

## Northwest ranks high for athletes' classroom success

The Chicago-based National Collegiate Scouting Association has ranked Northwest 15th among all NCAA Division II universities in its fifth-annual Collegiate Power Rankings.

The rankings rate colleges and universities comprehensively based on student-athlete graduation rates, academic strength and athletic prowess.

Northwest is part of an elite group comprising fewer than 6 percent of colleges and universities nationwide who made the organization's Top 100 list for 2007.

"With so many great schools to choose from, NCSA's power rankings objectively help student-athletes compare collegiate opportunities so they know how institutions stack up pound for pound," said NCSA CEO Chris Krause. "This ranking shows that Northwest not only places

importance on winning games but on academics and graduating players as well." ■



The University's B.D. Owens Library is frequented by many student-athletes, one of the many factors that contribute to Northwest being recognized by the Collegiate Power Rankings.

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## Field dedication

When the Bearcats ran out under the new lights at Bearcat Stadium in August for their first night game of the season, they sank their cleats into the new synthetic turf field named for Head Coach Mel Tjeerdsma.

Northwest's Board of Regents approved a proposal to name the field after Tjeerdsma, following a presentation by Athletics Director Dr. Bob Boerigter.

In his remarks to the board, Boerigter summarized Tjeerdsma's stellar career at Northwest and said that for more than 13 seasons the coach has "set a standard by which all future members of (his) profession will be measured."

Prior to the 2007 season, Tjeerdsma had a .786 winning percentage, had captured eight MIAA championships and had advanced to the NCAA playoffs nine times. Under his leadership, the Bearcats reached the national title game four times and won back-to-back national championships in 1998 and 1999. ■



Aug. 23 was a night to remember for Bearcat football fans. Not only was the game played under the stadium's new lights, but it was eventually called because of lightning. However, the highlight of the evening came just before kickoff when Coach Mel Tjeerdsma was recognized for his outstanding Northwest career by having the field named in his honor. Tjeerdsma (above) thanked the fans and his family (right) revealed "Mel Tjeerdsma Field."

