



2005-06 Bearcat Athletic Weekly



Northwest athletics from Feb. 20-26

Northwest Schedule for Feb. 20-26*

• Wednesday, Feb. 22

WBB vs. #1 Washburn, 5:30 p.m.
MBB vs. Washburn, 7:30 p.m.

• Friday, Feb. 24

Softball at Evangel (Mo.) Tourn. - all day
M & W Tennis vs. Barton County, 4 p.m. (Topeka, Kan.)
M & W Track & Field at MIAA Champs. (Joplin, Mo.)

• Saturday, Feb. 25

M & W Track & Field at MIAA Champs. (Joplin, Mo.)
Softball at Evangel (Mo.) Tourn. - all day

• Sunday, Feb. 26

Baseball at West Florida, 5 p.m. (1-9)

* Note that events are subject to change

2005-06 Northwest Winter Honors

• Men's Basketball

Xzavier Gaines - MIAA Player of the Week (Feb. 13)

• Women's Basketball

Laura Friederich - ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Third Team



Quick Hitters

• **Basketball:** Both Bearcat teams have secured a spot in the 2006 MIAA Tournament, Mar. 2-5 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo. Tickets are sold on the Northwest campus (all-session passes) by calling (660) 562-1212.

• **Tennis:** The Bearcat men's and women's tennis teams begin the 2006 varsity campaign with matches in Topeka, Kan., this Friday. Both contests will be against Barton (Kan.) County C.C. beginning at 4 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Current Record: 18-8 / 9-6 MIAA

Last Week: L, 70-63 at Missouri Western last Wednesday
W, 67-61 at #7 Southwest Baptist last Saturday

This Week: vs. Washburn on Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

NOTES: Northwest Missouri State (18-8, 9-6 MIAA) men's basketball does battle with Washburn (10-13, 4-10 MIAA) on Wednesday in the final regular season game of 2005-06 for Northwest. Tip-off from Bearcat Arena is set for 7:30 p.m. Six teams have punched their ticket for the league tournament, but the seedings are in jeopardy as 1.5 games separate the top-four teams including No. 4 Northwest. The top three teams will get familiar with themselves as Central Missouri plays at Truman State on Wednesday and Southwest Baptist visits Truman on Saturday. The Bearcats swept the season series with #7 SW Baptist after a 67-61 defeat last Saturday. Washburn needs to get help for a chance at postseason play as it currently is the cellar dweller after a 65-55 loss at Emporia State last Wednesday. Having locked down a spot in its 15th straight MIAA Tournament, Northwest awaits to see who it will play in the opening round on March 3 in Kansas City, Mo. There is a chance the Bearcats could get as high as the second seed with the help of other teams. Fans can purchase Tournament tickets (all-session passes) by calling Northwest at (660) 562-1212.

Women's Basketball

Current Record: 15-11 / 7-8 MIAA

Last Week: L, 80-67 at Missouri Western last Wednesday
W, 84-79 at Southwest Baptist last Saturday

This Week: vs. #1 Washburn on Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

NOTES: The women's basketball team was victorious for the second times in three games, and have secured a spot no lower than sixth in the MIAA conference tournament. On Saturday, against Southwest Baptist, Northwest was up by as much as 15 points, but had to hang on for the 84-79 win. However, on Wednesday, it was a different story for Northwest as they came out of St. Joseph with an 80-67 loss in the hands of Missouri Western. In both games last week, Northwest used 39 combined points from senior Laura Friederich, and 31 points from sophomore Kelli Nelson. The Bearcats will now get ready to take on No. 1 Washburn, Wednesday night at Bearcat Arena. The Lady Blues have won 43 straight, which is the second longest streak in Division II history. North Dakota State, who won 49 games from 1993-95, holds the longest winning streak.

Men's & Women's Indoor Track and Field

Last Week: Both at Prairie Wolf Invitational at Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 17

This Week: Both at MIAA Championships at Joplin, Mo, Feb. 24-25

NOTES: Both teams will travel to Missouri Southern State University to compete in the MIAA Indoor Championships in Joplin, Mo., on Feb. 24-25. The meet will mark the last opportunity to qualify for the NCAA Championships on March 9-11. The men had three individual winners at the Prairie Wolf Invitational over the past weekend. **Keelen Green** won the 60-meter dash and placed third in the 200-meter, **E.J. Falkner** placed first in the 200-meter and third in the 60-meter, and **Daniel Urum-Eke** ended the evening first in the triple jump. **Eric Isley** finished second in the 800-meter run, his fourth top-three performance this season. **Bayo Adio** finished third in the high jump, recording a season high 6'8" jump. The highest finisher for the women, **Alisha Samuel**, took second in the 60-meter dash, her fourth top-three finish in the event this season.

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Baseball

Current Record: 0-0 / 0-0 MIAA

This Week: at West Florida on Sunday, 5:00 p.m. (1-9 inn.)

NOTES: The baseball team is scheduled to play against West Florida in Pensacola, Fla. on Sunday to begin a four-game stretch with the Argonauts. West Florida is 10-6 this season. Following the four games with West Florida, Northwest will head up to Montevallo, Ala., to play three games. The University of Montevallo is currently 6-4, but will play seven games before they take on Northwest on March 2. The Bearcats return 14 players from last season's roster, and three of their top offensive producers from last season. Those offensive starts include **Britt** and **Ryley Westman** and also **Matt Coons**, who combined to hit 14 home runs, knock in 126 RBIs and score 115 runs in 2005. Coons will also see action on the mound as well. In 2005, he had a 5.19 ERA, won five games, had two complete games in 52 innings of work. Northwest finished 34-24 last year and advanced to the semifinal round of the MIAA Tournament. The 2006 season was originally scheduled to begin at Central Arkansas Feb. 17-19 but was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Softball

Current Record: 0-0 / 0-0 MIAA

This Week: at Evangel Tournament, Friday and Saturday
vs. Rockhurst, 1 p.m. - Friday
vs. Bacone (Okla.), 5 p.m. - Friday
vs. Bellevue (Neb.), 7 p.m. - Friday
Saturday - Bracket Play

NOTES: Northwest Missouri State softball, coming off a 34-27 record in 2005 and tying for the school record in victories, kicks off the 2006 season at the Evangel (Mo.) Tournament this weekend. On Friday, Northwest takes on Rockhurst, Bacone (Okla.) and Bellevue (Neb.) while Bracket Play follows on Saturday. The Bearcats have enjoyed unparalleled success under fourth-year head coach **Susan Anderson**. In two of the last three seasons, the Bearcats have posted 30 or more wins twice, the only time that accomplishment has occurred in Northwest history. Also, the 84 victories in the last three seasons is second for any three-year span behind the 87 wins from 1985-87. Eight of nine position players return led by 2005 Second Team NFCA All-North Central Region selection **Katy John** and three-time All-MIAA pick **Ashley Pride**. Between the two players, John and Pride set or tied seven school records including John's 33 stolen bases and Pride's 10 home runs. The Bearcats were originally set to begin 2006 at Central Arkansas last weekend but cancelled the trip due to inclement weather.

Men's and Women's Tennis

Current Record: 0-0 / 0-0 MIAA

This Week: vs. Barton (Kan.) County CC on Friday, 4 p.m. in Topeka, Kan.

NOTES: Northwest Missouri State tennis will open up the spring season versus Barton (Kan.) County Community College on Feb. 24, in Topeka, Kan. In the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) preseason rankings announced Nov. 18, the women are ranked 28th in the nation and second in the North Central Region, while the men hold the 38th spot in the nation and sit on top of the regional poll. **Gena Lindsay** and **Erica Ramirez** are listed as the region's top doubles pair, and were ranked 19th in the national portion, after finishing eighth in the nation during fall action. Lindsay is ranked first in the women's singles for the region, along with **Carolina Amaral**, who earned the fourth spot in the region. The Northwest women ended its 2005 season at 18-11 overall and winners of the North Central Region. Lindsay won MIAA Player of the Year honors and the Co-Sportsmanship of the Year laurels. **Pablo Acebedo** is ranked third in the region for men's singles competition, while the pair of Acebedo and **Chris Smith** received a seventh-place nod for the region. The Northwest men's team was the 2005 MIAA runners-up after a 5-1 defeat to Southwest Baptist in the league tournament. Freshman **Jake Saulsbury** was conference champion at No. 6 singles. Overall, the Bearcats ended the year at 12-13.