

# Athletics History

Farmers! Hayseeds! Pumpkins! Squash!  
W.A.C.! By Gosh!

Sounds pretty corny today, doesn't it? Students at Washington Agricultural College and School of Science—now Washington State University—came up with this when they cheered for their baseball team in its very first game. That was 115 years ago. WAC beat the Pullman Military College 26 to 0. The game marked the beginning of Intercollegiate Athletics at WSU.

Track began in June of 1892. Students cut a track in a field of oats where Martin Stadium is today. WAC beat the Pullman Military College—again. Intercollegiate competition in football began in 1894. WAC defeated Idaho 10-0 at Moscow. The local newspaper said “the cheers of Washington Agricultural College aggregation were deafening.” We didn't have a gymnasium at WAC until 1902, but the men's basketball team played the Spokane YMCA in 1901 and lost—would you believe 31-0!

Field hockey, tennis, and basketball were the earliest women's sports at WSU, mostly intramurals. The first women's basketball game with an off-campus opponent was played against Walla Walla High School in 1901. WAC won 14-12. The biggest “intercollegiate” win for the women's team came in 1903, over the University of Washington. The final score was 4-2. How times—and basketball—have changed. Jeanne Eggart scored 1,967 points in her career at WSU in 1979-82, still the all-time record for women!

In 1982, the women and men's athletics departments merged to create one unified organization. In 1985, the women's programs became part of the Pacific-10 Conference and the NCAA.

Today, WSU fields teams in 17 men's and women's sports which compete in the prestigious Pacific-10 Conference. Men's teams compete in football, basketball, baseball, indoor and outdoor track, cross country, and golf. WSU women compete in basketball, indoor and outdoor track, cross country, volleyball, soccer, swimming, rowing, golf, and tennis. Washington State was one of the first institutions to bring men's and women's sports into parity following passage of the Title IX legislation by Congress in 1972.

WSU's 17 sports have rich histories in NCAA postseason competition. WSU has won two NCAA national team titles, in boxing (1937) and men's indoor track (1977). Washington State football has made 10 Bowl appearances, winning six times. WSU has played in four Rose Bowl games (1916, 1930, 1998, 2003). Cougar volleyball has made 10 postseason appearances, including nine NCAA and one NIVC—winning the championship in 1992. Women's tennis has qualified for NCAA postseason play five times. Women's soccer participated in the 2008 NCAA tournament, the program's fourth appearance. Women's golf has been selected to the NCAA Regionals six consecutive years, advancing to the championships in 2003. Kim Welch was named All-American in 2003 and 2004 while Anastasia Kostina earned the same honors in

2005 and 2006. Men's golf made its first NCAA postseason trip in 2001. Swimming has had three All-Americans in the past five years. Cougar rowers jumped to elite status in 2006, finishing fourth overall at the NCAA Championships, highlighted by a fourth-place finish by the WSU varsity eight. In 2008 the Cougars made their fifth NCAA Championship appearance in seven years, placing eighth overall. In 2004 WSU was ninth overall, while it placed 12<sup>th</sup> in 2003. The varsity eight finished 13<sup>th</sup> in 2002 after receiving an at-large bid. The rowing team also made two consecutive appearances at the National Collegiate Rowing Championships (1994-95), with the 1995 JV eight winning the national title. Men's basketball has been to the NCAA tournament six times and the NIT four times. In 1941, coach Jack Friel's team was the runner-up for the national title. The Cougars tied the school record with 26 wins in both 2007 and 2008, advancing to the second round in 2007 and the Sweet Sixteen in 2008. Baseball has played in the NCAA College World Series four times, finishing second in 1950. Women's basketball has also made one appearance in the NCAA tournament. In men's cross country, three WSU athletes have won seven NCAA titles. Women's indoor and outdoor track and field have captured six NCAA individual titles since the NCAA sponsorship for women's collegiate sports began in 1986, including Whitney Evans' high jump title in 2003. The Cougar men have captured 58 national collegiate titles in indoor and outdoor track and field competition since 1909, including Jeshua Anderson's back-to-back 400m hurdle outdoor titles in 2008 and 2009.

There are a number of buildings and facilities on campus whose history is tied to WSU's athletics program.

- The Cougars' home court is now called Marcia Saneholtz Court at Bohler Gym in honor of the 28-year administrative veteran of Cougar Athletics who retired October 1, 2007. Saneholtz was the WSU Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA and was a long-time proponent of gender equity and a champion for all "sports at WSU As well as in the Pac-10 and the nation. She was the NACCWAA president (1992-93), on the board of directors (1987-94), and named 1997 Administrator of the Year. She also received the NAGWS Pathfinder Award in 2001 and WSU Woman of Distinction in 2003.
- Bohler Gymnasium is named for the Grand Old Man of Cougar Athletics, J. Fred "Doc" Bohler, who was Director of Physical Education and Athletics at WSU from 1908 until 1950.
- Hollingbery Field House honors Orin E. "Babe" Hollingbery, the legendary Cougar football coach from 1926 to 1942.
- Smith Gymnasium is named for Dr. Helen Smith, chair of the Women's Physical Education department from 1928 to 1962.
- Bailey-Brayton Field is named for Arthur B. "Buck" Bailey, who coached baseball from 1927 until 1962, and Charles "Bobo" Brayton, head coach from 1962 to 1994.
- Jack Mooberry Track honors the Cougars' track coach from 1945 to 1973.
- Jack Friel Court in the Beasley Performing Arts Coliseum is named for WSU's basketball coach of the 1928-58 era.
- Gibb Pool in the Physical Education Building honors Douglass Gibb, swim coach from 1942 to 1974.
- The Ike Deeter Room in Bohler Gymnasium is named for the Cougars' boxing coach (1932-59) who brought WSU its first national championship in 1937.

- Goldsworthy Hall, in the WSU student residence system, is named for Harry E. Goldsworthy, a WSU Regent in 1942-47. Goldsworthy played end and was captain of the 1906 WSU football team that was unbeaten, untied, and unscored upon.
- Camp Room named in honor of the Jerry Camp family from Spokane, Washington, and longtime athletics department and university supporters.

In the outer concourse of Beasley Performing Arts Coliseum hang the portraits of 113 athletes, coaches, and administrators who, since 1978, have been inducted into the **WSU Athletics Hall of Fame**. Here is a list of a few of the great Cougars you'll see:

- George Raveling, a coach with one of the best records in WSU men's basketball history (1972-1983), took the Cougars to two NCAA tournaments (1980, 1983). He won numerous coach-of-the-year honors and was inducted into the Pac-10 Basketball Men's Hall of Honor in 2004.
- Laura Lavine won two Pacific-10 Conference and two NCAA championships in the discus during her WSU Career, 1984-88. She was known for her clutch throws, winning the 1988 NCAA title on her last effort and in 1987 captured the Pac-10 title on her last throw. In 1996 she was selected WSU's Women Athlete of the Decade.
- Mike Utley was the most highly decorated gridiron star in Cougar history when he left in 1988—including his selection to six All-America first teams. He played in the NFL for the Detroit Lions until a spinal cord injury ended his career in 1991. He formed the Mike Utley Foundation to aid in the research of spinal cord injuries.
- Bob Robertson is the long-time voice of Cougar football. For many years he also broadcast WSU basketball, starting in 1964. Robertson is the most recognized sports voice in the state of Washington and has been named the state's Sportscaster of the Year a record 15 times.
- John Olerud was named *Baseball America's* NCAA Player of the Year (1988). A Cougar pitcher (1987-89), Olerud went directly to the Major Leagues playing first base in Toronto, New York Mets, Seattle, New York Yankees and Boston. His father, Dr. John E. Olerud, is also in the Hall of Fame. In 2007 he was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Sarah Silvernail, WSU volleyball player (1993-96), was an All-American (1995, 1996) and the Pac-10 Player of the Year in 1996. She played professionally in Chicago and Switzerland.
- Drew Bledsoe quarterbacked the Cougars from 1990-93, setting many school passing records. He took New England to the 1997 Super Bowl and recently retired from the NFL after a 14-year career.
- Chuck "Bobo" Brayton was the most successful coach in Cougar history, with 1,162 victories and 22 titles in 33 baseball seasons (1962-1994). In 2007 he was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Mel Hein, WSU's All-American center (1930), charter member of the College and Professional Football Halls of Fame.
- Jeanne Eggart, WSU's all-time leading scorer in women's basketball, with 1,967 points in her four-year career (1979-1982).
- Henry Rono, WSU distance ace; set four world records in less than four months in 1978 (5,000 meters, 3,000-meter steeplechase, 3,000 meters, and 10,000 meters).

- Gerry Lindgren, first American to beat the Russians in the distances (1964), and winner of an unequaled 11 straight NCAA Championships (1964-67).
- JoAnn Washam, Cougar basketball and golf star (1969-1972). First professional golfer to score two holes-in-one in a regular tour tournament.
- Gene Conley, star of WSU 1950 championship team in basketball and baseball; played on World Championship teams in two professional sports, Boston Celtics in basketball and Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Braves in baseball.
- Herbert “Butch” Meeker, Cougar quarterback (1925-27); the player for whom the WSU Cougar mascot was named.

*(Written by Dick Fry, updated annually by Athletics Media Information)*

## **WSU FIGHT SONG**

Fight, fight, fight for Washington State! Win the victory!  
 Win the day for Crimson and Gray!  
 Best in the West, we know you'll all do your best,  
 So on, on, on, on! Fight to the end! Honor and glory you must win!  
 So fight, fight, fight for Washington State and victory!

## **WASHINGTON, MY WASHINGTON**

(WSU Alma Mater)

Washington, my Washington, the Crimson and the Gray!  
 Tis the songs of memory that we sing today.  
 When the sad hours come to you and sorrows 'round you play, just  
 sing the songs of Washington, the Crimson and the Gray, just  
 sing the songs of Washington, the Crimson and the Gray.