



March 9, 2011

SOFTBALL (2-0)

Shelly Pflugrath is beginning 12th season as the head coach of the Knights, and as such is fifth in years coaching a single sport at Wenatchee Valley College. The leading coaches and years served are: Greg Franz 19 (men's basketball), Frank Mataya 18 (men's basketball), Frank Mataya 15 (men's track), Sandy Coopriider 15 (football,) and Pflugrath 12 (softball). Pflugrath has coached 506 games and compiled a record of 332-174.

Saturday and Sunday the gals will participate in the 16-team South Inter-Region Tournament in Vancouver. The Knights will play Chemeketa and Douglas the first day and Olympic and Mt. Hood the second.

Chemeketa. The Knights are 14-4 against the Storm. When they last met in 2009 the Oregon school was the victor and broke a WVC 6-game win streak in the series. Six times they have met in the NWAACC tourney and Wenatchee Valley has won five of those.

Douglas. This is a first for the Knights...a game with a team from outside the borders of the U.S. The Royals are from New Westminster, B.C., and never in 1,137 games has WVC faced a foreign foe.

Olympic. Saturday's contest will be Wenatchee Valley's 50th with the Bremerton school. The local ladies lead the series 36-13. The Black & Silver defeated the Rangers last year, but Olympic has taken three of the last four.

Mt. Hood. The Knights and Saints have only played five times, Mt. Hood taking the first three (all in NWAACC tourney play) and WVC the last two in 2008 and 2009.

The team opened the season Saturday at home and gave up nary a run as they stopped Shoreline 8-0 and 9-0. The Knights have now won four straight over the Dolphins and have an overall record against Shoreline of 54-12.

BASEBALL

Kevin Frady is the new man in the dugout, and the manager is no stranger to the NWAACC or Paul Thomas Senior Baseball Stadium. Frady got familiar the league when a few years ago he was an assistant coach at Edmonds CC (Edmonds is also his hometown). And he has visited the WVC field several times over the past five years to compete against the AppleSox. He was head coach for the Bellingham Bells in 2006 and 2007, and the Kelowna Falcons in 2008 to 2010. Frady is the 14th coach in the 43 years of baseball at Wenatchee Valley College.

Saturday, Green River (4-1) at home.

The Knights season opener is now scheduled on the local diamond Saturday when Green River comes to town for a doubleheader. Originally WVC was to open last Saturday at Skagit Valley but poor field conditions canceled the games. The last time the Knights met the Gators was four seasons ago in 2007 when Green River won two of the three games played. Overall the Auburn outfit leads the series, which started in 1973, 19-6.

BASKETBALL

The East came through again at the NWAACC championship tournaments last week in Kennewick. In the women's 16-team event all four East teams brought home trophies - Yakima Valley won the title, with Walla Walla second, Columbia Basin third and Spokane sixth. On the men's side three of the four East teams earned hardware - Spokane was fourth, Yakima Valley fifth and Big Bend sixth. Trophies are awarded to the top eight finishers in each tourney.