

# GNAC 2007-08 Basketball Media Guide



# GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

The Great Northwest Athletic Conference, which is in its seventh season of athletic competition, is comprised of 10 NCAA Division II schools.

The 10 schools are located in five different states, including five in the state of Washington: Central Washington University, Saint Martin's University, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University and Western Washington University.

The GNAC, which was officially founded on July 1, 2001, also includes the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Montana State University Billings, Northwest Nazarene University (Idaho) and Western Oregon University. Humboldt State University (Calif.) was a charter member of the conference but left following the 2005-06 season. MSU Billings joined the GNAC this fall.

Prior to the formation of the GNAC, all the schools were members of the PacWest Conference.

Four of the schools in the conference - Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Fairbanks, Montana State Billings and Seattle Pacific - were charter members of the PacWest, which was created in May, 1992 with the merger of the Great Northwest Conference and the Continental Divide Conference.

Four current GNAC members - Central Washington, Saint Martin's, Western Oregon and Western Washington - joined the PacWest prior to the 1998-99 season.

Central Washington, Saint Martin's and Western Washington were previously members of the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference, while Western Oregon was a member of the Cascade Conference.

Seattle University and Northwest Nazarene, from the Northwest and Cascade conferences, joined the PacWest prior to the 1999-2000 season.

Richard Hannan, who served terms as the athletic director at Southwest Texas State University, Weber State University and at Lewis-Clark State College, serves as the Commissioner for the GNAC. He also previously coached basketball at Lewis-Clark State College.

The GNAC sponsors championships in seven men's and seven women's sports, including volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's basketball, baseball, men's golf, softball, men's and women's indoor track-and-field and men's and women's outdoor track-and-field.



## COMMISSIONER - Richard R. Hannan (Seventh Year)



Richard R. Hannan, who has been involved in intercollegiate athletics for more than three decades, was appointed the first commissioner of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) on May, 2001.

Prior to taking over as commissioner, Hannan, a native of Spokane, Wash., served as interim athletic director at Lewis-Clark State College. Hannan, who also was the athletic director and head basketball coach at LCSC between 1974 and 1989, has also been an athletic director at two NCAA Division I schools.

Hannan, who earned a BA degree in social science in 1963 at Eastern Washington University, coached basketball at Columbia Basin College for seven years (1967-74) before beginning his first term at LCSC.

While at LCSC, he served as the host athletic director for the NAIA national baseball tournament for six years. He developed an honorary coaches program for the tournament. He also helped organize the Lewis-Clark State Warrior Booster Club, which became a substantial funding source for the college.

The LCSC program made substantial growth during his tenure, correcting inequities in the women's sports programs and adding the sports of men's and women's tennis. The Warrior baseball team also won four NAIA national titles during his term.

Hannan was appointed the athletic director at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, in 1989. Three years later he was appointed to the same position at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Tex before returning to the Northwest.

During his tenure at Weber State, he implemented a student advisory board and created an academic support system for student-athletes. He also balanced the athletic department budget in spite of an \$183,000 revenue shortfall and developed coaches television shows. He also created a radio broadcasting program, bring the game broadcasts, promotions and marking "in-house."

At Southwest Texas State, Hannan was responsible for creating and developing the schools' first athletics endowment fund, doubling revenue production for the athletic department. He initiated a television program for football, a format that was adopted by the Southland Conference. He also developed and implemented a program to eliminate Title IX department deficiencies.

Hannan, who earned a master's degree in guidance counseling from Eastern Washington in 1967, is a member of the NAIA Hall-of-Fame and the NWAACC Hall-of-Fame.

Prior to coaching at the collegiate level, he was the head basketball coach at North Central High School in Spokane between 1964 and 1967.

Hannan and his wife, Nancy, have been married for 46 years. They have three adult children, Gregory, Molly (Akey) and Douglas, and four grandchildren.

On The Cover: Among the returning players this winter in the GNAC are Western Washington's Ira Graham and Central Washington's Bryce Daub (upper left), Rebecca Kielpinski of Alaska Anchorage (upper right), Jason Simmons of Northwest Nazarene (lower left) and Beth Christensen of Seattle Pacific (lower right). Kielpinski was the women's Most Valuable Player a year ago. (Photos provided by school sports information offices).

# GNAC School Leaders

## University Presidents



**FRAN ULMER**  
Alaska Anchorage



**DR. STEVE JONES**  
Alaska Fairbanks



**DR. JERILYN  
McINTYRE**  
Central Washington



**DR. RONALD P.  
SEXTON**  
MSU Billings



**DR. RICHARD A.  
HAGOOD**  
Northwest Nazarene



**DR. DOUGLAS  
ASTOLFI**  
Saint Martin's



**FATHER STEPHEN  
SUNDBORG, S.J.**  
Seattle University



**DR. PHILIP  
EATON**  
Seattle Pacific



**DR. JOHN P.  
MINAHAN**  
Western Oregon



**DR. KAREN W.  
MORSE**  
Western Washington

## University Athletic Directors



**DR. STEVE COBB**  
Alaska Anchorage



**FORREST KARR**  
Alaska Fairbanks



**JACK BISHOP**  
Central Washington



**DR. GARY GRAY**  
MSU Billings



**RICH SANDERS**  
Northwest Nazarene



**BOB GRISHAM**  
Saint Martin's



**WILLIAM HOGAN**  
Seattle University



**TOM BOX**  
Seattle Pacific



**JON CAREY**  
Western Oregon



**LYNDA GOODRICH**  
Western Washington

# Great Northwest Athletic Conference

