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Western Washington Picked Once Again As Coaches Favorite In Preseason Poll

PORTLAND, Ore. – For the second year in a row, Western Washington is picked as the team to beat by conference coaches in the annual Great Northwest Athletic Conference Men’s Basketball Preseason Poll.

The Vikings received five of 11 first place votes and a total of 114 points, finishing just ahead of defending regular season champion Western Oregon. The Wolves netted four first place votes and a total of 106 points.

Seattle Pacific, who finished second in the conference last year and won the GNAC Tournament championship, is picked third with a total of 100 points. The Falcons received the remaining two first place votes.

After a successful start in their non-conference schedule, Western Washington stumbled to lose seven of their first 10 GNAC games. The Vikings rebounded to win eight straight to end the regular season, tying for fifth to claim a spot in the GNAC Tournament. The Vikings went on to beat Alaska Anchorage and Western Oregon to claim a spot in the tournament final, where they lost to Seattle Pacific. Western Washington finished the season with a 20-11 overall record.

The Vikings return nine letterwinners and four starters, led by senior guard **Ricardo Maxwell**. The Second Team All-GNAC selection averaged 15 points and shot nearly 52 percent from the field. Junior forward **Jeffrey Parker** will look to fill the hole left by First Team All-GNAC selection Anye Turner. Parker provided essential scoring both inside and outside, averaging 15.6 per game while shooting 50.7 percent from the field and 43.4 percent from three-point range. Western Washington also returns significant height in the 6-foot-6 Parker, 6-foot-8 center **Mac Johnson** and 6-foot-9 center **Blake Bowen**. The Vikings also welcome an experienced transfer in guard **Brett Kingma**, who played at both Washington State and Oregon before missing 2014-15 with a knee injury, and freshman guard **Trey Drechsel**, who was the Washington prep 1A Player of the Year.

Western Washington will have the additional challenge of playing in a “home away from home” this season. The team will play all of its home games at Whatcom Community College while their on-campus Carver Gymnasium undergoes a two-year, \$70 million renovation.

Western Oregon returns a squad loaded with 12 letterwinners, four returning starters and two First Team All-GNAC selections in **Andy Avgi** and **Julian Nichols**. The Wolves won the regular season, going 23-7 last season and advancing to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time in program history. The Wolves, however, will look to recreate that magic with a new head coach. **Jim Shaw**, a former WOU All-American and longtime Division I assistant coach, took over for the departed Brady Bergeson over the summer.

Shaw will have some high expectations to live up to, but starts with a full cupboard. The defending GNAC Player of the Year and a Preseason All-America selection by both The Sporting News and Division II Bulletin, Avgi is the conference’s top returning scorer, averaging 18.5 points per game. He shot an impressive 61.2 percent from the field and 80.8 percent from free throw range. Nichols was named the GNAC’s Newcomer of the Year as he averaged 12.5 points and shot 45.4 percent from the field after transferring from Chaffee Community College in California. All four of the Wolves’ returning starters averaged 10 or more points per game.

2015-16 GNAC Preseason Men’s Basketball Coaches Poll

Team (1st Place Votes)	2014-15 Record (GNAC)	Pts.
1. Western Washington (5)	20-11 (11-7, tie 5th)	114
2. Western Oregon (4)	23-7 (15-3, 1st)	106
3. Seattle Pacific (2)	24-8 (13-5, 2nd)	100
4. Alaska Anchorage	16-13 (12-6, tie 3rd)	92
5. Central Washington	17-9 (12-6, tie 3rd)	80
6. Alaska	7-19 (4-14, 8th)	63
7. Saint Martin’s	6-22 (3-15, tie 9th)	41
Montana State Billings	5-23 (3-15, tie 9th)	41
9. Northwest Nazarene	14-16 (11-7, tie 5th)	37
10. Concordia	25-7 (First Year in GNAC)	32
11. Simon Fraser	11-15 (6-12, 7th)	20

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

Shaw's initial recruiting class includes a pair of Division I transfers in guard **Alex Roth**, who was a walk-on at Oregon State, and **Tanner Omlid**, who returns to his hometown after two seasons at Army. A standout freshman for the Black Knights in 2013-14, Omlid finished second in the nation at the Division I level in steals.

Seattle Pacific finished second during the GNAC regular season and won its fifth GNAC Tournament title, earning its 11th postseason appearance, the longest current streak in Division II. The No. 7 seed in the West Regional, the Falcons upset No. 2 seed BYU-Hawaii before losing on a buzzer-beater to No. 3 Cal Baptist.

The Falcons will have major holes to fill with the departure of GNAC Defensive Player of the Year Riley Stockton and Second Team All-GNAC center Cory Hutsen, but eight returning letterwinners and a talented transfer class provides **Ryan Looney** a solid base to work with. Honorable Mention All-GNAC forward **Mitch Penner** will anchor the front court, having averaged 13.6 points and 5.8 rebounds per game as a junior. Guard **Bryce Leavitt** is the Falcons' other returning starter, having averaged 2.9 points per game in 17 starts.

Like Western Oregon, Seattle Pacific reloads with a pair of Division I transfers. Center **Gilles Dierickx** played one season for Basketball Hall of Famer Isaiah Thomas at Florida International before transferring to Washington, where he averaged 1 point and 1.5 rebounds per game in an injury-shortened campaign. Guard **Olivier-Paul Betu** played two seasons at UC Davis, seeing action in 22 games with two starts as a sophomore.

Alaska Anchorage is picked fourth after tying with Central Washington for third during last year's regular season. The Seawolves will also be looking to fill the hole of a graduated star with the loss of First Team All-GNAC and Second Team All-West Region guard Travis Thompson. Senior guard **Brian McGill** is the team's top leading scorer. The Honorable Mention All-GNAC selection averaged 13.8 points and 5.3 assists per game last year while shooting 41.9 percent from three-point range and 79.4 percent from the charity stripe. Junior forward **Travis Parrish** also returns. He averaged 2.9 points and 3.9 rebounds per game in 21 starts.

The Seawolves also return a trio of experienced post players in senior **Christian Leckband**, and sophomores **Sjur Berg** and **Brian Pearson**. All three contributed in 15 or more games, with Leckband averaging seven points and 3.6 rebounds per game. A corps of seven transfers joins the five returners, led by junior guard **Suki Wiggs**, who played 61 games at Division I Idaho and finished third for the Vandals last year in scoring (11.5 points per game). Junior guard/forward **Augustus Simmers** returns home, transferring to UAA after two seasons at Division II Malone.

Central Washington is picked fifth in the poll. The Wildcats return an experienced lineup with nine letterwinners and four starters, but will have to replace the offensive output of First Team All-GNAC selection Dom Williams, who was second in the league in scoring at 20.3 points per game.

Senior center **Joseph Stroud** leads the Wildcats' four returning starters. A Second Team All-GNAC selection, Stroud was the Division II's most accurate shooter as he hit 70.5 percent from the field and averaged 12.1 points per game to go along with 5.5 rebounds per game and 79 blocks. He is surrounded by a trio of returning guards in junior **Gary Jacobs** (10.8 points per game), **Marc Rodgers** (4.2 points per game) and **Marc Roppo** (6.7 points per game). Head Coach Greg Sparling's recruiting class is led by junior transfer forward **Chris-Michael Garrett**, who averaged 9.6 points and 5.8 rebounds per game last year at Green River CC, and redshirt freshman guard **Naim Ladd**.

Alaska is tabbed for a rise in the standings, picked sixth after finishing eighth in 2014-15. The Nanooks finished 7-19 overall last year, but return an experienced core of eight letterwinners and four starters, which include the team's two leading scorers. Guard **Ashton Edwards** was an Honorable Mention All-GNAC selection in his first season after transferring from Long Beach CC, averaging 14.2 points per game. He led the GNAC in free throw shooting at 91.3 percent. Center **Almir Hadzisehovic** also excelled in his first season with the Nanooks, averaging 12.2 points and 5.2 rebounds per game.

The Nanooks also return senior guards **Alex Duncan** and **Joe Slocum** and center **Isaac Ladines**. Duncan averaged 6.3 points per game last year. Slocum redshirted last year after starting 27 games as a junior and finishing fifth in the GNAC with 4.1 assists per game. Ladines averaged 3.8 points per game in 26 games. The returners are joined a trio of junior transfers in forwards **Travante Williams**, **Zach Pederson** and **Bangaly Kaba**. Williams, a native of Anchorage, returns to his home state after one season at Division II Adams State in Denver, Colo.

Saint Martin's and Montana State Billings are tied for seventh in the poll after the two programs tied for ninth last year. The Saints struggled throughout the conference season, ending the year with eight straight losses. First year head coach **Alex Pribble** will look to build around a pair of experienced guards in **Trey Ingram** and **Tyler Copp**. Ingram was the Saints' leading scorer as a freshman, averaging 11.2 points per game while hitting 41.6 percent from three-point range. Copp averaged 7.5 points per game while starting just over half of the Saints' contests. Guard **Isaac Bianchini** averaged 7.5 points per game and shot 50 percent from the field and 54.7 percent from beyond the arc as he came off the bench in 27 games. **Victor Ieronymides** is the lone returning post player. He played in 27 games and started 11 as a freshman.

Pribble adds a pair of Division I transfers to the roster in **Fred Jorg** and **Kevin Henderson**. The 7-foot Jorg joins the Saints after being a role-player on Eastern Washington's Big Sky Conference championship squad, averaging 2.2 points and 1.1 rebounds in 15 games. Henderson returns to the game after two years away, having played at Montana from 2011 to 2013.

Montana State Billings hopes to move up in the standings after a rebuilding season. Honorable Mention All-GNAC guard **Jace Anderson** leads four starters returning. Anderson proved an offensive threat at every spot on the floor, averaging 7.8 points per game while shooting 44.8 percent from the field, 41.8 percent from three-point range and 74.2 percent from the free throw line. Forward **Momir Gataric** is the Yellowjackets' top returning scorer, having averaged 11.6 points per game. Also back is forward **Emmanuel Johnson** and guards **Kendall Durham**, **Marc Matthews** and **Jordan Perry**.

Head coach Jamie Stevens is bolstering the lineup with five newcomers. **Emmanuel Olufemi** adds an immediate post presence with his 6-foot-9 frame. From Nigeria, Olufemi is one of three international players on the MSUB roster, joining sophomore Belgian national **Kamal Tall** (who is tall at 6-foot-8) and German freshman **Sven Jeusche**.

Northwest Nazarene is picked ninth after losing eight players, four starters and their head coach with the retirement of Dave Daniels. The Crusaders enter the season in the able hands of the experienced **Scott Flemming**, who returned stateside after three years coaching the Indian National Team. Flemming will be challenged in building a squad around lone returning starter **Mike Wright**. The guard averaged 7.6 points per game and dished out 91 assists in his junior season. Junior **Bouna N'Diaye** will challenge for a starting role after averaging 8.3 points off the bench as a sophomore, as will **Pol Olivier**, who averaged 3.3 points per game.

Concordia, the newcomers to the GNAC, are picked 10th and find themselves in a similar position to Northwest Nazarene. The Cavaliers amassed a 25-7 record in their final year in the NAIA's Cascade Collegiate Conference and advanced to the second round of the NAIA Division II National Tournament, but lost all five starters following the season. Head coach **Brad Barbarick** returns six players from last year's squad, led by junior guard **Davis Nuaimi** (4.7 points per game), sophomore guard **Taylor Harris** and sophomore center **Tyler Gutierrez**. The Cavaliers welcome one newcomer with Division II experience in forward **Drew Martin**, who arrives after two seasons at New Mexico Highlands.

Simon Fraser is picked 11th after finishing in seventh place in the conference last year. The Clan will also be in rebuilding mode with the departure of four starters and the arrival of new head coach **Virgil Hill**. **Michael Harper** is the squad's lone returning starter, having averaged 8.7 points and 3.5 rebounds per game in 26 games and 24 starts. He is joined by sophomore guards **JJ Pankratz** (6.4 points per game) and **Hide Vos** (7.9 points per game). The Clan add one junior transfer in Max Barkeley, who returns to his hometown after two seasons at California's Victor Valley JC.

Exhibition play begins on Sat., Oct. 24, with Simon Fraser hosting Canadian rival Thompson Rivers. Alaska Anchorage and Western Washington will open the 2015-16 in earnest on Fri., Oct. 30, with both teams competing at the D2 CCA Tip-Off Classic in Anaheim, Calif. Conference play begins on Tues., Dec. 1, with Concordia hosting Western Oregon.

GNAC Men's Basketball Team Capsules Follow On Next Page



GNAC Men's Basketball Teams At A Glance

ALASKA

Head Coach: Mick Durham (Montana State 1979, 46-64, 5th Season; 20th Season Overall, 292-277)

Assistant Coach: Bobby Howard

2014-15 Overall Record: 7-19

GNAC Record (Finish): 4-14 (8th)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/8

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1

Returning Starters: Ashton Edwards (G, 6-1, Sr., Compton, Calif., Honorable Mention All-GNAC, 14.2 ppg, 1.9 rpg, .384 3 pt., .913 FT, 66 assists), Almir Hadzisehovic (C, 6-8, Jr., Belgrade, Serbia, 12.2 ppg, .568 FG, 30 assists, 25 blocks), Joe Solcum (G, 6-3, Sr., San Francisco, Calif., redshirt in 2014-15), Alex Duncan (G, 6-1, Sr., Boise, Idaho, 6.3 ppg, 2.6 rpg, .837 FT, 74 assists, 23 steals).

Other Returning Players: Isaac Ladines (C, 6-8, Sr., Arlington, Wash., 3.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 11 blocks).

Key Losses: Ruben Silvas (G), Erin Fongue (F).

Top Newcomers: Travante Williams (F, 6-4, Sr., Anchorage, Alaska – Adams State Coll.), Zach Pederson (F, 6-6, Jr., Snohomish, Wash. – Edmonds CC), Bangaly Kaba (F, 6-6, Jr., Houston, Texas – Tohono O'odham CC).

ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Head Coach: Rusty Osborne (Texas, 1988, 208-119, 12th Season)

Assistant Coaches: Cameron Turner, Kasey Riley

2014-15 Overall Record: 16-13

GNAC Record (Finish): 12-6 (tie 3rd, advanced to GNAC Tournament quarterfinals)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 5/6

Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3

Returning Starters: Brian McGill (PG, 6-2, Sr., Clackamas, Ore., Honorable Mention All-GNAC, 13.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 5.3 apg, .419 3 pt., .794 FT), Travis Parrish (F, 6-3, Jr., West Bountiful, Utah, 2.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.2 apg).

Other Returning Players: Christian Leckband (F, 6-6, Sr., Nome, Alaska, 7.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, .384 3 pt., .745 FT), Sjur Berg (F, 6-7, So., Nesoddtangen, Norway, 4.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, .586 FG), Brian Pearson (F, 6-8, So., Elko, Nev., 1.4 ppg, 1.1 rpg).

Key Losses: Travis Thompson (G, First Team All-GNAC), Derrick Fain (G), Brad Mears (C).

Top Newcomers: Suki Wiggs (G, 6-4, Jr., Seattle, Wash. – Univ. of Idaho), Augustus Simmers (G/F, 6-4, 215, Jr., Anchorage, Alaska – Malone Univ.), Diante Mitchell (G, 6-1, Jr., Syracuse, Utah/Western Nebraska CC), Spencer Svejcar (G, 6-4, Jr., Arvada, Colo. – Laramie County CC), Drew Peterson (G/F, 6-4, Jr., San Diego, Calif. – San Diego Miramar JC), Tayler Thompson (F, 6-8, Jr., Sonora, Calif. – Cuesta JC), Corey Hammell (F, 6-6, Jr., Santa Rosa, Calif. – Santa Rosa JC), Curtis Ryan (F, 6-9, Fr., Warrnambool, Australia – Emmanuel College).

CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Head Coach: Greg Sparling (Central Washington, 1993, 339-220, 22nd Season)

Assistant Coaches: Drew Harris, Jared Johnson, Jordan Starr

2014-15 Overall Record: 17-9

GNAC Record (Finish): 12-6 (tie 3rd, advanced to GNAC Tournament quarterfinals)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/4

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1

Returning Starters: Marc Rodgers (PG, 6-1, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif., 4.2 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 76 assists, 30 steals), Gary Jacobs (G, 6-2, Sr., Las Vegas, Nev., 10.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, .432 FG, .816 FT), Joey Roppo (G, 6-3, Sr., Monroe, Wash., 6.7 ppg, 1.8 rpg, .846 FT), Joseph Stroud (C, 6-8, Sr., Seattle, Wash., Second Team All-GNAC, 12.1 ppg, 5.5 rpg, .705 FG, 69 blocks).

Other Returning Players: Devin Matthews (G, 6-2, Sr., Las Vegas, Nev., 5.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg, .482 FG, 83 assists), Terry Dawn (G, 6-4, Jr., Arlington, Wash., 7.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, .392 3 pt., .766 FT), Jerome Bryant (F, 6-7, So., Los Angeles, Calif., 1.5 ppg, 1.5 rpg, .464 FG), Drake Rademacher (F, 6-8, So., Enumclaw, Wash., 2.9 ppg, 1.8 rpg).

Key Losses: Dom Williams (G, First Team All-GNAC).

Top Newcomers: Naim Ladd (G, 5-8, R-Fr., Seattle, Wash. – Rainier Beach), Chris-Michael Garrett (F, 6-5, Jr., Seattle, Wash. – Green River CC).

GNAC Men's Basketball Teams At A Glance

CONCORDIA

Head Coach: Brad Barbarick (Columbia Christian, 1987, 329-327, 22nd Season)

Assistant Coaches: Jeff Christianson, Josh Hall, Marquis Matthews

2014-15 Overall Record: 25-7

GNAC Record (Finish): First Year In GNAC (14-4 CCC, advanced to NAIA Nat'l Tour.)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 6/7

Starters Returning/Lost: 0/5

Returning Starters: None.

Other Returning Players: Davis Nuaimi (PG, 5-11, Jr., Fontana, Calif., 4.7 ppg, 1.2 rpg, .417 FG, .776 FT, 51 assists), Tyler Gutierrez (C, 6-8, So., Beaverton, Ore., 2.7 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 14 blocks), Taylor Harris (G, 6-4, So., Portland, Ore., 2.4 ppg, 1.7 rpg, .444 FG).

Key Losses: Evan Middleton (F/C), Thomas Pierce (F), Tyler Velasquez (G), Justyn Searle (C), Anthony Holton (G).

Top Newcomers: Drew Martin (F, 6-8, Jr., Beaverton, Ore. – New Mexico Highlands Univ.), Latrell Wilson (G, 6-3, Jr., Arcata, Calif., Cabrillo JC).

MONTANA STATE BILLINGS

Head Coach: Jamie Stevens (Montana State Billings, 1999, 51-64, 5th Season)

Assistant Coach: Brad Schmit

2014-15 Overall Record: 5-23

GNAC Record (Finish): 3-13 (tie 9th)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7/6

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/3

Returning Starters: Momir Gataric (G/F, 6-5, Sr., Sunnyvale, Calif., 11.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, .516 FG, 44 assists), Emmanuel Johnson (F, 6-7, Sr., San Antonio, Texas, 8.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, .508 FG, .452 3 pt., 14 blocks), Jace Anderson (G, 5-10, Jr., Whitewater, Mont., Honorable Mention All-GNAC, 7.8 ppg, 1.0 rpg, .448 FG, .418 3 pt., .742 FT), Kendall Denham (G, 5-11, So., Malta, Mont., 6.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg, .745 FT).

Other Returning Players: Marc Matthews (G, 6-2, Jr., Sierra Vista, Ariz., 9.9 ppg, 2.9 rpg, .700 FT, 37 assists, 10 blocks), Jordan Perry (G, 6-4, So., Gilbert, Ariz., 6.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 28 assists), Christian Evans (F, 6-7, Fr., Bigfork, Mont., redshirted in 2014-15).

Key Losses: Antoine Hosley (G), Tyler Nelson (F).

Top Newcomers: Emmanuel Olufemi (F, 6-9, Jr., Lagos, Nigeria – Miles CC), Kamal Tall (F, 6-8, So., Leuven, Belgium – KU Leuven), Cade Alcorn (F, 6-8, Fr., Fresno, Calif. – Clovis North), Preston Beverly (F, 6-7, Fr., Wildomar, Calif. – Elsinore), Sven Jeuschede (G, 6-3, Fr., Roesrath, Germany – Leverkusen), Zack Lessinger (F, 6-8, Fr., Reno, Nev. – Galena).

NORTHWEST NAZARENE

Head Coach: Scott Flemming (Mount Vernon Nazarene, 1980, 1st Season; 24th Season Overall, 440-273)

Assistant Coaches: Paul Rush, Jon Hawkins, Daniel Nyom

2014-15 Overall Record: 14-16

GNAC Record (Finish): 11-7 (tie 5th, advanced to GNAC Tournament semifinals)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7/8

Starters Returning/Lost: 1/4

Returning Starters: Mike Wright (G, 6-1, Sr., Burlington, Ont., 7.6 ppg, 2.1 rpg, .745 FT, 91 assists).

Other Returning Players: Bouna N'Diaye (G, 6-6, Jr., Bergen, Norway, 8.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg, .451 FG, .771 FT, 42 assists, 31 blocks), Pol Olivier (G, 6-2, Jr., Tarragona, Spain, 3.3 ppg, .449 FG, .439 3 pt., 45 assists).

Key Losses: Kevin Rima (F/C, Second Team All-GNAC), Erik Kinney (G, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Alex Birketoft (G/F, Honorable Mention All-GNAC & GNAC Freshman of the Year).

SAINT MARTIN'S

Head Coach: Alex Pribble (California, 2007, 1st Season)

Assistant Coaches: Joseph Petschl, Terry Johnson, Mike Hayward

2014-15 Overall Record: 6-22

GNAC Record (Finish): 3-15 (tie 9th)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 4/6

Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3

Returning Starters: Trey Ingram (G, 6-1, So., Scottsdale, Ariz., 11.2 ppg, 2.1 rpg, .416 3 pt., .722 FT, 100 assists, 36 steals), Tyler Copp (G, 6-0, Jr., Camas, Wash., 7.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg, .755 FT, 55 assists).

Other Returning Players: Isaac Bianchini (G, 6-1, Jr., Sedro Woolley, Wash., 7.5 ppg, 1.6 rpg, .500 FG, .547 3 pt.), Victor Ieronymides (F, 6-6, So., Nicosia, Cyprus, 4.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, .440 FG, 10 blocks).

Key Losses: Riley Carel (G, Honorable Mention All-GNAC), Ryan Rogers (F), Tyler Idowu (F).

Top Newcomers: Fred Jorg (C, 7-0, Jr., Korschenbroich, Germany – Eastern Washington Univ.), Kevin Henderson (G/F, 6-5, Jr., Auburn, Wash. – Univ. of Montana), Cole Preston (G, 6-4, Jr., Escondido, Calif. – Sierra JC), Brandon Kenlivort (F, 6-6, Jr., San Anselmo, Calif. – College of Marin).

GNAC Men's Basketball Teams At A Glance

SEATTLE PACIFIC

Head Coach: Ryan Looney (Eastern Oregon 1998, 143-42, 7th Season; 11th Season Overall, 237-97)

Assistant Coaches: Grant Leep, Chris Filios, George Parker

2014-15 Overall Record: 24-8

GNAC Record (Finish): 13-5 (2nd, GNAC Tourn. Champions, 2nd Round NCAA Tourn.)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/5

Starters Returning/Lost: 2/3

Returning Starters: Mitch Penner (F, 6-5, Sr., Seattle, Wash., Honorable Mention All-GNAC, 13.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg, .473 FG, .716 FT), Bryce Leavitt (G, 6-4, Sr., Kennewick, Wash., 2.9 ppg, 2.4 rpg, .857 FT, 60 assists).

Other Returning Players: Brendan Carroll (G, 6-4, Sr., Brisbane, Australia, 6.2 ppg, 2.4 rpg, .471 FG, 34 assists), Garrett Swanson (F, 6-6, Sr., Spokane, Wash., 3.6 ppg, 2.1 rpg, .741 FT), Will Parker (G, 5-10, Jr., Sammamish, Wash., 3.5 ppg, 1.1 rpg, .717 FT, 39 assists), Joe Rasmussen (C, 6-8, Jr., Mercer Island, Wash., 2.8 ppg, 1.6 rpg, .487 FG), EJ Poulsen (C, 6-9, So., Reno, Nev., 1.5 ppg), Sam Simpson (F, 6-8, So., Boise, Idaho, 1.2 ppg).

Key Losses: Cory Hutson (C, Second Team All-GNAC), Riley Stockton (G, First Team All-GNAC), Matt Borton (F, Honorable Mention all-GNAC).

Top Newcomers: Olivier-Paul Betu (G, 6-1, Jr., Montreal, Que. – UC Davis), Gilles Dierickx (C, 7-0, Sr., Ghent, Belgium – Univ. of Washington), Hunter Eisenhower (F, 6-5, R-Fr., Wasilla, Alaska – Chadron State Univ.), Gabe Colosimo (G, 6-1, Fr., Draper, Utah - Juan Diego Catholic), Conner Van Dyken (G, 6-1, Fr., Bozeman, Mont – Manhattan Christian).

SIMON FRASER

Head Coach: Virgil Hill (Simon Fraser, 1994, First Season)

Assistant Coaches: Steve Hanson, Ivan Lekic

2014-15 Overall Record: 11-15

GNAC Record (Finish): 6-12 (7th)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 4/6

Starters Returning/Lost: 1/4

Returning Starters: Michael Harper (G, 6-4, Sr., Melbourne, Australia, 8.7 ppg, 3.5 rpg, .338 3 pt., .750 FT, 57 assists, 40 steals).

Other Returning Players: JJ Pankratz (G, 6-6, So., Abbotsford, B.C., 6.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, .791 FT, .316 3 pt., 27 steals), Hide Vos (G, 6-4, So., Barendrecht, Netherlands, 7.9 ppg, 1.4 rpg, .889 FT, .359 3 pt., 42 assists, 28 steals).

Key Losses: Sango Niang (G, Second Team All-GNAC).

Top Newcomers: Pape Seck (F, 6-10, Jr., Dakar, Senegal – Chaffey CC), Max Barkeley (G, 6-2, Jr., Vancouver, B.C. – Victor Valley JC), Oshea Gairey (G, 6-3, Fr., Frederick, Md. – St. John's Catholic Prep), Graham Smith (F, 6-5, Fr., Maple Ridge, B.C. – Piit Meadows).

WESTERN OREGON

Head Coach: Jim Shaw (Western Oregon, 1985, First Year)

Assistant Coaches: Kegan Bone, Gabe Palmquist-Clark, Omar Leary

2014-15 Overall Record: 23-7

GNAC Record (Finish): 15-3, 1st, advanced to GNAC Tourn. Semifinals, NCAA Tourn.)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 12/3

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1

Returning Starters: Andy Avgi (F, 6-6, Sr., Woodburn, Ore., GNAC Player of the Year, Sporting News Division II Preseason All-American, Division II Bulletin Preseason Super 16, 18.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg, .612 FG, .808 FT, 15 blocks), Devon Alexander (G, 6-1, Sr., Fontana, Calif., 10.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, .426 FG, 806 FT, 87 assists, 52 steals), Julian Nichols (G, 6-2, Sr., Upland, Calif., First Team All-GNAC, 12.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, .825 FT, .454 FG, 174 assists), Jordan Wiley (G, 6-6, Sr., MacKenzie River, Ore., 10.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, .797 FT).

Other Returning Players: Dezmond Dupree-Turner (G, 6-2, Sr., Spanaway, Wash., 2.8 ppg, 1.4 rpg).

Key Losses: Adam Hastings (F), Marwan Sarhan (F), Lewis Thomas (F).

Top Newcomers: Akil Reese (G, 6-2, Fr., Los Angeles, Calif. – Westchester), Alex Roth (G, 6-4, So., Salem, Ore. – Oregon State Univ.), Kadeem Strickland (G, 5-8, Fr., Portland, Ore. – Jefferson), Janvier Alaby (G, 6-1, Jr., San Diego, Calif. – Foothill JC), Tanner Omlid (G/F, 6-4, So., Monmouth, Ore. – Army), Isaiah Edwards (G, 6-5, Fr., Albany, Ore. – West Albany), Yanick Kulich (F, 6-6, Sr., Irvine, Calif. – Academy of Art Univ.).

GNAC Men's Basketball Teams At A Glance

WESTERN WASHINGTON

Head Coach: Tony Dominguez (Western Washington, 1994, 71-22, 4th Season)

Assistant Coaches: Greg Meier, Atiavo Jude

2014-15 Overall Record: 20-11

GNAC Record (Finish): 11-7 (tie 5th, advanced to GNAC Tourn. Championship game)

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/2

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/1

Returning Starters: Jeffrey Parker (F, 6-6, Jr., Richmond, Calif., Second Team All-GNAC, 15.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg, .507 FG, .434 3 pt.), Ricardo Maxwell (G, 5-10, Sr., Cincinnati, Ohio, Second Team All-GNAC, 15.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, .518 FG, .719 FT, 97 assists), Mac Johnson (C, 6-8, Sr., Spokane, Wash., 8.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg, .612 FG, 31 blocks), Harris Javier (PG, 5-10, Sr., Walnut, Calif., 3.3 ppg, 1.8 rpg, .810 FT).

Other Returning Players: Kyle Impero (G, 6-4, Sr., Everson, Wash., 7.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg), Blake Bowen (C, 6-9, Sr., Vancouver, Wash.), Evan Scholten (C, 6-7, So., Bothell, Wash., 1.4 ppg), Trey Dreschel (G, 6-5, RS-Fr., Woodinville, Wash. – Cedar Park Christian), Brett Kingma (G, 6-1, So., Mill Creek, Wash. – Univ. of Oregon), Colby Mitchell (F, 6-7, Sr., Chugiak, Alaska – Mount Hood CC).

Key Losses: Anye Turner (F, First Team All-GNAC), Joey Schreiber (F).

Top Newcomers: Michael Hill, Jr. (F, 6-8, Fr., Tacoma, Wash. – Future College Prep), Trevor Jasinsky (F, 6-7, Fr., Camas, Wash. – Camas), Brad Wallace (G, 5-11, So., Lacey, Wash. – Eastern Washington Univ.).

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