**News Wire — 3/1/09**

- Division II programs get creative in WBCA Pink Zone campaing. Page 3.
- Incarnate Word head coach saves injured driver after accident. Page 5.

**NCAA to Announce 2009 Division II National Tournament Bracket**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The 2009 NCAA Division II women’s basketball tournament pairings will be announced on Sunday, March 8, at NCAA headquarters.

Action begins on March 13 with regional games. The Elite Eight will be held March 24-27 in San Antonio.

Northern Kentucky is the defending Division II champion.

Because of the current economic crisis, the NCAA is reevaluating postseason travel plans. Even Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is calling foul on the NCAA. In February, the Division II championships committee approved a contingency plan designed to save travel costs, USA Today reported.

Top seeds in basketball tournaments, for instance, normally host eight-team regionals. Under the NCAA’s plan, if seven teams would have to fly to the top seed’s campus, the top two seeds can host four-team subregionals.

The women’s basketball team at Alaska Anchorage is top seed in the West currently.

“This plan creates two classes of membership ... based on geography,” Palin wrote to Mike Racy, NCAA vice president for Division II, according to the Anchorage Daily News. She called that unfair.

“If implemented,” NCAA spokesman Stacey Osburn said by e-mail to USA Today, “this contingency plan, based on recent regional rankings in men’s and women’s basketball, will result in approximately $350,000” in savings.

“The reality of it is it’s a decision made in tough economic times,” said Mars Hill (N.C.) athletics director David Riggins, chair of the championships committee.

**No. 1 UAA Falls Twice on Trip**

NAMPA, Idaho — The No. 1-ranked Alaska-Anchorage women’s basketball team ran into a buzz saw for the second time in three nights, losing 71-48 to host Northwest Nazarene in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play on Feb. 21.

The Crusaders were led by the hot shooting of forward Kristin Hein and center Jennifer Williams, who combined to make 15 of 25 field goals and score 38 points.

Meanwhile, the Seawolves failed to have a player score double figures scoring for the second straight game, following its 54-42 loss at 14th-ranked Seattle Pacific that snapped a 22-game win streak.

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**Cleaning Out the Notebook**

Now that we’ve reached the end of the regular season, and March Madness is upon us, it’s a good time to look back at some of the topics we brought up earlier in the year, make some new observations, and clear out the notebook that is overflowing. Here goes:

- Awhile ago we asked you what you thought about moving back the men’s 3-point line, and if it would conflict with the women’s line, which stayed the same distance. I’ve been to a lot of basketball games this year, and my conclusion is, I don’t like it. Why? Because it’s confusing for referees, players, coaches and fans. Imagine having two half-court lines, one for men and one for women. Do you think that would be confusing? Indeed. On several occasions this season, I saw referees blow the 3-point call because they were confused. In Division III, you can’t go to the video replay, like in big-time Division I programs, so this caused many missed points this season. My recommendation: stick with one distance and call it good. There are too many lines on the court as it is anyway.

- I like the current trend of picking a game and calling it a white-out, black-out, red-out, or whatever the main school color is-out. Started in the college football circles, this type of promotion generates a lot of excitement, encourages fan participation, and makes the game more special. I’m all in favor of it. We all have enough anxiety these days and a special game-day promotion does a world of good and helps blow off some much needed steam. My recommendation: have every team designate one home game next season with a fill-in-the-color-out game.

- We asked you a few months ago about how the economy will impact you this season. Unfortunately, we asked the question just as the worst economic crises in our generation’s history was just getting going. Here we are in March and we have seen the NCAA, at all levels, make moves to limit expenses, plane flights, seedings, etc. to conserve much needed funds for fans and schools. My recommendation: keep it up. College sports are supposed to be fun and educational, and if times demand tough economic choices than we have to live with that. Professional leagues like the NFL and NBA have made cuts, so it only makes sense for the NCAA to do the same. My only hope is that by October of this year, when we come out with our next Preseason Preview, we’ll be able to see some economic progress.

- When we first started out in this business, everything was printed and mailed. Then we joined the information superhighway and began to send our issues to you electronically. This sped the process of getting you timely news and information tremendously. Now that the Internet is in full Web 2.0 mode, we’ve signed on for the next generation of communication tools. We started a Twitter account to keep in touch with readers and other fans. If you haven’t seen Twitter, I encourage you to take a look. In our ever-faster world, Twitter allows you to send 140-character messages to your group of followers, whoever they may be. It’s fast, and the wave of the future. Follow us at @SmallColHoops.

See you in April for the Postseason Awards. If you have an All-American nomination please send it our way.

Gary Rubin, Publisher

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**Publishing Schedule**

Women’s Division II Bulletin will publish 12 issues this season. Here’s a schedule to keep track of the issues:

- Preseason Preview
- December 1, 2008
- December 3 Extra
- December 17 Extra
- January 2, 2009
- January 7 Extra
- January 21 Extra
- February 1, 2009
- February 11 Extra
- February 25 Extra
- March 1, 2009
- April 2009 Wrap-Up

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Brown Resigns from Mesa State Basketball Post

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Timi Brown will step down at the end of the season as the head women’s basketball coach at Mesa State College, Athletic Director Butch Miller announced.

Brown’s departure comes after four and a half years at the helm of the women’s program (2004-2009). She has guided the Mavericks to a 56-71 overall record. Her best season came in 2006-2007 when the team posted a 17-11 overall record. In 2007-2008 she led the Mavericks to a 12-7 conference record, a tie for second place in the west division, and a trip to the RMAC post season tournament.

Prior to Brown’s arrival she was the head coach at Odessa College (TX) where she guided the Wranglers to the Western Junior College Athletic Conference championship in 2004 with a 25-5 record, and a berth to the NJCAA regional tournament. She was named Western Junior College Athletic Conference Coach of the year.

“We are very grateful for the time, effort and dedication that Coach Brown has given to our women’s basketball program and Mesa State College,” said Miller.

The Mavericks play on the road this Tuesday at Western State College.

The search for a new head women’s basketball coach will begin immediately.

Division II Programs Enter the Pink Zone in Fight Against Cancer

Many Division II women’s basketball teams participated in the Women’s Basketball Coaches’ Association’s “Pink Zone” initiative Feb. 13-22, a unified effort for the WBCA’s nation of coaches to assist in raising breast cancer awareness on the court, across campuses, in communities, and beyond.

For example, the University of Southern Indiana asked fans to “Pack the PAC in Pink” when it hosted Missouri University of Science and Technology. Instead of wearing their traditional white uniforms, the Screaming Eagles, below, left, wore pink uniforms.

The Mercy College Athletics Department raised over $1,000 to be donated to the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund. The Mercy basketball teams represented the department and helped raise awareness on the court in the fight against breast cancer. The women’s squad wore pink t-shirts during warm-ups and donned pink socks and shoelaces during the game, while playing with a commemorative pink and white striped basketball (below, right) that was part of the Super Raffle. The men’s squad also showed their support by wearing pink shoelaces. Coaches, staff members and fans also came in their pink gear.

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The Coach’s Seat

Courtside

With......

Bill Sullivan, Barry University

WDIIB: What made you want to be a basketball coach?

Sullivan: My love for the game of basketball. My father had a big influence on my fondness for the game as he often told me stories about his experiences as a member of the University of Louisville basketball team. At a young age I found I had a passion for the game. After my first coaching experience (I coached a boys junior varsity high school team), I knew that coaching basketball was something I loved to do. Coaching brought me a great deal of satisfaction. I enjoy practice, developing strategies, and of course, the games. The satisfaction for me came not only in helping a young person develop basketball skills to become better a player, but helping them grow to become a better person as well. Hopefully, I have been a positive influence in the lives of the young people I have coached.

WDIIB: What do you like about being a coach at the Division II level?

Sullivan: I cannot speak for all Division II schools, but at Barry, the coaches of the various sports have a close bond. We often enjoy having lunch together, attending each others games or matches, and occasionally playing a little golf together. I also like the fact that there seems to be an emphasis on being a student first and an athlete second. As often as possible, game schedules are arranged so that student-athletes will have to miss a limited number of classes.

WDIIB: How would you rate the SSC as a basketball conference?

Sullivan: The SSC is an extremely competitive conference that seems to be getting stronger each year. The coaching is outstanding and the talent level is impressive as evidenced by the fact that over the past few years, it has not been unusual for a SSC school to upset a Division I university in an exhibition game. The SSC fairs well when competing against teams from other conferences.

WDIIB: How would you describe your coaching philosophy, offensively and defensively?

Sullivan: Offensively, whenever we get a defensive rebound or turnover, we try to fastbreak and get a good shot before the opponent’s defense has a chance to setup. If a quick-shot opportunity is not available, we flow into a motion-type offense. When the opponent scores, we usually run either a set play or our motion offensive until we get a good look at the basket. We emphasize being unselfish, making the extra pass, and taking high-percentage shots. Defensively, we are mostly a man-to-man team. We will, however, use some zone occasionally. We try to play hard every possession, play aggressive on-the-ball defense, and make sure we are in good help position on the weak side. Our defensive game plan usually includes trying to take away one or two of the offensive strengths of the opposing team.

WDIIB: What is the most memorable win of your coaching career? Loss?

Sullivan: The most memorable win was probably our victory over Florida Southern College earlier this year. The game was broadcast live on national television as the Women’s Game-of-the-Week on the CBS College Sports Network. Our team played extremely well on both ends of the court and we were able to defeat a high-scoring FSC team. The most memorable loss would probably be our three-point loss to the University of Miami in an exhibition game this year. The Hurricanes are a talented team in the ACC and our young ladies played hard and almost pulled off the upset.

WDIIB: What is the biggest challenge you face?

Sullivan: Perhaps our biggest challenge is having to wait as we go through the growing pains required to develop an elite basketball program. Barry University has won seven national titles in other sports, but only one conference championship in women’s basketball. We are trying to bring in talented student-

continued on page 5
Coaches' Seat, continued

athletes that will help us build a strong basketball program. Our goal is to become one of the top teams not only in our conference, but nationally as well. We believe we are making strides in the right direction as earlier this year we received the highest national ranking in our women’s basketball history - #13 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches’ Poll.

WDIIIB: When was the last time you attended a coaching seminar or read a basketball book?

Sullivan: This year we purchased a set of basketball DVDs teaching a motion-type offense. I have attended several of the coaches’ clinics at the NCAA Final Four. I believe I have learned something every time I listen to another coach talk about basketball. I try to maintain a learning, teachable attitude that will allow me to grow as a coach and keep up with the changes in the game.

WDIIIB: If you could change one basketball rule, what would it be and why?

Sullivan: Presently, there is not a rule I would change. I have wondered, however, why the men have a 35-second shot clock and the women’s shot clock is 30 seconds? Perhaps both the men’s and the women’s shot clock should be the same.

WDIIIB: Did you or do you currently have a mentor? How did it help you?

Sullivan: My mentor would have to be Cesar Odio, the head coach of the men’s basketball team at Barry University. Cesar is a close friend and has one of the best basketball minds of any coach I have been around. We frequently bounce plays, strategies, and ideas off of each other. I value his opinion and frequently seek his advice.

WDIIIB: What recruiting functions are you doing now?

Sullivan: We are probably doing the same recruiting functions as every other coach in America at this time. We are watching game film of prospects, making phone calls, emailing recruits, and going to high school and JUCO games and practices.

Newman Head Coach Anderson Saves Driver After Car Crash

SAN ANTONIO — It wasn’t an ordinary road trip for Newman head coach Tracy Anderson. While her team was in San Antonio to play Incarnate Word, Anderson found herself in the middle of a life-saving situation after a car ahead of her smashed into a concrete dividing wall.

Anderson and several of her players were in a van heading back to their hotel after the team’s late morning shootaround. After becoming separated from the other van, Anderson took a three-lane exit off of Interstate 10 when a black Ford Taurus several cars in front of her smashed crashed into a metal rail then came to rest in the middle of traffic with extensive damage to its front driver’s side.

Anderson told The Wichita Eagle that for a split second, she thought about just driving past the accident.

“The first thing that came to mind was that I had the kids with me, and I wanted to keep them safe so I hesitated,” Anderson said to the newspaper. “But only for a second.”

Here’s how The Wichita Eagle described what happened next:

Anderson pulled the van over, told her players to stay in the vehicle and made her way to the car and its injured passenger as traffic continued to speed past.

When she got to the car, the driver, a man, was unconscious behind the wheel. Anderson thought about waiting for paramedics to come because she knew her players were calling 911 but noticed the man was bleeding from the mouth and decided to take action.

“I guess the first thing I thought was that maybe he had a seizure while he was driving because he didn’t even try to brake before he hit the wall,” Anderson said. “When I saw the blood, I tried to open the door; but it was locked and the window was up, so I started trying to bust the window out with my keys, then a couple of my players came over with a cement slab.

“Some of them were even directing traffic, so I guess they didn’t listen to me when I told them not to get out of the van.”

Traffic continued to pass by as Anderson made a first, unsuccessful attempt at busting out the window, then another dutiful passerby came over with a metal hitch the group of good samaritans used to bust the window out.

Anderson, who is CPR-trained, found a pulse on the driver and took off his seat belt as he started to regain consciousness. Disoriented, he began to thrash around, and Anderson helped hold him in place until the paramedics arrived.

“I never really get nervous before games, but this was something entirely different,” Anderson said. “It was probably the scariest thing that’s ever happened to me.”

The San Antonio Police Department confirmed the accident took place but would not give out the name of the driver involved and did not have any details on his condition.
Monthly Awards

Player of the Month
February 2009
Dominic Cranford, West Georgia, Sr.

West Georgia senior Dominic Cranford is the Women's Division II Bulletin Player of the Month for February.
Cranford led the Wolves in scoring three times during the month and helped them go on a 6-0 win mark. She put up 27 points against both Montevallo and West Florida. She leads the Wolves in scoring at 19.1 points and is also grabbing 5.5 rebounds a game. She was twice named the Gulf South Conference East Division Player of the Week during the month.

Coach of the Month
February 2009
Heather Kearney, California (Pa.)

California (Pa.) head coach Heather Kearney is the Women's Division II Bulletin Coach of the Month for February.
Kearney led the Vulcans to a 7-1 mark during the month and helped them go on a 6-0 win mark. She put up 27 points against both Montevallo and West Florida. She leads the Wolves in scoring at 19.1 points and is also grabbing 5.5 rebounds a game. She was twice named the Gulf South Conference East Division Player of the Week during the month.

Game of the Month
February 2009
Drury @ Southern Indiana
Feb. 7, 2009

University of Southern Indiana Head Coach Rick Stein’s 100th career victory at the Physical Activities Center will go down as one of the best as his Screaming Eagles defeated Drury University, 90-86, in a double-overtime thriller.

Senior forward/center Ninette Evans had a lay-up and a blocked shot in the final 30 seconds of the second overtime period; then sophomore guard Amie Newhart drained a pair of free throws with five ticks left on the clock to give USI the crucial four-point home victory over the visiting Panthers.
The Eagles dominated much of the game, running up a 13-point lead in the first period and a 17-point advantage in the second half. However, USI could not shake Drury as the Panthers roared back to tie the contest at the end of regulation.

Drury had an opportunity at the end of regulation to come away with the victory, but the Eagles’ defense, behind one of four blocks by Evans, held its ground to force an extra frame.

Behind a strong performance from senior forward/center Brittany Neuman, the Eagles went toe-to-toe with the defending GLVC champions for another five minutes. Neuman scored half of USI’s eight points in the first overtime period to keep USI a step ahead of Drury.

Still, the Eagles needed another defensive stand in the final 10 seconds of the extra frame to force a second overtime period. The Eagles forced Drury guard Ja’Nell Jones into a desperation three-point attempt and Evans corralled the rebound to keep the score tied at 76 and send the contest into another five-minute period.

Neuman took over in the second overtime, scoring eight of her game-high 25 points in the period before fouling out with 42 seconds to play.

With the score tied at 86, Evans used a feed from sophomore guard Lauren Meneghetti to hit an uncontested lay-up and give the Eagles a one-possession lead.

On the next possession, Evans blocked Jones’s base-line jumper and grabbed the ball before giving it off to Newhart with 5.3 seconds left in the game. Newhart, who was promptly fouled, hit a pair of free throws to seal the victory for the Eagles.

Short Takes

• Northwest Missouri State head coach Gene Steinmeyer won his 500th career game with a 75-73 victory against Southwest Baptist.
• Saint Joseph’s College Athletic Director Bill Massoels announced that the interim title will be taken off women’s basketball coach Brandon Turner. Turner was promoted in August to assume coaching duties of a SJC women’s basketball team that featured nine freshmen and one sophomore.