

FOCUS on Athletics Vol. II, Issue VI



Mauricio Modestin
Photo by Deb Montez

Men's Basketball Ready to Make Final Push

The men's basketball team was scheduled to have a four-game stretch in seven days, but because of the snow and ice that followed, two of their games – Whatcom at home and Edmonds on the road – have now been rescheduled. The current schedule can be found [here](#). The Rangers, like most NWAACC basketball teams, are now faced with a six-game span in the next thirteen days. Tonight's game at Peninsula is the beginning of an opportunity to make a final push towards a playoff spot that is still ripe for the taking.

Head Coach **Barry Janusch** still believes the team has yet to reach its potential. "We've only been at full strength in three games this year," Janusch said. The full strength he is referring to is the trifecta of guards: Josh Koets, Mauricio Modestin and Cartiea French-Toney being on the court together. Early on, Koets, who was an all-leaguer last year, was thought to be lost for the season due to a knee injury. Much to everyone's delight, a speedy recovery for Koets has allowed him to play his sophomore season. "I don't like admitting it, but we are still trying to figure each other out. We are still learning each other," said Janusch.

The Rangers proved they can play with the best. In a 74-72 loss at home to Bellevue on January 4, OC played right with the Bulldogs, only to lose in the final seconds. Sophomore **Mauricio Modestin** – who went for 32 points in a game earlier this season against Shoreline – has established himself as a formidable threat. Modestin, from Lincoln High in Tacoma, is scoring just over 20 points per game. Janusch thinks he can elevate himself even higher. "If he can put two halves together, there's no ceiling for what he can do. We're still waiting for that to happen," said Janusch.

Fellow sophomore **Cartiea French-Toney** has been productive for the Rangers too. "He's been doing a little bit of scoring, he's rebounding well from the guard spot, providing leadership, and his assist to turnover ratio is very good," said Janusch. French-Toney is currently averaging five assists per game, good for second overall in the NWAACC.

Koets – who is from Bremerton – has been scoring again like last year and is "playing hard" like always, according to Janusch. "He's improved his perimeter shooting." Janusch also praised **Corey Foster** for his consistent play. "He sometimes gets in foul



Josh Koets
Photo by Deb Montez

trouble 'cause he works so damn hard," Janusch said. He attributes it to always guarding bigger guys.

It won't be an easy road to try and qualify for the playoffs. The NWAACC North Division is as strong as ever this season. The most recent NWAACC poll ranked Bellevue, Whatcom, and Peninsula in the top four; Bellevue is the No. 1 team overall. Whatcom is currently the only team that has yet to lose a game in league play.

There are still 12 league games left, and the final month of the season will determine OC's fate. Even with a 1-3 record to start league play, the Rangers are only 1.5 games back in the race for the fourth and final playoff berth from the North. "We need to play 40 total minutes. If we can step up defensively and play better team defense, it will keep us close in games when our offense goes dry," Janusch said.

Tonight's challenge will be Peninsula guard J.T. Terrell. The USC-bound sophomore is the second leading scorer in the NWAACC at 27 points per game. Terrell played at Wake Forest his freshman year before transferring to Peninsula. He was rated as the No. 1 ranked junior college player in America according to Swannys Roundball Review.

OC Alum Quint Tabbed as New Softball Coach

Former Ranger alum Erika Quint has been named the new head softball coach. The 2007 Central Kitsap High School grad has assumed the duties of OC's most successful athletic program in the past decade.



Erika Quint
Photo courtesy WWU Athletics

Quint was a pitcher for Olympic College from 2008-2009 and was a first-team NWAACC North Division selection both years. In 2008, she was the Olympic College Female Athlete of the Year as well as North Division pitcher of the year. After OC, Quint pitched at Western Washington University in Bellingham, where she set numerous school records including strikeouts and wins in a season, despite playing only two years. The Vikings were ranked as high as No. 6 nationally her senior year. Quint was a first-team Daktronics National West Region all-star in 2011 and was a GNAC first-team all-star in 2010 and 2011.

Her playing resume speaks for itself, and her local ties should help the Rangers attract talent from around the area. Quint was Western's student assistant coach this year before accepting the position at OC.

Her first priorities will be to assemble her coaching staff and get acquainted with her current team, albeit one she's inheriting. "I'm very excited to set the expectation of winning an NWAACC championship on a yearly basis. This is really surreal for me to coach here at OC," said Quint. There are currently six sophomores – five returners – on the roster. Local sophomore infielders **Bridjet Box** (South Kitsap) and **Jessica Klump** (Olympic) were all-league players last spring.

Quint replaces Jessica Cabato, who in her four years compiled a 91-64 record, qualifying for the playoffs in all her four years as coach. Quint helped the Rangers to 3rd and 4th place finishes under Cabato at the NWAACC tournament in 2008 and 2009. OC's first game is March 3 at a preseason tournament in the Tri-Cities. The team will play their home games at Lions Field in East Bremerton this season.

Women's Basketball Still Winless

It has been a struggle for the women's basketball team this season. Headed into tonight's game at Peninsula, the Rangers are still in search of their first win. The Rangers (0-4, 0-11) were last in action on Monday, January 16th, when they lost to Seattle at home 79-62.

Head coach **Tammy Helwig** is hopeful that the addition of **RaNesha Pate** (Mount Tahoma HS) can ignite the offense. In her two games since joining the team, she has shown she can be a scoring threat. In a recent game at Skagit Valley, Pate engineered a 23-point performance.

Olympic's remaining schedule sets them up for some potential wins in the future. They have yet to play winless Edmonds (0-4, 0-12), and played right with Shoreline (2-5, 8-8) on the road in a 44-36 loss on January 7. OC travels to Edmonds for a makeup game Monday, February 6, and hosts the Tritons on February 20.

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Upcoming Home Games

SATURDAY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL – 2pm vs. Everett

Bremer Student Center

MEN'S BASKETBALL – 4pm vs. Everett

Bremer Student Center

NEXT MONDAY



Brittany Lamar
Photo by Deb Montez

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL – 5pm vs. Whatcom

Bremer Student Center

MEN'S BASKETBALL – 7pm vs. Whatcom

Bremer Student Center



Athletics

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