killingbeck (Central Washington, 2007, 1st Season)**Assistant Coaches:** Lauren Herseth, Joe Holland**2015 Overall Record:** 2-24**Conference Record (Finish):** 1-19 (11th)**Letterwinners Returning:** 14**Starters Returning/Lost:** 4/3**Returning Starters:** Rebecca Mitchell Jr. (OH, Jr., 122 Kills, 145 Digs)**Key Losses:** Julia Wabinga (OH), Kyra Davidson (MB), Cassandra Fenton (S)**Key Freshmen:** Ililani Kamaka (OH/RS, 5-9, Kailua, Hawaii – Kamehameha), Emma Tran (OH, 5-11, Everett, Wash. – Henry M. Jackson), Jordan Keane (S, 5-5, Spanaway, Wash. –Kapowsin)

2016 GNAC VOLLEYBALL TEAMS AT A GLANCE**SEATTLE PACIFIC****Head Coach:** Chris Johnson (Westmont, 2002, 181-119, 11th season)**Assistant Coaches:** Lindsey Woodrich, Kin Yun, Carolyn Farny**2015 Overall Record:** 7-21**Conference Record (Finish):** 5-15 (Tie 8th)**Letterwinners Returning:** 9**Starters Returning/Lost:** 4/3**Returning Starters:** Hannah Lautenbach (OH, Jr., 2.6 Kills per Set, 2.44 Digs per Set, 70 Blocks), Symone Tran (S, So., 8.95 Assists per Set, 2.52 Digs per Set), Lexi Biondi (OH, Sr., 3.19 Kills per Set, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Shaun Crespi (MB, So., 1.70 Kills per Set, 80 Blocks)**Key Losses:** Ellie Britt (OH), Breanne Wiekamp (L)**Key Freshmen:** Gabby Oddo (OH, 5-9, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. – Alta Loma), Mallie Donohoe (OH, 5-9, Wildomar, Calif. – Elsinore)**SIMON FRASER****Head Coach:** Gina Schmidt (Oregon State, 2002, 32-22, 3rd Season)**Assistant Coach:** Rob Gowe**2015 Overall Record:** 15-13**Conference Record (Finish):** 11-9 (5th)**Letterwinners Returning:** 12**Starters Returning/Lost:** 4/2**Returning Starters:** Alison McKay (L, Sr., 6.09 Digs per Set, GNAC Defensive Player of the Year), Devon May (OH, Sr., 2.93 Kills per Set), Tessa May (MB, So., 2.5 Kills per Set, 1.13 Blocks per Set, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Tamara Nipp (S, Sr., 6.1 Assists per Set), Christine Howlett (OH, Jr. 2.16 Kills per Set, .159 Hitting Pct.)**Key Losses:** Danielle Curtis (S), Jessica Young (OH)**Key Freshmen:** Nicole Chevrier (MB, 6-2, Langley, B.C. – Brookwood Secondary)**WESTERN OREGON****Head Coach:** Tommy Gott (Chico State, 2012, 1st Season)**Assistant Coach:** Megan Shifflett**2015 Overall Record:** 8-21**Conference Record (Finish):** 5-15 (Tie 8th)**Letterwinners Returning:** 14/2**Starters Returning/Lost:** 7/0**Returning Starters:** Alisha Bettinson (OH, Jr., 294 Kills, 287 Digs, 38 Blocks), Amanda Short (OH, So., 267 Kills, 30 Aces, 34 Blocks), Mariella Vandenkooy (So., OPP, 173 Kills, 45 Blocks, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Maddie Mehcz (S, So., 434 Sets, 14 Aces, 88 Digs, 25 Blocks), Leila Holt (S, So., 513 Sets, 114 Digs, 24 Blocks), Christie Colasurdo (L, Sr., 676 Digs, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Paige Orth (Kelsey) (OPP, Sr., 162 Kills, .249 Hitting Pct., 93 Blocks), Sydney Blankinship (MB, Jr., 159 Kills, .321 Hitting Pct.).**Key Losses:** None**Key Freshmen:** Makenna Behrens (DS, 5-8, Kennewick, Wash. – Southridge), Jenna Compton (OH, 5-11, Phelan, Calif. – Serrano), Morgan Haskett (OH/OPP, 6-1, Roseburg, Ore. – Roseburg), Katherine Huntington (OPP/MB, 5-11, Superior, Colo. – Monarch)**WESTERN WASHINGTON****Head Coach:** Diane Flick-Williams (Washington, 1993, 344-91, 17th season)**Assistant Coaches:** James Suh, Nate Langstraat, Samantha Hutchinson**2015 Overall Record:** 27-6**Conference Record (Finish):** 17-3 (2nd)**Letterwinners Returning:** 10**Starters Returning/Lost:** 5/2**Returning Starters:** Abby Phelps (OH, So., 355 Kills, 375 Digs, 62 Blocks, GNAC Freshman of the Year, 1st Team All-GNAC), Kayleigh Harper (MB, So., 171 Blocks, 256 Kills, .339 Hitting Pct., 1st Team All-GNAC), Joellee Buckner (OPP, Jr., 257 Kills, 391 Digs, 21 Aces, 62 Blocks), Brette Boesel (S, So., 800 Assists, 30 Aces, 206 Digs), Bryce Larson (L, Sr., 327 Digs)**Key Losses:** Jennica McPherson (OPP), Rachel Roeder (OH)**Key Freshmen:** Janae Payne (S, 5-8, Oak Harbor, Wash. – Oak Harbor), Grace Sears (OPP, 6-1, Stanwood, Wash. – Stanwood), Taija Williams (OH, 5-10, Spokane, Wash. – West Valley), Alison Davenport (OH, Auburn, Wash. – Auburn Riverside)