

Lion Eyes

Official newsletter of UCCS athletics

The choice



Members of the UCCS softball team pose with an 'I chose Division II' banner. Many members of the team could have gone to a Division I institution had they so wanted.

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Upcoming events for the UCCS Mountain Lions

Friday, Jan. 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WBB 6 p.m. (Home) Nebraska-Kearney• MBB 8 p.m. (Home) Nebraska-Kearney	Saturday, Jan. 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WBB 6 p.m. (Home) Chadron State• MBB 6 p.m. (Home) Chadron State	Sunday, Jan. 20	Monday, Jan. 21	Tuesday, Jan. 22	Wednesday, Jan. 23	Thursday, Jan. 24
Friday, Jan. 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WBB 6 p.m. at Metro State• MBB 8 p.m. at Metro State	Saturday, Jan. 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WBB 6 p.m. at Colorado Christian• MBB 8 p.m. at Colorado Christian• Track 8:30 a.m. at Golden, Colo.	Sunday, Jan. 27	Monday, Jan. 28	Tuesday, Jan. 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WBB 6 p.m. at Regis• MBB 8 p.m. at Regis	Wednesday, Jan. 30	Thursday, Jan. 31

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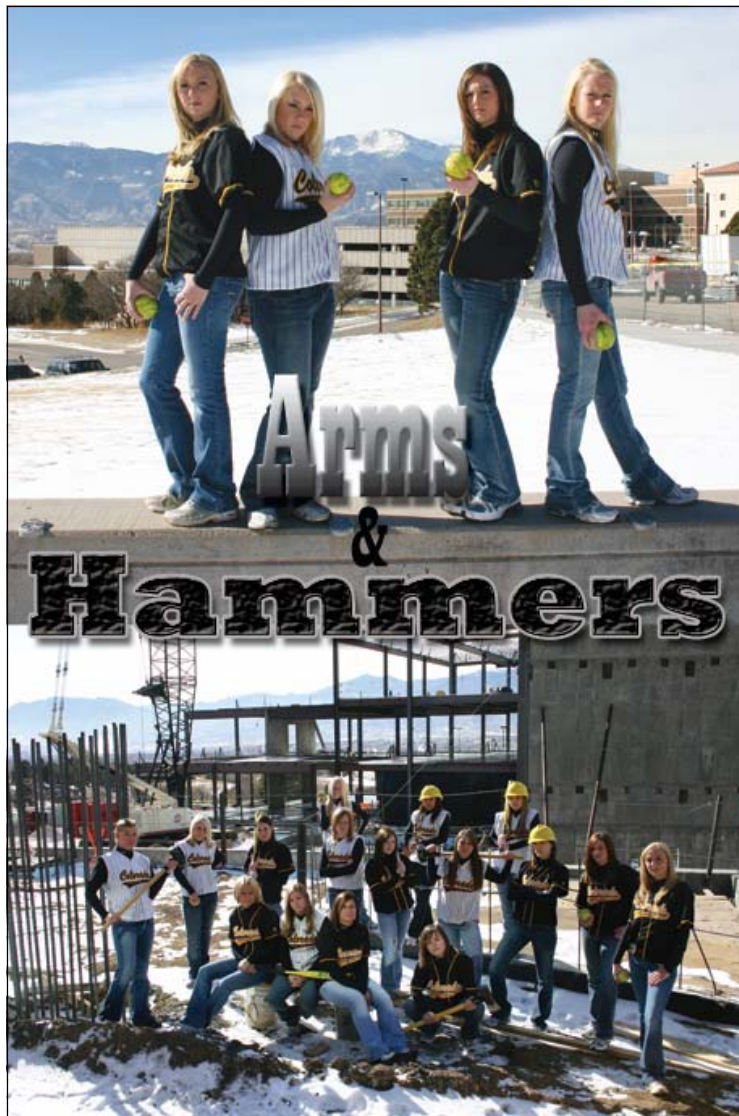
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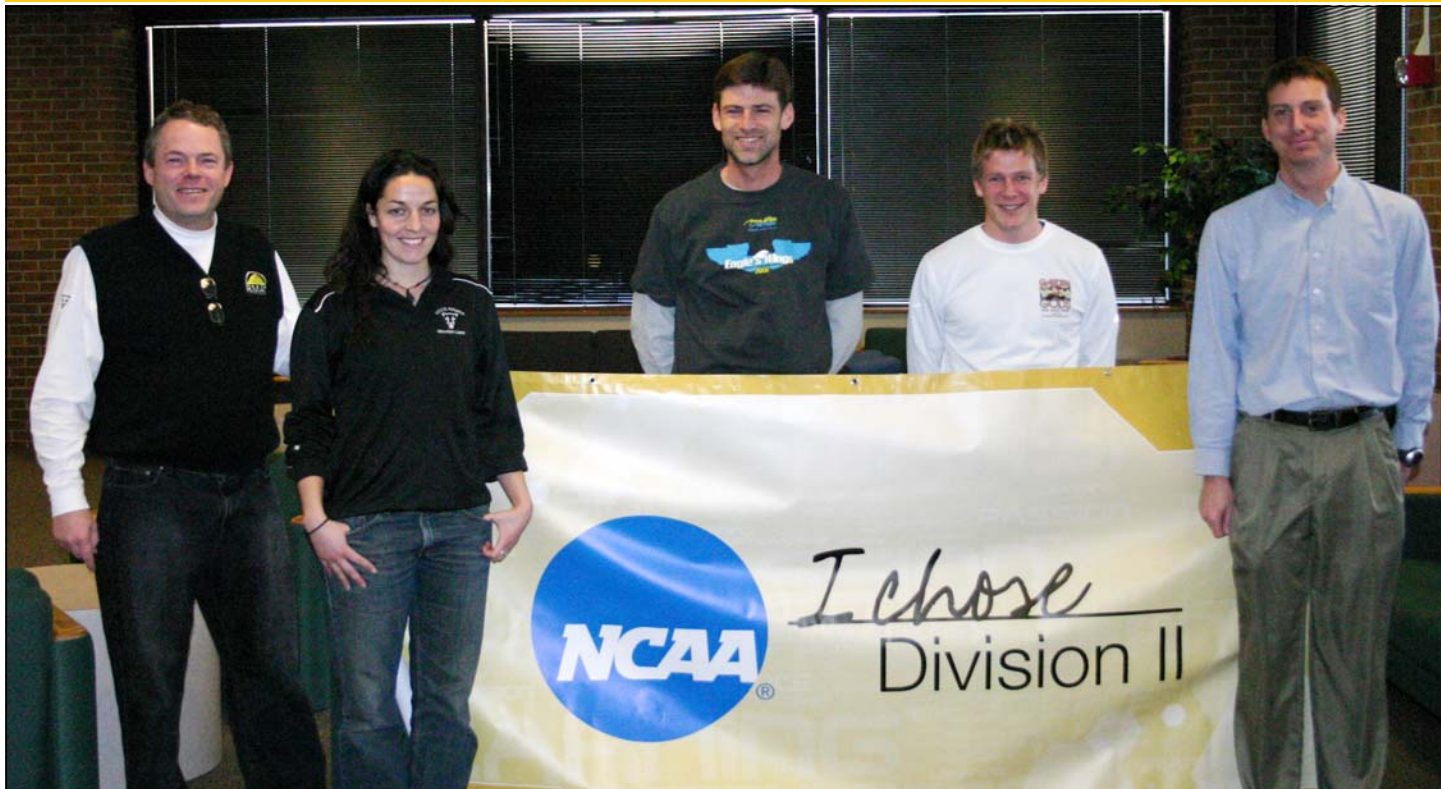


The UCCS softball team will begin its 2008 season with a home doubleheader against Fort Hays State on Feb. 8.

Catch the season preview in the next issue of Lion Eyes!

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UCCS coaches and staff also chose Division II. Pictured are (from left): Sports information director Doug Fitzgerald, women's soccer coach Nichole Rick, cross country/track coach Mark Misch, assistant cross country/track coach David Harmer and head athletic trainer Brian Hardy.

Division II, first choice

NCAA Division II is right fit for UCCS athletics

By Doug Fitzgerald

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs intercollegiate athletics teams compete at the NCAA Division II level. But don't let the name fool you; for the Mountain Lions, DII is first-rate.

But before the slogan "I chose Division II" became Division II's de facto identity, questions had to be answered.

"We in Division II sat down over the last three, four years and really talked about it; what are we? Who are we? What do we want to continue to be?" said UCCS athletic director Stephen Kirkham.

Division I had its identity with elite athletics being the focus. Division III

had its niche with no athletic scholarships and most competing at a quasi-club level of importance. For a while, Division II was regarded as the place where those who weren't in the D-I or D-III mold simply ended up.

But rather than remain the middle child, uncertain of its place within the family, Division II got proactive. Presidents and chancellors met in 2005 to discuss the future of the division and agreed to begin a comprehensive study to identify and define the division's characteristics and key attributes.

"Division II showed great courage and looked at itself in the mirror and asked a hard question: 'Who are we?'"

said NCAA president Myles Brand.

The answer was as simple as it was stunning.

Life in balance. Division II set its sights upon finding that fulcrum upon which academics and athletics, with a sizeable splash of community engagement added, could find equilibrium.

That fulcrum was found in six principles: balance, learning, passion, resourcefulness, service and sportsmanship.

With those principles, Division II became a choice rather than a consequence of circumstance. "I chose Division II" has become more than a slogan, particularly at UCCS.

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"Division II is unique in that, you receive scholarship money to play sports but you don't have the same pressure of Division I," said Kirkham. "In Division I, you do receive more scholarship money but the pressure is crazy and the kids get used a lot quicker; thrown away a lot faster.

"In Division II there's more retention within programs because there's not the pressure. We really try to keep that mentality going. You want to be competitive but, you don't want to take it to the point where you act like a Division I program."

Before the change, several schools in the region have made the jump to Division I with Denver, Northern Colorado, Southern Utah, North Dakota, North Dakota State, South Dakota and South Dakota State all making the leap. Kirkham believes that, for most, the move was a mistake.

"There was kind of an exodus away from Division II for a while," said Kirkham. "Quite frankly, you got to compete. Southern Utah is the first one to do it and I think they've qualified for one national play-off in a major sport in 12 or 13 years. Now that's just no fun.

"And it's not going to change. They don't have the finances; will never have the finances (to compete). There's not a stagnant point that you can reach for as a Division I institution. In other words, there's not a cap on the University of Texas at a \$100 million budget. If that was there and Texas could never go over \$100 million, in 50 years we could catch up to Texas but, you can't ever do it. It's a moving target consistently going upwards.

"Some of them want to come back to Division II now. They just cannot compete. The money that they got from NCAA national basketball tournament comes nowhere near covering the money needed to compete at that level.

"Those kids are competing to make the tournament. That's what all lower level Division I teams do. That's all they do."

That lack of competitive balance does not exist at Division II or Division III.

"In Division II, you really don't have the "monster" schools," said Kirkham. "If someone will get really organized and have good leadership, they can be very competitive."

What that really means is that, given the right set of circumstances, any school can compete for a national championship. Undoubtedly the higher-funded programs will still have a better record of success. But the gap between the haves and the have-nots isn't unreachable.

"I think that's the true difference between Division's II, III, and I. I think that's what separates us," said Kirkham. "Barton College last year from North Carolina won a national basketball championship for men; it's a school of 800 kids."

The same holds true for UCCS.

"We can win a national championship at UCCS," said Kirkham. "We get the right coach and get the right seven or eight kids in any program and we could win a national championship. And that's not a pipe dream."

UCCS became a member of Division II almost by default. The program began in 1985 under the auspices of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). When the school joined the Colorado Athletic Conference (CAC) in 1990, it joined the NCAA as a Division II institution since the other schools in the conference (Denver, Metro State, Regis, Southern Colorado, Colorado Christian, Fort Lewis and Air Force for women's sports only) were already so affiliated. The CAC merged with the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference in 1995, forming a 14-school super conference.

But while Division II membership was more accidental than an active choice in the beginning, Kirkham and the rest of the UCCS athletic department have embraced its ideals and are happy to be there.

If it was an accident, it was a very happy one.

"It's interesting how people can be a part of something and really not know what they're a part of; it's a human nature thing," said Kirkham. "Division II, we're where we need to be."

Division II Facts & Figures

Life in the Balance: Higher education has lasting importance on an individual's future success. For this reason, the emphasis on the student-athlete experience in Division II is a comprehensive program of learning and development in a personal setting. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and development of positive societal attitudes in service to community. The balance and integration of these different areas of learning opportunity provide Division II student-athletes a path to graduation, while cultivating a variety of skills and knowledge for life ahead.

Membership Facts

Total Members-296

Active-281; Provisional-15

Composition

Private Institutions-44%

Public Institutions-56%

Undergraduate Enrollment

Men-43%; Women-57%

Student-Athletes

Men-60%; Women-40%

Participation in Division II Championships

Men-51%; Women-49%

Number of Sports Sponsored Per Institution

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Low	4	4
High	13	12
Average	6.5	7.2

Undergraduate Enrollment

<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Percent</u>
15,000 & Above	7	2.5
7,500-14,999	28	9.9
2,500-7,499	114	40.4
2,499 & Below	133	47.2

Average is 3,400 students

Scholarship Equivalencies Per Institution

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Highest Total	93.0	63.9
Average	33.5	20.6

NCAA Sponsored Championships

	<u>Sports</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Men	12	6,116
Women	13	5,828

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Division II Facts & Figures

Division II Athletics Programs are Unique Because...

- Traditional rivalries with regional institutions dominate schedules of many Division II athletics programs.
- Division II teams usually feature a number of local or in-state student-athletes.
- Many Division II coaches perform other jobs or functions at their institutions, including teaching.
- Many Division II student-athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship money, grants, student loans and employment earnings.
- Most Division II athletics programs are fully integrated into the institution's operations and budget, like other academic departments.

Average Number of Student-Athletes Per Division II Institution

	With Football	Without Football
Avg. Men	227	109
Avg. Women	133	96
Avg. Total	359	202
Smallest	76	54
Largest	733	606

Average Operating Expenses Per Institution

	With Football	Without Football
Men	\$1,190,000	\$670,000
Women	\$680,000	\$620,000
Nongender	\$430,000	\$260,000
Total Average	\$2,300,000	\$1,550,000

Division II Attributes:

- Learning: multiple opportunities to broaden knowledge and skills
- Service: positive societal attitude through contributions to community
- Passion: enthusiastic dedication and desire in effort
- Sportsmanship: respect for fairness, courtesy; ethical conduct toward others
- Resourcefulness: versatile skill set drawn from broad range of experiences
- Balance: emphasis on collective knowledge; integration of skills

2007-08 NCAA Division II membership by conference

California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA)
Cal State Poly Pomona
Cal State Chico
Cal State Dominguez Hills
Cal State Los Angeles
Cal State San Bernardino
Cal State Stanislaus
Humboldt State
San Francisco State
Sonoma State
UC San Diego
Cal St Monterey Bay (Provisional)

Conference Carolinas

Anderson (S.C.)
Barton
Belmont Abbey
Coker
Erskine
Lees-McRae
Limestone
Mt. Olive
Pfeiffer
Queens of Charlotte
St. Andrews Presbyterian

Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC)

Bloomfield
Caldwell
Dominican (N.Y.)
Felician
Georgian Court
Goldey-Beacom
Holy Family
Nyack
Philadelphia U.
Post
U. of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Wilmington (Del.)

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)

Bowie State
Elizabeth City State
Fayetteville State
Johnson C. Smith
Livingstone
North Carolina Central
Shaw
St. Augustine's
St. Paul's
Virginia State
Virginia Union

East Coast Conference

Adelphi
C.W. Post Campus/Long Island
Concordia (N.Y.)
Dowling
Mercy
Molloy
New York Institute of Technology
Queens (N.Y.)
St. Thomas Aquinas
Bridgeport
New Haven

Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC)

Ashland
Ferris State
Gannon
Grand Valley State
Hillsdale
Indianapolis (Associate member in football and swimming)
Lake Superior State
Mercyhurst
Michigan Tech.
Northern Michigan
Northwood
Saginaw Valley State
Findlay
Wayne State (Mich.)

Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC)

Bellarmine
Drury
Kentucky Wesleyan
Lewis
Northern Kentucky
Quincy
Rockhurst
St. Joseph's (Ind.)
Southern Illinois Edwardsville
Indianapolis
Missouri Rolla
Missouri St. Louis
Southern Indiana
Wisconsin Parkside

Great Northwest Athletic Conference (gnac)

Central Washington
Dixie State
Humboldt State (Football)
Mont. State Billings
Northwest Nazarene
Seattle Pacific
Seattle
St. Martin's
Alaska Anchorage
Alaska Fairbanks
Western Oregon
Western Washington

Gulf South Conference (GSC)

Arkansas Tech.
Christian Brothers
Delta State
Harding
Henderson State
Ouachita Baptist
Southern Arkansas
Alabama Huntsville
Arkansas Monticello
Montevallo
North Alabama
West Alabama
West Florida
West Georgia
Valdosta State

Heartland Conference

Dallas Baptist
Lincoln (Mo.)
Montana State Billings
Panhandle State
St. Edward's
St. Mary's (Texas)
Texas A&M International
Incarnate Word
Texas-Permian Basin

Lone Star Conference (LSC)

Abilene Christian
Angelo State
Cameron
East Central
Eastern New Mexico
Midwestern State
Northeastern State
Southeastern Oklahoma State
southwestern Oklahoma State
Tarleton State
Texas A&M Commerce
Texas A&M Kingsville
Texas Women's U.
Central Oklahoma
West Texas A&M

Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA)

Central Missouri
Emporia State
Fort Hays State
Missouri Southern State
Missouri Western State
Northwest Missouri State
Pittsburg State

Southwest Baptist
Truman State
Washburn of Topeka

North Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (NCC)

Augustana (S.D.)
Minnesota Duluth
Minnesota State Mankato
St. Cloud State
Nebraska Omaha
North Dakota
South Dakota

Northeast-10 Conference

American International
Assumption
Bentley
Bryant
C.W. Post Campus/Long Island (Associate Member Football)
St. Rose
Franklin Pierce
Le Moyne
Merrimack
Pace
St. Anselm
St. Michael's
Southern Connecticut State
Southern New Hampshire
Stonehill
Massachusetts Lowell

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC)

Bemidji State
Concordia St. Paul
Mary
Minnesota State Moorhead
Northern State
Southwest Minnesota State
Minnesota Crookston
Upper Iowa
Wayne State (Neb.)
Winona State

Peach Belt Conference

Armstrong Atlantic State
Augusta State
Clayton State
Columbus State
Francis Marion
Georgia College and State U.
Georgia Southwestern State
Lander
N. Georgia College and State U.
North Carolina Pembroke
South Carolina Aiken
South Carolina Upstate

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC)

Bloomsburg of Pennsylvania
California of Pennsylvania
Cheyney of Pennsylvania
Clarion of Pennsylvania
East Stroudsburg of Pennsylvania
Edinboro of Pennsylvania
Indiana of Pennsylvania
Kutztown of Pennsylvania
Lock Haven of Pennsylvania
Mansfield of Pennsylvania
Millersville of Pennsylvania
Shippensburg of Pennsylvania
Slippery Rock of Pennsylvania
West Chester of Pennsylvania

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC)

Adams State
Chadron State
Colorado Christian
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State Pueblo
Fort Lewis
Mesa State

Metropolitan State Denver
New Mexico Highlands
Regis (Colo.)
UC-Colorado Springs
Nebraska Kearney
Western New Mexico
Western State of Colorado

South Atlantic Conference (SAC)

Carson-Newman
Catawba
Lenoir-Rhyne
Lincoln Memorial
Mars Hill
Newberry
Tusculum
Wingate

Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)

Albany State (Ga.)
Benedict
Clark Atlanta
Fort Valley State
Kentucky State
Lane
LeMoyne-Owen
Miles
Morehouse
Paine
Stillman
Tuskegee

Sunshine State Conference

Barry
Eckerd
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Southern
Lynn
Nova Southeastern
Rollins
St. Leo
U. of Tampa

West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC)

Alderson-Broaddus
Blueville State
Concord
Davis and Elkins
Fairmont State
Glenville State
Ohio Valley
Salem International
Seton Hall (Provisional)
Shepard
Charleston (W.Va.)
Pittsburg Johnstown
West Liberty State
West Virginia State
West Virginia Wesleyan
Wheeling Jesuit

Independent Institutions (Division II Independents)

BYU Hawaii
Chaminade
Columbia Union
Converse
U. of District of Columbia
Green Mountain
Florida Gulf Coast
Hawaii Hilo
North Greenville
Puerto Rico Bayamon
Puerto Rico Cayey
Puerto Rico Mayaguez
Puerto Rico Rio Piedras
Tiffin
Oakland City

Division I transfers enjoy Division II experience

By Donna Young

In the NCAA, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, there are three divisions. Division I colleges are considered to have the highest level of athletics in the nation. Division II colleges are the intermediate level of athletics. Division III schools are on the low end of athletic power. The focus here is on the Division I and UCCS, a Division II school.

Division I is believed to be the "powerhouse" of athletics. This is because the colleges are larger and have larger budgets, higher quality facilities, and more money to give out in the form of athletic scholarships. Schools in Division I can only be championship-bound depending on scholarships given and by event attendance. Division II is also highly competitive in the sports world, but does not have the extravagant budgets that Division I schools have, let alone the television coverage and revenue. Division II consists of smaller public and private universities that have a limited amount of scholarships to hand out.

UCCS women's volleyball player, Brooke Akers, knows what both divisions are like. The senior was a part of a Division I university for a year before deciding it wasn't for her, and she transferred to UCCS from the Air Force Academy. Even though Division I is supposed to be the most competitive, Akers likes Division II athletics.

"I really enjoy the fast-pace level of sports at this level!" she said.

Akers decided to transfer to Division II because she wanted to experience a campus where everything was closer, and where she could have a closer group of friends. She decided on UCCS because she wanted to stay in the area and the school offered her everything she wanted.

"I wanted to stay in the area to be with my fiancé, so I started looking for a good business school with a great volleyball program," she explained.

"That led me right to UCCS."

Akers believes that Division I schools are not any better than Division II or even Division III schools. The size of the schools is different, but the people and classes are similar. She said that athletes attend Division I schools because of the name, the feeling that they accomplished something great, and because they think it impresses people.

"I think everything about Division I is overrated," said Akers. "I think they just get more hype because they've been put on a pedestal!"

When it comes to her future, Akers knows that her success is all dependent on her. She doesn't believe either division will prepare her more for the future, but she did the work set forth by UCCS to graduate.

"I believe that no matter where I graduate from I will be prepared because I put the work into what my future will be."

UCCS women's basketball player, Nancy Hoist, has also experienced both Division I and Division II athletics and education. The junior transferred from Eastern Kentucky to UCCS because it is closer to home, and because of the academics and athletics.

"I chose UCCS because the academic level was much harder, and I was really impressed with my coach and how much she cared about making our athletic experience both competitive and enjoyable," said Hoist. "I wanted to be in a college environment that was more focused on what is really important in college-academics."

Hoist didn't like that athletics and basketball became the sole focus of her college career at the Division I level. In her experience, the levels of academics were very different when comparing Division I and Division II schools.

"At my Division I school, many players chose to have easier majors because we would be unable to keep up our grades in the more difficult majors

because we would never have enough time to study," she said. "At UCCS, many of my teammates take very tough classes and still can manage to perform well on the basketball court."

When it comes to athletics, Hoist believes that all athletes are competitive, no matter what division of competition they are in. Division I athletes are no better than Division II athletes.

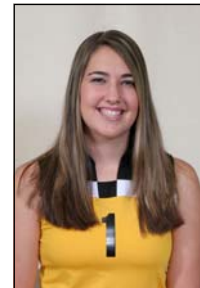
"Athletes in all levels want the same things, such as, playing in a competitive program and winning basketball games," she commented. "Those feelings don't change, no matter what the level of play is."

Hoist said that athletes choose Division I schools because they believe it is more prestigious, their programs have more money, and they have better facilities. She chose Division II because she wanted to play competitive basketball and still have time to enjoy college.

"I can't speak for all athletes, but I chose a Division II school because I wanted to have fun playing basketball again, and now I do," she said. "It's still serious and I treat it as such, but it's not my entire life anymore."

When it comes to her future and her education, Hoist believes that UCCS has prepared her for the "real world," but maybe not more than a Division I school could have. She said that it's not the size of the college campus that determines success.

"UCCS is tough academically, and I feel as though I am receiving a quality education," explained Hoist, "its how much effort a student puts into their education."



Brooke Akers



Nancy Hoist

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Big-time contributors

Transfers from Division I institutions have had a huge impact on UCCS athletics over the years. Below is a partial list of UCCS student-athletes who came from Division I schools and where they rank in the UCCS records books.

Men's Basketball

Tre' Carruthers (1996-99), New Mexico

Career:

Assists: 1st (272)
Steals: 3rd (95)
Free Throws Attempted: 7th (268)
Games Played: Tied for 8th (76)

Season:

Assists: 1st (124) 1996-97
Tied for 7th (90) 1998-99

Wayne Rhymes (1999-01), Portland State

Career:

Points: 8th (868)
Field Goals Made: 8th (321)
Field Goals Attempted: 5th (674)
3-Pointers Made: 3rd (122)
3-Pointers Attempted: 3rd (336)
Assists: 10th (137)
Steals: 2nd (100)

Season:

Points: 4th (509) 2000-01
Field Goals Made: 6th (175) 2000-01
Field Goals Attempted: 4th (364) 2000-01
3-Pointers Made: 3rd (82) 2000-01
3-Pointers Attempted: 2nd (205) 2000-01
Steals: 3rd (53) 2000-01
5th (47) 1999-00

Patrick Hannaway (2005-07), Stephen F. Austin

Career:

Points: 5th (1,102)
Field Goals Made: 3rd (384)
Field Goals Attempted: 6th (641)
Free Throws Made: 2nd (289)
Free Throws Attempted: 1st (408)
Rebounds: 9th (338)
Steals: 5th (82)

Season:

Points: 1st (560) 2006-07
2nd (542) 2005-06
Field Goals Made: 1st (203) 2006-07
3rd (181) 2005-06
Field Goals Attempted: 8th (322) 2005-06
9th (319) 2006-07
Free Throws Made: 1st (156) 2005-06
2nd (133) 2006-07
Free Throws Attempted: 1st (210) 2005-06
2nd (198) 2006-07
Rebounds: 7th (199) 2005-06
Steals: 9th (42) 2005-06

Rob Hellem (1992-95), Oral Roberts

Career:

Points: 6th (1,063)
Field Goals Made: 6th (332)
Field Goals Attempted: 2nd (830)
3-Pointers Made: 2nd (203)
3-Pointers Attempted: 2nd (520)
Free Throws Made: 7th (194)

Season:

3-Pointers Made: 5th (63) 1993-94
Tied for 8th (56) 1995-96
3-Pointers Attempted: 10th (150) 1993-94

Women's Basketball

Stephanie Frisch (1996-99), New Mexico State

Career:

Points: 3rd (1,224)
Field Goals Made: 5th (376)
Field Goals Attempted: 5th (950)
3-Pointers Made: 2nd (176)
3-Pointers Attempted: 2nd (507)
Free Throws Made: 2nd (296)
Free Throws Attempted: 5th (380)
Rebounds: 10th (427)
Assists: 2nd (354)

Season:

Points: 4th (457) 1996-97
6th (429) 1997-98
Field Goals Made: 10th (133) 1996-97
Field Goals Attempted: 10th (343) 1997-98
3-Pointers Made: 2nd (67) 1997-98
Tied for 3rd (60) 1998-99
9th (49) 1996-97
3-Pointers Attempted: 3rd (182) 1997-98
4th (181) 1998-99
10th (144) 1996-97
Free Throws Made: 1st (142) 1996-97
Free Throws Attempted: 4th (177) 1996-97
Assists: 1st (130) 1996-97
2nd (125) 1997-98
8th (99) 1998-99

Susan Bocock (2001-02), New Mexico

Season:

Games Played: Tied for 7th (28) 2001-02

Volleyball

Brooke Akers (2006-07), Air Force

Career:

Block Solos: 9th (41)
Block Assists: 7th (181)

Season:

Kills: 4th (462) 2007
Block Assists: 5th (97) 2006

Stephanie Laband (2005-07), Stetson

Career:

Aces: 9th (75)

Audrey Nelson (2000-01), Murray State

Career:

Kills: 6th (975)

Season:

Kills: 1st (568) 2001
9th (407) 2000
Attacks: 2nd (1227) 2001

Softball

Amanda Ritchie (2005-06), Illinois-Chicago

Career:

Victories: 5th (21)
Innings Pitched: 8th (203.2)
Strikeouts: 2nd (207)

Season:

Victories: Tied for 2nd (19) 2006
Innings Pitched: 8th (149.0) 2006
Strikeouts: 2nd (150) 2006

Crystal Krebs (2004-05), Texas Arlington

Career:

Home Runs: 1st (44)
Runs: Tied for 6th (105)
Hits: 9th (142)
Highest Batting Average: 2nd (.490)
Runs Batted In: 4th (129)
Hit By Pitch: Tied for 5th (7)

Season:

Runs: Tied for 3rd (53) 2004
Tied for 5th (52) 2005
Hits: Tied 2nd (71) 2004 and 2005
Home Runs: 1st (25) 2005
Tied for 2nd (19) 2004
Runs Batted In: 2nd (70) 2005
4th (59) 2004
Hit By Pitch: Tied for 3rd (6)

Soccer

Mike Archuleta (1998-01), Central Florida

Career:

Games Played: 2nd (58)
Wins: 2nd (27)
Saves: 3rd (253)
Shutouts: 2nd (14.5)

Season:

Wins: 4th (9) 2000
Tied for 10th (6) 1998, 1999,
and 2001
Saves: 5th (109) 2001
9th (67) 2000
3rd (5.5) 2000
4th (4) 2001
Tied for 5th (3) 1998

Adam Ewig (1999-01), Towson

Anchored the UCCS defense for three years

Cross Country

Sarah Gray, Northern Carolina State
All-American

Maddi Bosen, Gardner Webb

All-American

Amanda Occhi, LSU

All-American

Golf

John Olson, Iowa State

All-American. Anchored the 2001-02 UCCS gold team that was ranked No. 1 for over three months and finished the season ranked 10th nationally.

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Official newsletter of UCCS athletics

Steel and Silver Scoreboard

The Steel and Silver Series was established in the summer of 2005 to recognize and celebrate the natural rivalry that exists between the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Colorado State-Pueblo. Not only are the two schools each affiliated with the two largest Universities in the state (the University of Colorado and Colorado State), but they also have a 25-year history of head-to-head competition. In addition, the two communities themselves have long been rivals.

Points are awarded for each competition played between the schools and for the cumulative GPA of each department's athletes who actually participated. UCCS won the series in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

SPORT (number of competitions): Points

VOLLEYBALL (2/year plus playoffs): Two point each match.

SOCCER (2/year plus playoffs): Two point each match.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY (RMAC and Regional only) Two points each meet.

MEN'S BASKETBALL (2/year plus playoffs): Two point each match.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2/year plus playoffs): Two point each match.

MEN'S GOLF (Undetermined number): One point each head-to-head.

SOFTBALL (4/year plus playoffs): One point regular season, two points playoffs.

WOMEN'S SOCCER (2/year plus playoffs): Two points each match. UCCS will begin women's soccer for the 2008 season.

ACADEMICS: Five points for the Athletic Department whose student-athletes had the highest GPA for that school year (Fall and Spring semesters combined).

UCCS

11

CSU-Pueblo

8

Sport	Points	Sport	Points
<u>VOLLEYBALL (2 pts. Each)</u>		<u>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (2 pts. Each)</u>	
• UCCS 3, CSU-Pueblo 1 (Sept. 27)	UCCS 2	• CSU-Pueblo 68, UCCS 52	CSUP 2
		• Playoff game, if applicable (TBA)	
<u>MEN'S SOCCER (2 pts. Each)</u>		<u>MEN'S BASKETBALL (2 pts. Each)</u>	
• CSU-Pueblo 3, UCCS 1 (Sept. 12)	CSUP 2	• UCCS 72, CSUP 65	UCCS 2
• CSU-Pueblo 2, UCCS 0 (Oct. 10)	CSUP 2	• UCCS vs. CSU-Pueblo (Dec. 19 at Pueblo)	CSUP 2
<u>WOMEN'S SOCCER (2 pts. Each)</u>		• Playoff game, if applicable (TBA)	
• No competitions until 2008-09 school year.		<u>SOFTBALL (1 pt. each)</u>	
<u>WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY (2 pts. Each)</u>		• UCCS vs. CSU-Pueblo (Feb. 10 at Pueblo, 4 p.m.)	
• RMAC: UCCS 5th, CSU-Pueblo 11th (Oct. 20)	UCCS 2	• UCCS vs. CSU-Pueblo (April 12 at Alamosa, 10 a.m.)	
• Regional: UCCS 12th, CSU-Pueblo 22nd (Nov. 3)	UCCS 2	• UCCS vs. CSU-Pueblo (April 12 at Alamosa, Noon)	
<u>MEN'S GOLF (1 pt. each)</u>		• Playoff game, if applicable (TBA)	
• RMAC Golf Event: UCCS 2nd, CSU-Pueblo 4th (Sept. 17-18)	UCCS 1	<u>ACADEMICS (5 PTS.)</u>	
• Region Head-to-Head: UCCS 2nd, CSU-Pueblo 3rd (Sept. 24-25)	UCCS 1	• Awarded to athletic department Athletic Department whose student-athletes had the highest GPA for that school year (Fall and Spring semesters combined).	
• Grand Canyon Inv.: UCCS 7th, CSU-Pueblo 17th (Oct. 1-2)	UCCS 1		
• RMAC Championship (April 14-15)			
• NW Region Head-to-Head (April 19-20)			
• NCAA Regional (TBA)			

Lion Eyes

Official newsletter of UCCS athletics

Luxurious travel definitely not part of the Division II experience



By Jessika Caldwell

Although it seems as though one day passes away in moments, spend over 24 hours on a bus and it seems like the minutes tick off slowly and painfully. You try and maneuver your body in such a way that you can find enough comfort to sleep for an hour, but then you awake to thousands of needles crawling up your arm because you tried to treat it like your pillow. As the movies play on, most of which you have seen at least two times, you realize there is nothing left to do but just reflect. And let me tell you, there is plenty of time to reflect when traveling on a road trip in

the RMAC.

As we were stuck on the side of the road in Vail on our way to Grand Junction last Thursday, I began to think back on my playing days in the Big 12 Conference. I dreamed of the charter flights to our destinations and five-star hotel rooms with the best and most comfortable beds in the world. In some ways, we were treated as though we were celebrities. (Well, only until we arrived at the arena of our opponent that is.)

When I look at the members of the UCCS Women's team, I just have to smile. These women climb aboard the bus with pillows and blankets in hand, fully aware of the long journey ahead. There are no promises of charter planes or five-star hotels, just a promise of memories to be made and funny stories to tell and promises of upsetting the home-town team and taking a victory home. This is what makes Division II so special.

Don't get me wrong, my experience as a Division I athlete was pretty wonderful. However, sometimes it was easy to get caught up in all the perks and the glory in being a student-athlete. For a Division II athlete, it is more about the journey. The opportunity to continue doing something that has brought you joy for so many years. It is not about the Nike contracts or the gear; it is not about the ESPN games or the national recognition. It is solely about the game. Division II is about the love of putting on a uniform, representing a University, representing yourself and your family. It is about utilizing your gift as an athlete to further your academics. It is about the quality of the collegiate experience.



Men's Basketball

UCCS provides the winning formula for Hawkins

By Matt Sandstead

In the late 1930's an ex-UCLA football coach by the name of Henry "Red" Saunders coined the phrase "winning isn't everything; it's the only thing." That quote is still heard throughout locker rooms across the country to this very day. As fate would have it, winning was the only thing on Tomaul Hawkins' mind when he chose to play for Division II UCCS after numerous DI offers.

Hawkins began his basketball career at Overland High School in 2001. However with a strong contingent of upperclassmen at Overland, Hawkins was buried at the end of the bench for the majority of his freshman and sophomore years. Since high school is often the best place for a prospective college athlete to get noticed by college recruiters, Hawkins would need a change of scenery in order to get the playing time he needed.

In 2003 his family moved and Hawkins transferred to 5A Grandview High School, but because of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) transfer rule Hawkins was forced to sit out a majority of his junior year.

"Because of the transfer rule I had to sit out most of my junior year, which meant I didn't get any looks and people didn't know who I was," said Hawkins. "The first schools that came around were the JuCo's."

During his senior year at Grandview Hawkins led his team to the Final Four of the state tournament by making a game-winning shot against Aurora Central and was later named first-team All-State.

Hawkins had a few offers from larger schools, the first of which was just an hour north at the Northern Colorado. Hawkins decided UNC wasn't the best fit for him and opted to see what other offers were on the table.

One of those other offers was a full scholarship to play at South Dakota State. At SDS Hawkins would be the

top scoring threat and would carry a large load as a freshman. Hawkins initially accepted but, after considering other options, reneged on the offer.

"I was told that the program wouldn't be very successful because it had only recently moved to Division II and a new conference. That meant they could lose every game that year," said Hawkins. "And I wanted to win."

Hawkins was also given an offer to play at Montana State coming out of high school. However, the coach wanted Hawkins to redshirt his first year and perhaps start in his second year under a full scholarship. This didn't sit well with Hawkins.

"Montana State wanted me to come as a redshirt for the first year because they gave away their scholarships. So I figured that if I could go Division I and redshirt, I would rather go JuCo and play," said Hawkins.

After weighing his options, Hawkins decided to attend Otero Junior College in LaJunta, Colo. During the 2005-06 season Hawkins helped the Rattlers win 20 games under head coach Tim Moser and started to get some interest from some even larger Division I schools.

Hawkins was offered a scholarship to play for Division I Texas Pan-America. The then-assistant head coach of Otero was given a coaching position at TPA and was the one who initiated the offer but Hawkins decided he wasn't interested.

Hawkins decided to stay and play another year at Otero instead. The 2006-07 season marked the arrival of first-year head coach Houston Reed



Tomaul Hawkins looks for an opportunity to drive during the Mountain Lions' victory over Panhandle State earlier this season.

after the departure of Moser, who was the school's all-time most winning coach. Despite Hawkins leading the team in scoring with 12.3 points per game the Rattlers won just seven games, the lowest win total for a season in nearly seven years.

"That last year of junior college was the first losing season of basketball that I'd been part of. It was then that I decided I wanted to go somewhere where I could win," said Hawkins.

Hawkins was offered a chance to play at Division I Gardner Webb University- a team that won just two conference games in prior season but played against very good competition including two top five teams.

"I was excited at the opportunity to play at Gardner Webb after I looked at their schedule," said Hawkins.

The Gardner Webb Runnin' Bulldogs were scheduled to play two top 25 ranked teams as well as three nationally televised games on ESPN during the 2007-08 season.

"What I felt is that if you go Division I you would be playing against the best competition but at the same time if you're not competing and getting blown out then how much fun is it," said Hawkins.

Continued on next page

Men's Basketball

Continued from previous page

It was during June of 2007 when Hawkins met up with UCCS point guard Nic Fuller at a Pro-Am Tournament in Denver.

"Tomaul and I had played one season at Otero together, had always been friends, and kept in touch," said Fuller. "So after talking a bit he mentioned that he was still looking for a school to play for. After I heard that I got really excited because I knew how good he was."

Fuller met with UCCS head coach Russ Caton later in the week to discuss any possible openings there might be for Hawkins.

"Coach knew who he [Hawkins] was," said Fuller. "We had scrimmaged Otero earlier that past season and Tomaul killed, he had 20 points, 10 rebounds. So coach knew who he was and was super excited when he heard he was shopping for a school and said they needed to find a spot for him on the team."

Hawkins decided to commit to UCCS a few weeks later.

"I had gotten tired of losing and decided I would rather go Division II and win than go Division I and lose every game," said Hawkins. "So I chose UCCS because not only did they win a lot of games last season (16) but they're moving up as a Division II school in basketball, plus it's only 45 minutes from my house, so it was a perfect fit."

Since coming to the Mountain Lions, Hawkins has proved to be more than just a top scoring threat for Caton's offense. Hawkins also anchors the defense and is a leader in the locker room as well.

"(Tomaul) has a real fire on defense," said Fuller. "He's got heart on defense and I think that's contagious to the rest of the team. Once he gets fired up, I know it gets me fired up. He's also a great friend off the court. If you ever have any trouble you know you can call on Tomaul."

Hawkins credits some of his basketball inspiration to his Uncle, Michael Ray Richardson. Richardson, who most

recently was the coach of Oklahoma Cavalry of the Continental Basketball Association, was drafted by the New York Knicks with the fourth pick of the 1978 draft, two picks before Hall of Famer Larry Bird.

Richardson, the brother of Hawkins' mother, became the first player in NBA history to lead the league in both assists (10.1) and steals (3.2) and did so in just his second year in the league. He was named to the All-Star team several times before his career was ended abruptly by a controversial ban by Commissioner David Stern in 1986.

"I don't get to talk to him that much because he's always coaching. But when we do talk he always tells me to stay confident because basketball is 90 percent confidence, and find ways to stay focused and keep your confidence up" said Hawkins.

Hawkins says he plans to bring that confidence to the Mountain Lions and help Caton and the rest of his team win, because winning isn't everything; it's the only thing.

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Men's Basketball

Roundup: Win over New Mexico Highlands is lone recent bright spot for slumping Mountain Lions

By Doug Fitzgerald

COLORADO SPRINGS – Six University of Colorado at Colorado Springs players scored in double figures as the Mountain Lions cruised to an 85-58 victory over the New Mexico Highlands Cowboys on Jan. 4 at the Lions' Den.

Eric Davis led UCCS with 17 points, matching his career high. Kyle Perkins added 13, Nic Fuller 12, Tomaul Hawkins 11 and Frank McCollum and Leo Thomas 10 each. Davis and McCollum recorded double-doubles by grabbing 11 and 10 rebounds respectively.

The Mountain Lions have been defined by balanced scoring. All five starters average double figure scoring this season.

"We have a lot of good scorers," said McCollum. "Everybody looks for each other and everybody was shooting well. (We) swing the ball around and whoever has the open shot takes it."

The score was 7-6 when the Mountain Lions blew the game open with a 34-8 run. The Cowboys never got closer than 22 afterwards. McCollum said that much of the offense was generated by aggressive defense.

"We made some adjustments on defense during practice this week," said McCollum. "We created pressure and got in their face. We got lots of defensive stops and defensive rebounds, which led to easy buckets and open shots."

Stephen Shanks, Steve Sanchez and Leo Ural each scored nine points for New Mexico Highlands.

UCCS held the Cowboys to 26.7 percent shooting.

It was the largest margin of victory for a UCCS men's basketball team since Dec. 7, 1999 when the then-Gold beat Southern Colorado 97-67.

Fuller had eight of the Mountain



Tomaul Hawkins skies for a dunk during the Mountain Lions' victory over New Mexico Highlands on Jan. 4. Hawkins finished with 11 points in the game.

Lions' season-best 21 assists, matching his career high. Thomas made all four of his field goal attempts, including two 3-pointers, to beat his previous career high of nine points. Hawkins added five steals and three blocked shots.

Fort Lewis 82, UCCS 55 Jan. 12

DURANGO – Fuller had 14 points, five rebounds and four assists but the Mountain Lions were soundly beaten by the Skyhawks at Whalen Athletic Center.

Davis and Hawkins each added eight points for the Mountain Lions.

Tim Crowell led Fort Lewis with 19 points.

There was a certain tragic inevitability about the game from the start. Even as UCCS battled to keep the game close, every starter except Thomas was tacked with two personal fouls in the first 13:24. The foul trouble led to tentative play which, against a team as explosive as Fort Lewis, is trouble.

It was. Over the final 10 minutes of the half, the Skyhawks turned a slim, 15-14 lead into a comfortable 36-21 margin.

By the end of the half, Davis had picked up his third foul and reserve Jordan McClung had joined the other starters with two. Fort Lewis was awarded 20 first-half free throws, making 15, while the Mountain Lions shot just five.

One minute into the second half, Nic Fuller and Kyle Perkins had each been assessed their third fouls as well. By the time the second period was three minutes old, the deficit had grown to 20. From there, it just continued to grow.

The silver lining, if there could be one, was that freshmen McClung and Chris Fernandez got significant playing time which could pay dividends down the road. McClung had five points and three assists in 22 minutes, while Fernandez had seven points and four rebounds in 18 minutes.

"When you play more minutes like that, it makes you feel like you're more a part of that rotation," said Fernandez. "That way, you can jump in at any time and contribute. It's helping us become more comfortable on the floor."

McClung agreed.

"It helps us all because we're getting experience," he said. "We know what we need to do (to fill) our roles on the team and we're getting better."

Continued on next page

Men's Basketball



Steven Clements converts a layup during the Mountain Lions loss to Fort Lewis.

Continued from previous page

Mesa State 92, UCCS 66 Jan. 11

GRAND JUNCTION – The Mavericks shot 58.3 percent, forced 15 turnovers and scored 55 points in the second half to run away from the Mountain Lions.

Jake Swartzendruber scored all 12 of his points and the Mavericks committed just three turnovers in the half to run away with the game despite the Mountain Lions shooting 14-of-24 in the period.

The Mountain Lions were playing shorthanded since McCollum didn't make the trip in order to take a test. To fill the void, Thomas made his first start since Jan. 5, 2006. The 5-foot-8 senior came through with 12 points and is first career blocked shot.

Thomas discovered the morning of the game that he would be starting.

"I was surprised, excited, a lot of emotions were going through my mind," said Thomas. "I wanted to provide the team with what Frank does and bring a lot of effort."

The Mavericks made their first six field goal attempts, two of which were 3-pointers, of the second half to turn a six-point halftime lead into an 11-point edge. After a Fuller 3-pointer cut the lead to 51-43, Mesa State scored the next five points to open a commanding 14-point lead. UCCS never got closer than 12 after that.

"Transition was a problem," said Thomas. "We didn't get back good enough.

"We have some minor tweaks to do on defense to make it a little bit stronger. We had a problem communicating on the floor. It helps a lot if we communicate on defense."

Fuller led UCCS with 17 points on 7-of-10 shooting. Tomaul Hawkins added 16 points.

While the Mountain Lions shot a respectable 47.5 percent from the field, they struggled from long range.

"We shot pretty poorly from the 3-point line," said Thomas of UCCS' 3-of-17 marksmanship.

UCCS is now 1-15 all-time at Brownson Arena. The only win came on Feb. 9, 2001.

Mesa State went on a 9-3 run in the closing minutes of the first half to turn a slim 28-25 lead into a nine-point advantage. Fuller, though, hit a 3-pointer with two seconds remaining to cut the lead to 37-31 at the half.

The trip to Grand Junction on Thursday met an unexpected delay when the team's bus broke down in Vail. After the driver limped the bus to a side street near a service station, he and a mechanic tried to repair it for nearly 90 minutes. When it was determined that a needed part was unavailable locally, a replacement bus was sent from Denver. Two hours later, UCCS was back on the road.

They hoped the delay would provide some positive karma. On Oct. 12, the UCCS volleyball team's bus also broke own on its way to Grand Junction. After hitching a ride on another bus, the Mountain Lions went on to beat Mesa State, their first win ever at Brownson Arena.

The UCCS basketball teams, though, enjoyed no such good fortune.

Western New Mexico 83, UCCS 73 Jan. 5

COLORADO SPRINGS – Despite Perkins' 12 points and 16 rebounds, the Mountain Lions were beaten by the Mustangs.

Perkins' rebound total doubled his previous career high of eight.

"The ball seemed to fall in the right place; right into my hands," said Perkins.

Five Mustangs scored in double figures, led by Trey Clarkson and Steve Berrelleza, who each had 14.

Although his stats, 12 points, five rebounds, five assists and four blocked shots were short of dominant, Western New Mexico's Kris Taylor was the one player with whom UCCS particularly struggled. The 6-foot-7, 240-pound center set big picks and commanded the double-team which, in turn, left others open shots. Defensively, he forced the Mountain Lions to change several shots in the paint.

Continued on next page

2007-08 UCCS Men's Basketball Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Result
Fri Nov 16	3:00 P.M.	vs. West Texas A&M #	L, 80-78
Sat Nov 17	3:00 P.M.	vs. North Dakota #	W, 82-76
Fri Nov 23	8:00 P.M.	Panhandle State	W, 88-81
Sat Nov 24	8:00 P.M.	Colorado College	W, 78-68
Fri Nov 30	7:00 P.M.	at Southern Utah	W, 79-78
Sat Dec 1	7:30 P.M.	at Dixie State	L, 107-83
Fri Dec 7	8:00 P.M.	Adams State	L, 71-55
Sat Dec 8	8:00 P.M.	CSU-Pueblo %	W, 72-65
Fri Dec 14	8:00 P.M.	at Western State	L, 70-66
Wed Dec 19	8:00 P.M.	at CSU-Pueblo	L, 69-66
Sat Dec 29	3:00 P.M.	at SW Oklahoma St	L, 93-74
Fri Jan 4	8:00 P.M.	New Mexico Highlands W	85-58
Sat Jan 5	8:00 P.M.	Western New Mexico	L, 83-73
Fri Jan 11	8:00 P.M.	at Mesa State	L, 92-66
Sat Jan 12	8:00 P.M.	at Fort Lewis	L, 82-55
Fri Jan 18	8:00 P.M.	Nebraska-Kearney	
Sat Jan 19	8:00 P.M.	Chadron State	
Fri Jan 25	7:00 P.M.	at Metro State	
Sat Jan 26	7:00 P.M.	at Colorado Christian	
Tue Jan 29	5:00 P.M.	at Regis	
Sat Feb 2	8:00 P.M.	Colorado Mines	
Fri Feb 8	8:00 P.M.	Colorado Christian	
Sat Feb 9	8:00 P.M.	Metro State	
Tue Feb 12	8:00 P.M.	Regis	
Fri Feb 15	8:00 P.M.	at Colorado Mines	
Thu Feb 21	8:00 P.M.	at Chadron State	
Sat Feb 23	4:00 P.M.	at Nebraska-Kearney	

Home games in BOLD type

* RMAC Opponent

at Alamosa

% at the U.S. Olympic Training Center

Men's Basketball

Continued from previous page

Perkins said that a big problem for the Mountain Lions was in their personnel recognition, which means identifying what are the strengths and weaknesses of each opposing player.

"We didn't play their shooters and their drivers the way we were supposed to," said Perkins. "The guys that we knew were going to drive all of the time, we closed out on and they blew right past us."

McCollum led UCCS with 17 points. Nic Fuller added 14, while Tomaul Hawkins had 13.

On paper, the two teams were evenly matched. Each came into the

game with identical overall and RMAC records. Each boasted a balanced offense, with five players averaging more than nine points per game. Even the teams' shooting percentages and scoring margins were comparable.

And in this case, the paper didn't lie. While UCCS held the lead for a meager 3 minutes, 42 seconds, Western New Mexico's advantage was never very great. The Mustangs hovered in the two-to-six point range for most of the night, at least until the final minutes when UCCS began pressing and fouling in hopes of closing the gap.

The biggest difference between the squads was experience. The Mustangs returned nine players from last season's team and that showed in consistent and heady play.

"They had a lot of experience," said Perkins. "They played personnel right."

Western New Mexico opened up a 25-16 lead at the 8:33 mark, but UCCS came back with a 12-2 run to take it first lead of the game. The advantage would be short-lived, as the Mustangs got a layup by Clarkson just six seconds later. They went into halftime with a 40-35 lead.

Western New Mexico up 59-51 with 13:20 remaining when UCCS went on a 10-0 run, taking a two-point lead after McCollum's 3-pointer at the 10:12 mark. That advantage would last 3:36 before the Mustangs regained the lead for good.

"One thing we can learn from this game – one thing we can do better – is when we go on a run, we need to continue that instead of getting up by three and going 'OK,'" said Perkins. "We need to close the door."

SW Oklahoma State 93, UCCS 74 Dec. 29

WEATHERFORD, Okla. – Despite 24 points and six rebounds from McCollum, the Mountain Lions suffered a defeat at the hands of the No. 8-ranked Bulldogs at Rankin Williams Field House.

Nate Perry was dominant for the Bulldogs with 12 points, 16 rebounds and five assists. Trevor Guy led Southwest Oklahoma State with 16 points, while Clarke Hale and Kendall Smith each added 14.

Starting guards Tomaul Hawkins and Fuller scored 12 and 10 points respectively for UCCS. Fuller added five assists and Davis matched McCollum's six rebounds.

After a Josh Anfang layup tied the game at 12 with 12:11 remaining in the first half, Southwest Oklahoma State went on a 13-0 run behind five points by Guy and four by Jordan Frosch.

UCCS cut the deficit to 29-19 on a 3-pointer by McCollum only to see the Bulldogs finish the half on a 16-5 run. The Mountain Lions closed to within 19 three times in the second half but never got any closer.



UCCS sophomore forward Kyle Perkins knocks down a jumper during the Mountain Lions' loss to Western New Mexico.

UCCS Mountain Lions 2007-08 men's basketball statistics

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(6-9)	(4-2)	(1-6)	(1-1)
CONFERENCE.....	(2-5)	(2-2)	(0-3)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(4-4)	(2-0)	(1-3)	(1-1)

##	Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		FT-FTA	Pct	---REBOUNDS---				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct			Off	Def	Tot	Avg								
13	Nic Fuller.....	15-15	480 32.0	65-148	.439	27-66	.409	62-76	.816	3	53	56	3.7	45	2	53	29	2	22	219	14.6
24	Tomaul Hawkins.....	15-15	429 28.6	71-160	.444	15-44	.341	36-50	.720	18	37	55	3.7	40	1	25	52	20	36	193	12.9
34	Frank McCollum.....	13-13	374 28.8	50-115	.435	21-43	.488	33-49	.673	24	44	68	5.2	38	3	24	35	5	14	154	11.8
21	Kyle Perkins.....	15-15	475 31.7	68-138	.493	18-45	.400	17-21	.810	31	56	87	5.8	33	1	21	35	0	15	171	11.4
35	Eric Davis.....	15-13	353 23.5	52-95	.547	5-14	.357	33-48	.688	39	59	98	6.5	39	2	14	42	3	11	142	9.5
12	Leo Thomas.....	15-2	267 17.8	23-56	.411	7-18	.389	22-33	.667	1	22	23	1.5	22	0	19	19	1	7	75	5.0
33	Josh Anfang.....	12-0	161 13.4	17-35	.486	0-0	.000	18-30	.600	6	21	27	2.3	31	1	3	12	3	5	52	4.3
54	Steven Clements.....	15-2	156 10.4	10-28	.357	0-0	.000	17-27	.630	13	24	37	2.5	45	2	5	14	6	5	37	2.5
14	Jordan McClung.....	14-0	169 12.1	9-23	.391	5-12	.417	7-12	.583	3	14	17	1.2	16	0	17	9	0	3	30	2.1
15	Bryan Winkel.....	10-0	51 5.1	6-24	.250	3-16	.188	0-0	.000	1	3	4	0.4	5	0	0	3	0	0	15	1.5
30	Chris Fernandez.....	10-0	67 6.7	5-11	.455	0-0	.000	5-10	.500	4	13	17	1.7	14	1	3	4	2	4	15	1.5
10	Abram Ziemer.....	9-0	46 5.1	2-10	.200	2-8	.250	2-2	1.000	2	3	5	0.6	4	0	3	4	0	2	8	0.9
32	Rob Howe.....	7-0	26 3.7	2-8	.250	0-0	.000	2-4	.500	1	5	6	0.9	4	0	1	1	0	2	6	0.9
TEAM.....										18	26	44	2.9	0		1					
Total.....		15	3054	380-851	.447	103-266	.387	254-362	.702	164	380	544	36.3	336	13	188	260	42	126	1117	74.5
Opponents.....		15	3053	405-912	.444	116-331	.350	262-387	.677	196	361	557	37.1	313	-	218	223	46	125	1188	79.2



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Women's Basketball

Roundup: 'Pointless' win first of three in six-game stretch for Mountain Lions

By Doug Fitzgerald

DENVER – In a way, you could call the Mountain Lions' victory on Dec. 28 a pointless win.

Despite playing without a point guard, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs snapped its seven-game losing streak by beating the Newman Jets 63-38 at the Auraria Events Center.

UCCS played the game without both starting point guard Janean Jubic, who was serving a team-imposed one-game suspension because of a technical foul in the team's previous game, and reserve Felisha Hamilton. As a result, the Mountain Lions utilized a point-guard-by-committee approach featuring Emily Jenkins, who began her UCCS career as a power forward, and reserve shooting guard Lauren Holm.

"It was a little scary at first," said Holm, who matched her career high in assists with four and added five points. "We both knew we had to keep our cool. Together we were able to make a full point guard."

They certainly did something right. The Mountain Lions had 20 assists, their second-highest total of the season. Nancy Hoist did a brilliant job passing out of the post, leading UCCS with six assists, while Jenkins had three. Due in large part to the deft passing, UCCS shot 53.3 percent from the field.

"Everybody understood what they had to do in this game and they took ownership of the outcome," said UCCS coach Jessika Caldwell.

Not everything was like clockwork, though. Newman pressed UCCS into 15 turnovers in the first half and 25 overall. Once the Mountain Lions solved the press, though, the rout was on.

"At the beginning, the press was



Lauren Holm dribbles the ball upcourt during the Mountain Lions' win over Newman. Playing without point guard Janean Jubic, Holm and Emily Jenkins split duties running the offense.

unexpected and we were a little flustered," said Holm. "(At halftime) we talked about keeping our cool and passing out of the press instead of dribbling out of it.

"We kept our composure more."

Tonya Tripp had 10 of her team-high 20 points during a 26-10 second-half run as UCCS broke open what had been a five-point game.

Candace Thornton and Alex Pitts each added 10 points for UCCS. Freshman Kirstin Butters hauled down a game-high 11 rebounds in her first career start.

Ashley Hanson led Newman with 16 points, while Kaycee McGill assisted on eight of the Jets' 17 field goals.

The Mountain Lions' defense was

solid all game. UCCS held the Jets to 26.2 percent shooting and 0-for-15 from 3-point range.

"Our defense was really good today," said Caldwell. "We did a good job of recognizing shooters while we were in our zone."

The win aside, Friday's game showed that both Jenkins and Holm could handle the point guard spot for extended periods of time. With Jubic averaging a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference-high 37.5 minutes per game, finding an alternative that will allow her a little bench time could be a huge benefit as the season wears on.

"This will take a lot of pressure off of Janean," said Caldwell. "And she won't wear down as the season progresses."

And that, really, is right on the point.

Concordia-St. Paul 68, UCCS 47 Dec. 29

DENVER – Coming off its first back-to-back 50 percent shooting games in at least eight seasons, the Mountain Lions' offense shifted hard into reverse, making just 22.5 percent of its attempts in a defeat at the hands of the Golden Bears at the Auraria Events Center.

The Mountain Lions, who shot 53.3 percent the previous day against Newman and 54.9 percent Dec. 14 against Western State, acted as if the rim was just a rumor in this game. UCCS made just four of its 30 first half attempts to go into the intermission trailing 33-12.

"We came out very tight because of their big presence," said Caldwell. "They forced us to shoot quickly and without rhythm."

Jenkins led UCCS with 13 points, while Tripp and Whitney Knobbe added seven each. Tripp grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Continued on next page

Women's Basketball

Continued from previous page

Katie LaViolette led Concordia-St. Paul with 13 points and 12 assists.

The Mountain Lions' defense was good enough that anything short of the disastrous shooting performance they got would have kept them in the game. Post players Tripp, Hoist, Alex Pitts and Mallory Lowe limited Bears All-American candidate Amanda Behnke to six points, well below her 18.7-point average to date.

"We did everything defensively that we wanted to do," said Caldwell. "If we could have scored, it could have been different.

UCCS 72, Western New Mexico 61 Jan. 5

COLORADO SPRINGS – This win was an inside job for the Mountain Lions.

Led by 21 points by Tonya Tripp, the Mountain Lions scored 32 points from inside the paint to defeat the Mustangs at the Lions' Den.

Emily Jenkins and Candace Thornton added 17 points each as UCCS executed a strong inside-out offense.

Tripp and Jenkins did most of their damage inside, while Thornton made four of the Mountain Lions' six 3-pointers.

UCCS also made 20 free throws, most of which came because of fouls near the hoop. That means that all but two of the Mountain Lions' points came by way of layup, 3-pointer or free throw. There was just one mid-range jumper.

Add to that a 45-28 rebounding advantage and UCCS' inside dominance was clear.

"Candace has been shooting really, really well from the outside, but you can't live and die by the 3-pointer," said Tripp in reference to Thornton's 43.5 3-point percentage over the past four games. "(Caldwell) is having us pound it down inside, looking for the double teams and create mismatches. That's kind of our game in general."

But the night didn't begin that way. Western New Mexico came out with an aggressive, half-court trap defense that both forced turnovers and gave up layups. Nine of the UCCS' 12 first-half turnovers came in the first 10 minutes. During the same span, the Mountain

Lions converted just two of their eight layup opportunities.

That combination had Western New Mexico holding a 29-16 lead with 6:05 remaining in the half. That's when the Mountain Lions saw something.

"We took some time to figure out how to break their 1-2-2 press," said Tripp. "We were trying to dribble through it instead of passing over the top and looking middle. Once we started hitting the middle of the court we were able to break it."

It also allowed Tripp to start pinning the defender so that UCCS could pass over the top. She scored eight of her 14 first-half points on a 17-3 run to

Continued on next page

2007-08 UCCS Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Result
<i>Disney's Division II Tip-Off East Coast Classic, Orlando, Fla.</i>			
Fri Nov 2	7:30 P.M.	vs. Winona State	W, 68-63
Sat Nov 3	5:00 P.M.	vs. Limestone	W, 84-74
Sun Nov 4	5:00 P.M.	vs. Bellarmine	W, 73-67
<i>Grizzly Tip-Off Classic, Alamosa, Colo.</i>			
Fri Nov 16	1:00 P.M.	vs. Mayville State	W, 78-71
Sat Nov 17	1:00 P.M.	vs. Lubbock Christian	L, 71-60
<i>Hyatt Place Mountain Lion Classic, The Lions' Den</i>			
Fri Nov 23	6:00 P.M.	Wayne State	L, 80-63
Sat Nov 24	6:00 P.M.	South Dakota	L, 82-66
Thu Nov 29	6:00 P.M.	Augustana	L, 73-63
Fri Dec 7	6:00 P.M.	Adams State*	L, 70-50
Sat Dec 8	6:00 P.M.	CSU-Pueblo* \$	L, 68-52
Fri Dec 14	6:00 P.M.	at Western State*	L, 69-68
<i>Comfort Inn Christmas Classic, Denver, Colo. (Metro State)</i>			
Fri Dec 28	1:00 P.M.	vs. Newman	W, 63-38
Sat Dec 29	1:00 P.M.	vs. Concordia-St. Paul	L, 68-47
Fri Jan 4	6:00 P.M.	N.M. Highlands*	W, 63-57
Sat Jan 5	6:00 P.M.	Western New Mexico*	W, 72-61
Mon Jan 7	7:00 P.M.	at Colorado College	W, 66-52
Fri Jan 11	6:00 P.M.	at Mesa State*	L, 68-52
Sat Jan 12	6:00 P.M.	at Fort Lewis*	L, 82-44
Fri Jan 18	6:00 P.M.	Nebraska-Kearney*	
Sat Jan 19	6:00 P.M.	Chadron State*	
Fri Jan 25	5:00 P.M.	at Metro State*	
Sat Jan 26	5:00 P.M.	at Colorado Christian*	
Tue Jan 29	7:00 P.M.	at Regis*	
Sat Feb 2	6:00 P.M.	Colorado Mines*	
Fri Feb 8	6:00 P.M.	Colorado Christian*	
Sat Feb 9	6:00 P.M.	Metro State*	
Tue Feb 12	6:00 P.M.	Regis*	
Fri Feb 15	6:00 P.M.	at Colorado Mines*	
Thu Feb 21	6:00 P.M.	at Chadron State*	
Sat Feb 23	2:00 P.M.	at Nebraska-Kearney*	

Home games in **BOLD** type
\$ at the U.S. Olympic Training Center



At left, Mallory Lowe shoots a hook shot over Fort Lewis defender Lauren Redfern. At right, Kirstin Buttars pulls up for a jumper as Audrey George (20) defends.



Women's Basketball

Continued from previous page

take a one-point lead. The Mustangs, though, had a 35-33 lead at the half.

The Mountain Lions were leading 43-39 with 14:09 remaining when Tripp had five points and Hoist four during an 11-1 UCCS run over the next 4:15. The lead never dipped below double digits after that.

Jocelyn Chaves led Western New Mexico with 12 points.

"It feels good to be winning again," said Tripp. "We were kind of down in the dumps during the losing streak. It's starting to feel like Disney again. The team chemistry is building."

UCCS 65, Colorado College 52 Jan. 7

COLORADO SPRINGS – Behind a 13-point, 13 rebound effort by Tripp, the Mountain Lions won for the fourth time in their past five games with a decision over the Tigers at Reid Gymnasium.

The Mountain Lions have now beaten Division III Colorado College nine consecutive times and 26 of the past 27 meetings dating back to 1992.

Jenkins added 11 points and six rebounds for UCCS, while Thornton had 10 points and seven rebounds. Butters had nine points and Hoist came off the bench to score eight.

The biggest surprise for UCCS came from Knobbe, who parlayed a 3-

pointer seconds after she entered the game into a career-high 10 points.

"After my first shot I usually settle in and get comfortable," said Knobbe. "That's when I start playing better."

The Mountain Lions shot 39.3 percent from the field and are now 7-1 on the season when shooting 37 percent or better.

Melanie Auguste led Colorado College with 22 points, seven rebounds and four assists, while Paige Whitney added 12 points. The rest of the Tigers scored a combined 18 points on 8-of-30 shooting.

Knobbe entered the game early in the second half and provided a big spark for UCCS. Not only did she drain a pair of 3-pointers, the junior from Lamar also was able to contain the difficult-to-cover Auguste. That combination helped the Mountain Lions open the second half with a 19-8 run.

"(Auguste) was our focus defensively," said Knobbe. "I wanted to make sure I played tight; make sure she didn't get any easy shots."

Mesa State 68, UCCS 52 Jan. 11

GRAND JUNCTION – The Mountain Lions came most, but not all, of the way back from a 16-point second-half deficit before finally succumbing to the Mavericks at Brownson Arena.

The Mountain Lions trailed 35-19 just over a minute into the second half

when a Candace Thornton 3-pointer ignited a 9-1 run. After a Mesa State field goal, Jubic knocked down a 3-pointer to start a 7-2 run that closed the gap to 40-35.

A 3-pointer by the Mavericks' Hannah Breidel was answered by a pair of field goals by Hoist and another by Tonya Tripp as the Mountain Lions closed to within three.

"It was more of us going to what works for us; going inside out and moving the ball more on offense," said Hoist. "More than anything, it shows our heart. We won't give up."

The score was 45-42 with 7:50 remaining when the wheels fell off. A Mavericks field goal was quickly followed by a rebounding foul by Tripp, her fifth, with 7:35 remaining. Tripp, the Mountain Lions' leading scorer and rebounder, came into the game with a bulls-eye on her butt, picking up five fouls, four of the phantom variety, in just 19 minutes of playing time.

Frustrated, Tripp slammed the ball down and was also assessed a technical foul. Mesa State made all four free throws to go up 51-42. UCCS never recovered.

"Games aren't won or lost in one moment," said Hoist. "It's the result of what happens over the full 40 minutes."

Continued on next page

UCCS Mountain Lions 2007-08 women's basketball statistics

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(4-7)	(0-5)	(0-1)	(4-1)
CONFERENCE.....	(0-3)	(0-2)	(0-1)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(4-4)	(0-3)	(0-0)	(4-1)

##	Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		FT-FTA	Pct	---REBOUNDS---				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct			Off	Def	Tot	Avg								
43	Tonya Tripp.....	11-11	319 29.0	75-151	.497	7-24	.292	37-65	.569	29	61	90	8.2	32	2	22	27	20	9	194	17.6
33	Emily Jenkins.....	11-11	278 25.3	30-108	.278	1-8	.125	35-47	.745	28	43	71	6.5	25	0	16	46	8	15	96	8.7
40	Nancy Hoist.....	11-11	307 27.9	29-87	.333	5-14	.357	32-45	.711	29	42	71	6.5	24	0	21	29	1	9	95	8.6
12	Janean Jubic.....	11-11	413 37.5	28-73	.384	20-55	.364	15-23	.652	4	31	35	3.2	22	0	55	44	2	19	91	8.3
23	Candace Thornton... 11-10	267 24.3	21-60	.350	8-27	.296	17-26	.654	7	29	36	3.3	30	1	9	21	1	6	67	6.1	
30	Jazzmin Awa-William 10-1	156 15.6	24-47	.511	2-6	.333	10-15	.667	14	27	41	4.1	33	2	13	21	2	4	60	6.0	
13	Kirstin Butters.... 6-0	47 7.8	7-22	.318	0-1	.000	7-11	.636	8	6	14	2.3	5	0	1	2	1	4	21	3.5	
50	Alex Pitts.....	11-0	154 14.0	12-30	.400	0-0	.000	10-20	.500	6	11	17	1.5	25	1	3	17	4	8	34	3.1
22	Lauren Holm.....	11-0	124 11.3	9-35	.257	9-25	.360	4-4	1.000	8	17	25	2.3	11	0	10	20	0	3	31	2.8
32	Mallory Lowe.....	10-0	80 8.0	10-25	.400	2-5	.400	2-2	1.000	3	11	14	1.4	13	0	5	7	1	0	24	2.4
14	Brittany Fortier... 2-0	5 2.5	2-2	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	2.0	
20	Felisha Hamilton... 9-0	27 3.0	1-5	.200	0-4	.000	2-4	.500	0	1	1	0.1	5	0	1	8	1	1	4	0.4	
24	Whitney Knobbe.... 7-0	23 3.3	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	4	4	8	1.1	5	0	3	4	0	2	3	0.4	
TEAM.....										20	21	41	3.7	0		0					
Total.....		11	2200	249-648	.384	54-169	.320	172-264	.652	160	306	466	42.4	230	6	159	247	41	80	724	65.8
Opponents.....		11	2200	267-662	.403	68-225	.302	185-259	.714	133	286	419	38.1	244	-	172	202	35	119	787	71.5

Women's Basketball

Continued from previous page

The final margin was larger than it should have been. Stratton conceded in the final 30 seconds, loudly instructing her team not to foul so that Mesa State could dribble out the final seconds. Mesa State coach Timi Brown had other ideas, though, as the Mavericks took advantage of the letdown to score two more field goals.

Hoist led UCCS with 14 points. Jubric and Thornton each added nine, while Tripp and Jenkins each had eight. Jenkins also had 10 rebounds and four assists.

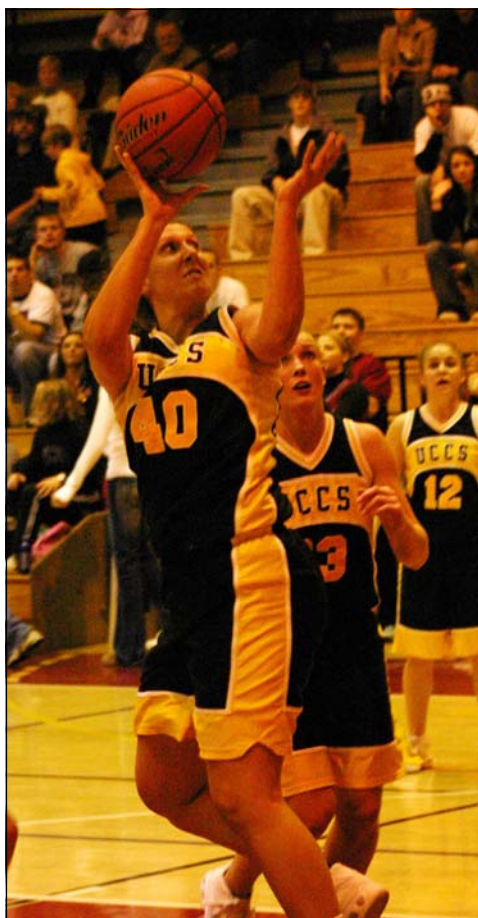
Brittany Fowler led Mesa State with 16 points.

Fort Lewis 82, UCCS 44 Jan. 12

DURANGO – Facing the best team in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference on its home court is never easy. Doing it minus your leading scorer and rebounder, well, that's a daunting proposition.

Playing without Tripp, the Mountain Lions were beaten by the Skyhawks at Whalen Athletic Center.

The Mountain Lions' senior center was serving a team-imposed, one-game suspension for receiving a tech-



Nancy Hoist scores two of her team-high 14 points during the Mountain Lions' loss to Mesa State on Jan. 11.

nical foul during Friday's loss to Mesa State.

"Our integrity and attitude on the floor are very important," said UCCS coach Jessika Caldwell. "The policy's in place so that we uphold those values."

Without Tripp, UCCS shot just 28.8 percent from the field. The Mountain Lions also struggled with the Fort Lewis trap, committing 27 turnovers, which led to 36 Skyhawk points.

Jenkins and Hoist led UCCS with eight points each and Jubric added seven. Jenkins also had 10 rebounds and four steals.

Katie Mackey led Fort Lewis with 16 points.

Two Nancy Hoist free throws gave the Mountain Lions a 17-16 lead with 6:30 remaining in the first half when Fort Lewis stepped up the defensive pressure. UCCS was forced into eight turnovers over the next four minutes as the Skyhawks went on a 9-0 run.

Fort Lewis outshot UCCS 44.4 percent to 24.1 percent to go into the intermission with a 35-23 lead.

The Skyhawks opened the second half making five of their first seven field goal attempts to expand the lead to 17 at the 14-minute mark and the rout was on.

Mountain Lions basketball games to be seen on TV

By Doug Fitzgerald

COLORADO SPRINGS – The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs announced Wednesday that it would televise four of its basketball games live, starting with Friday's women/men doubleheader against Nebraska-Kearney.

UCCS will also show both the women's and men's games against Metro State on Feb. 9.

The games will air on Comcast channel 20. The women's game will begin at 6 p.m. with the men's game to follow at approximately 8 p.m.

Tony Desiere will be the play-by-play voice of the Mountain Lions for Friday's men's game and both games

on Feb. 9. Mike McNeely will provide the play-by-play for Friday's women's game. UCCS athletic director Stephen Kirkham, who won over 400 games as a basketball coach including 300 at the collegiate level, will provide color commentary.

In addition to being broadcast live, Friday's games will re-air as follows.

Monday, January 21

Women – 6 p.m.

Men – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 22

Women – Noon

Men – 2 p.m.

Wednesday, January 23

Women – 8 a.m.

Men – Noon

Thursday, January 24

Men – 6 p.m.

Women – 8 p.m.

Friday, January 25

Men – Noon

Women – 2 p.m.

Saturday, January 26

Women – 8 a.m.

Men – 10 a.m.

Women – 6 p.m.

Men – 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 27

Men – 6 p.m.

Women – 8 p.m.



Mentorship evening proves to be mutually beneficial

By Doug Fitzgerald

COLORADO SPRINGS – Call it a mutually beneficial arrangement.

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs softball team hosted and mentored the Aqua Sox softball club Tuesday evening as part of the ongoing efforts of the UCCS Department of Athletics to engage in community outreach projects.

The Aqua Sox are comprised of girls aged from 11- to 14-years old, all from the Colorado Springs area. Coach Danielle Martinez said her girls were excited about the opportunity to interact with the Mountain Lions.

“It’s a big deal. This is the closest they’re going to get to see a national-level athlete,” said Martinez. “We don’t have very many resources in southern Colorado for softball. I looked to our highest level of athlete and that’s the UCCS softball team.”

The impact they had on the girls wasn’t lost on the Mountain Lion players. The wide-eyed wonder and looks of adoration were unmistakable.

“It reemphasizes to our kids what it’s all about,” said UCCS coach Scott Peterson. “They are role models for these kids and I think this helped emphasize that as well.”



Members of the UCCS softball team and the Aqua Sox give each other hints about which celebrity they are supposed to be. Notice the names taped to each girl’s back.

The UCCS players took their position as role models to heart. During one-on-one conversations and also during a productive question-and-answer session, UCCS student-athletes repeatedly stressed the importance of good time management and setting priorities.

It was the kind of guidance you would expect from a group that boasts a cumulative team GPA of 3.25.

The Mountain Lions also shared softball tips, and also talked about favorite movies and bands.

“I think all of them are thinking right now, ‘gosh, I remember when I was 14,’” said Peterson.

To start the evening, Peterson used one of his favorite ice-breakers. Names of celebrities were

taped on each girl’s back, UCCS and Aqua Sox alike. The girls then interacted with one another as if they were that celebrity. The object of the game is to figure out who you are.

Next, UCCS and Aqua Sox players paired up and talked to one another for five minutes. Afterwards, they got up in front of the group and talked about their partner. Since they were not allowed to write anything down, they were forced to pay close attention during the conversation.

Those two exercises created a fun, loose atmosphere in which conversation flowed freely. By the end of the event, which lasted well over an hour, the Aqua Sox girls felt special. So did the Mountain Lions, who saw first-hand how their status as role models could be put to positive use.

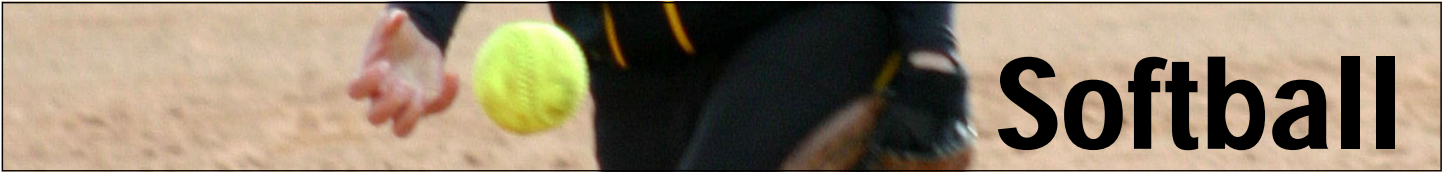
“This kind of thing is huge for us,” said Peterson.

Their reward? When the meeting broke up, the UCCS players ran gassers in the gym. Those are a series of 12 sprints that must be run in 65 seconds or less.

Obviously, role model is not always a glamorous position.



UCCS sophomore left fielder Sierra Green talks with her partner, Kaeley Silvey, an eighth grader who attends Corpus Christi school and also plays for the Aqua Sox softball club.



Softball

It's a gas, gas gas

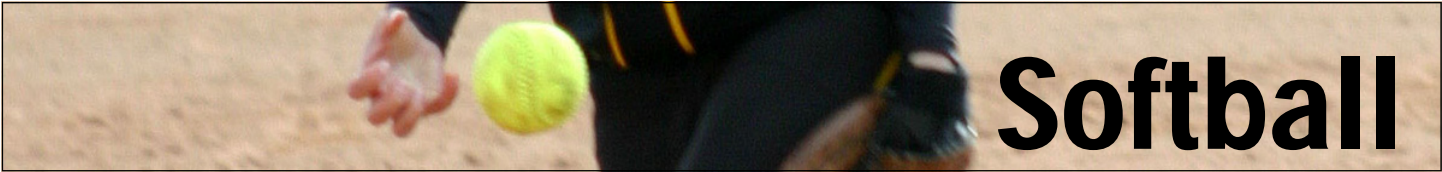
The UCCS softball team began its preseason practices on the evening of Jan. 14 with a time-honored (but not necessarily enjoyed) tradition. Each season, the team opens its first workout with 'gassers,' which is basically 12 consecutive sprints which must be completed in 65 seconds or less. After a five-minute recovery period, the task must be repeated.

If a group (they always run in twos or threes and the slowest time is the one that counts) finishes its first set in less than 65 seconds, the difference is added to their next set. In other words, if a pair finishes its first set in 61 seconds, they will be given 69 seconds to complete the second set.

If a group fails the test, they must repeat it at subsequent practices until they do.



(1)Sierra Green, left, and Sarah McCauley run their first set of gassers while Brianna Workman, assistant coach Tanya Ramsay and Cara Newlon shout encouragement. (2) Head coach Scott Peterson keeps a close eye on the time. (3) Tasha Pagdilao catches her breath after running her first set. (4) McCauley digs deep on the 12th length of her first set.



Softball

UCCS among attendance leaders for fifth straight season

By Doug Fitzgerald

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs softball team ranked sixth in Division II in total attendance this past season, the University learned Monday.

A total of 2,850 fans watched the Mountain Lions play in 2007, just 15 fewer than No. 5 Mount Olive. Angelo State was the Division II attendance leader with 5,555 fans. St. Mary's was second with 3,688.

UCCS also ranked ninth in average attendance with 190 fans per game. The Mountain Lions had 15 home dates this past season (doubleheaders count as only one date, with the higher attendance of the two games being

counted).

"It's just great," said UCCS coach Scott Peterson. "We have an exciting product that people like to watch and we have a great venue to play at."

The team plays its home games at Mountain Lion Field, which is a part of the Four-Diamonds Sports Complex located on Nevada Ave. approximately a quarter mile north of Austin Bluffs Parkway.

UCCS managed the attendance mark despite playing many games in freezing or near-freezing conditions that are common in Colorado during the February-through-April season. UCCS was the only school among the top 15 not from a warm climate. Three of the leaders were from Texas, four

from Florida, three from North Carolina, and one each from South Carolina, Georgia, California and Mississippi.

"With the weather we play in, to get that kind of support is awesome," said Peterson.

UCCS has now ranked among the top 20 nationally in average softball attendance for five consecutive years. The Mountain Lions ranked 19th in 2006 (144), seventh in 2005 (165), sixth in 2004 (177) and 17th in 2003 (137).

The school has also been nationally ranked in total attendance in three of the past four seasons. UCCS missed being among the top 25 in 2005, when it had just nine home dates.

2007 NCAA Division II softball home attendance leaders

TOTAL HOME ATTENDANCE			
Team	Dates	Attendance	Avg
1. Angelo St.	21	5,555	265
2. St. Mary's (Tex.)	15	3,688	246
3. Cal St. Stanislaus	22	3,191	145
4. Fla. Gulf Coast	17	2,919	172
5. Mount Olive	13	2,865	220
6. UC-Colo. Spgs.	15	2,850	190
7. St. Leo	18	2,834	157
8. Valdosta St.	12	2,813	234
9. Delta St.	9	2,325	258
10. Wingate	13	2,249	173
11. Tex. A&M-Kingsville	14	2,235	160
12. Pfeiffer	15	2,234	149
13. Fla. Southern	21	2,143	102
14. Presbyterian	11	2,111	192
15. Rollins	16	2,064	129
16. C.W. Post	15	2,037	136
17. West Fla.	15	1,982	132
18. Kutztown	12	1,890	158
19. Lenoir-Rhyne	13	1,875	144
20. Colorado St.-Pueblo	11	1,776	161
21. Midwestern St.	13	1,771	136
22. Emporia St.	9	1,768	196
23. Humboldt St.	12	1,735	145
24. Barry	18	1,721	96
25. Cal St. San B'dino	13	1,706	131
26. Hawaii-Hilo	14	1,596	114
27. Washburn	8	1,535	192
28. Texas Woman's	13	1,493	115
29. West Ala.	9	1,423	158
30. West Ga.	16	1,405	88

AVERAGE HOME ATTENDANCE			
Team	Dates	Attendance	Avg
1. Angelo St.	21	5,555	265
2. Delta St.	9	2,325	258
3. St. Mary's (Tex.)	15	3,688	246
4. Valdosta St.	12	2,813	234
5. Mount Olive	13	2,865	220
6. Emporia St.	9	1,768	196
7. Presbyterian	11	2,111	192
8. Washburn	8	1,535	192
9. UC-Colo. Spgs.	15	2,850	190
10. Wingate	13	2,249	173
11. Fla. Gulf Coast	17	2,919	172
12. Grand Valley St.	6	977	163
13. Colorado St.-Pueblo	11	1,776	161
14. Tex. A&M-Kingsville	14	2,235	160
15. West Ala.	9	1,423	158
16. Kutztown	12	1,890	158
17. St. Leo	18	2,834	157
18. Ferris St.	6	920	153
19. Mo. Western St.	8	1,225	153
20. Pfeiffer	15	2,234	149
21. Cal St. Stanislaus	22	3,191	145
22. Humboldt St.	12	1,735	145
23. Lenoir-Rhyne	13	1,875	144
24. Minn. St. Mankato	9	1,263	140
25. Wayne St. (Mich.)	8	1,116	140
26. Midwestern St.	13	1,771	136
27. C.W. Post	15	2,037	136
28. Upper Iowa	2	272	136
29. Grand Canyon	10	1,325	133
30. West Fla.	15	1,982	132



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L I O N O N E C A R D

Volleyball

Mountain Lions sign four Division I transfer, 3 freshmen join UCCS

By Doug Fitzgerald

Coronado High School's Molly Crockett headlines a four-player recruiting class for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs volleyball team, coach Jessica Wood announced Monday.

Joining Crockett will be Kim Boogaard, a transfer from Division I Iona who played her high school ball at Pine Creek, Alex Nuttall from Chaparral High School and Sonja Johnson from Mountain Vista High School.

The class was a departure, of sorts, for Wood. Her previous two recruiting classes were geared more towards payers who were physically gifted but needed experience and technical refinement. Having lost six seniors to graduation, the Mountain Lions' 2008 class is more about skill than size.

"It is a very seasoned freshman class in that they have all been playing for a very long time," said Wood. "They have a ton of critical, under-pressure playing experience."

At 5-foot-8, Crockett is shorter than ideal for an outside hitter but makes up for it with an advanced volleyball I.Q. and deceptive athleticism. She averaged a stout 5.98 kills per game as a senior.

"Molly is one of the most seasoned players I've seen coming in as a freshman," said Wood. "She sees the court so well and creates a ton of angles and she hits with incredible power."

That vision will be well-served in UCCS' quick-set offense. Since Crockett will face fewer double blocks as a result, her shot-making ability will be amplified.

"I definitely think she's going to make an immediate impact," said Wood.

For the offense to work as it should, strong play is required from the Mountain Lions' middle hitters. Heidi Fehringer returns, but Brooke Akers, who led UCCS in nearly every offensive category, graduated.

That's what makes Boogaard's arrival so welcome. At 6-foot-1 and athletic, the junior should do well in replacing Akers' blocking. Offensively, Boogaard may not possess Akers' raw power, but should compensate with her lateral quickness and experience since she ran an offense similar to UCCS' in both high school and club ball.

At Iona in 2007, Boogaard led the Gaels with 1.04 blocks per game despite limited playing time. She also averaged 1.32 kills per game while hitting .179.

"Kim is little different style of player but she brings enough experience that we're not going to lose any ground," said Wood. "She's very agile; she can run our offense very well."

Nuttall was an outside hitter in high school, averaging 2.67 kills per game as a senior, but will be switched to setter at UCCS. With Jessica Stewart and Courtney Weedman, who will be a senior and a junior respectively in 2008, already on the team, Nuttall will have the luxury of time to learn her new craft.

"She can do it all," said Wood. "She can pass and play defense, she can hit, but she's definitely a setter. She is incredibly fast. She has speed like I haven't seen on a setter in a long time."

Johnson is more like the classic Jessica Wood recruit in that her high school numbers were modest but her athleticism is off the charts. She jump touches 9-foot-8, which makes her 5-8



Kim Boogaard shows her blocking skills while a member of the Division I Iona Gaels in this 2007 photo sent courtesy of the Iona Sports Information Department.

stature a non-factor. She and Crockett were teammates in club ball and have work very well together.

"I saw Sonja playing club ball and was immediately impressed by her vertical and court sense," said Wood. "She is going to be a great addition."

With so many seniors lost, all of the newcomers will have an opportunity to see significant playing time right away. Wood says that's not necessarily a bad thing.

"It's going to be a very different style team with strengths in different areas," said Wood. "These girls can all hammer."



Women's Soccer: Tryouts for 2008 Team

Sunday February 10th 1:00 pm at Mountain Lion Stadium

Or

Sunday February 17th 1:00 pm at Mountain Lion Stadium

Open to: High School Seniors

Open to all high school senior that are considering attending UCCS this coming fall and want to be looked at for a position on the new Division II women's soccer team

1. In order to be considered for a tryout slot you must submit the following ASAP:
 - a. Online Form – Women's Soccer:
 - b. Prospective Student Athlete Form
2. All forms and waivers: Must be submitted no later than 72 hours prior to tryout
 - a. Current physical – Proof of medical exam within past six months of planned tryout date
 - b. Prospective Student-Athlete Tryout Form
 - c. Prospective Student-Athlete Medical Disclosure Form
3. You need to specify which date you are planning on attending:
You are ONLY allowed to attend one date.
4. Provide a current email address

Other Information:

1. An insurance waiver will be emailed to you if you earn a tryout slot
 - * You will need to send it back and make a copy to bring with you to the tryout
2. Registration Begins at 12:15 pm
3. The tryout may include tests to evaluate the prospective student-athlete's strength, speed, agility and sport skills.

If you have additional information also Send:

1. A tape of you in action – within a game, skills practice, etc. to:
UCCS
Athletic Dept.
Attention: Nichole M. Rick
1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
2. Your player profile - if you have one made up to nrick@uccs.edu

You will be notified via email if you have received a tryout slot.



Women's Soccer

A banner image showing a track and field scene with a person's legs and feet in mid-air, a red cone, and a track surface.

Track & Field

A team-building exercise

Season preview: Individual accolades to take back seat to team goals for Mountain Lion track & field team

By Doug Fitzgerald

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs track team has produced several All-Americans over the past 10 years. During that same period, however, the UCCS women have never finished higher than fifth in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championship meet and the men have finished either last or next to last every season.

That focus on individual honors over team achievement went contrary to athletic director Stephen Kirkham's team-first philosophy. That's why, when he hired Mark Misch to be the new cross country and track & field



Senior Jenna Dorsey-Spitz is an All-American candidate in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

coach for the Mountain Lions, he was a perfect fit.

"That's our number one goal this season; to create an entire track and field team, not just this person here and this person there," said Misch. "(We want) to create the positive environment that fosters the culture we need for a college track and field program.

"You want the kids to have that experience; what it's like to be out there with 40, 50, 60 people. It's really exciting when you get all of those people moving in a positive direction and enjoying being with their teammates and cheering them on.

"If you can create that type of atmosphere and develop core leaders within that, it grows."

That growth actually began last year, when Kirkham brought in Fred Slack as an interim track coach. That step showed the student-athletes that track was finally going to be a priority at UCCS.

The plain truth is that, previously, the Mountain Lions track teams have been more an offseason training regimen for the cross country athletes. Each of the All-Americans competed in distance events with everything else conducted like a club team. Misch and assistant coach David Harmer have worked hard to add sprinters, jumpers, throwers and mid-distance runners for this season and their recruiting for 2009 looks very promising.

The process began with tryouts. After that, a higher level of dedication and commitment was required of the non-distance athletes. While this step caused several to quit, the result will be a more cohesive and focused team.



Kelsey Barry leads a growing contingent of UCCS sprinters. The Mountain Lions plan to be more competitive in non-distance events.

"These kids are ones we've gone the hard yard with," said Misch. "I guess you could say we've sifted the wheat from the chaff. These people are committed to the program."

One athlete who has always shown that commitment is All-American Shannon Payne who, despite running with an injured knee, finished seventh nationally in the 3,000-meter run and 10th in the 5,000 meters. She had off-season surgery, though, and her status for both the indoor and outdoor track seasons is uncertain.

Continued on next page

Track & Field

Continued from previous page

With or without Payne, Jenna Dorsey-Spitz is hoping to have a big senior season. She was fourth in the RMAC in the 1,500 meters as a junior and fifth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Also running in distance events will be Christy Severy, Leslie Bennett and Whitney Lund along with newcomers Vivian Reed, Kaitlyn Frier and Alicia del Pardo. Another, Tavia Hammond, is abroad for the semester and will rejoin the Mountain Lions in the fall.

Severy took seventh in the RMAC this past season in the steeplechase but is capable of much more. Her qualifying time coming into the RMAC meet was among the top five. Bennett, meanwhile, came in 14th in the 5,000.

One of the biggest finds last season was Kelsey Barry, who stunned onlookers at the RMAC meet with a fifth-place finish in the 400 meters. Now a sophomore, she could develop into UCCS' first champion sprinter.

Josi Heer, a freshman from New Hampshire, initially struggled with Colorado's altitude. She has acclimated so well that she ran the 60 meters at a warmup meet in December that, had it counted, would have broken the UCCS record in the event. Also competing in sprints for the UCCS women will be Amanda Stoesz and Kirstin Knobbe, who has had two sisters compete in basketball for the Mountain Lions.

Junior Jessica Hudson, who took ninth at the RMAC meet in the 800 meters, leads the middle-distance athletes. Misch and Harmer are working with the talented and diminutive (4-foot-10) Hudson to be a racer rather than a runner. She has shown championship-caliber talent and can do great things if she combines that with savvy strategy.

Freshman Paige Hall, sophomore Tracy Falsetto and freshman Melissa McKinley will join Hudson in the mid distances. Hall was having a solid cross country season before getting ill, while McKinley is what Harmer refers

to as a "true racer."

UCCS will also have two throwers competing in Brittanea Kirby and Jennifer Callam.

The men's team features senior mid-distance runner Dan Pinter. After a 13th-place finish in the 1,500 meters a year ago, Pinter looks to be peaking in his final collegiate season and is a candidate to qualify for nationals.

Alex Vazquez hoped to do exactly that at the RMAC meet a year ago but was disqualified after a false start. He will be UCCS' top threat in the 800. Freshman Chris Reynolds will likely compete in both events.

The Mountain Lion men will have five sprinters competing, easily the most in school history. The only returner among them is sophomore Carl Lum, who took 13th in both the 100 and 200 meters this past season.

Jason Shaver is an exciting freshman who will likely run the 200 and 400. Also in sprints will be Almir Hodzic, William Pendarvis and Vy Nguyen.

Branson Bartlett, who is coming off a brilliant first season in cross country, headlines what should be a solid group of distance runners. The freshman will likely compete in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters.



The UCCS coaching staff includes head coach Mark Misch, above, and assistants David Harmer and Kim Hageman.



Continued on next page

UCCS 2008 track & field schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat Jan 26	CSM Joe Davies Open	Golden, CO
Fri Feb 1-2	Air Force Invitational	Colorado Springs, CO
Fri Feb 8-9	Air Force	Colorado Springs, CO
Sat Feb 16	CSM All-Comers	Golden, CO
Fri Feb 22	CSM Invite	Golden, CO
Fri Feb 29-March 1	RMAC Indoor Championships	Kearney, NE
Fri Mar 14-15	NCAA II Indoor Championships	Mankato, MN
Sat Mar 22	CU Potts Invitational	Boulder, CO
Sat Mar 29	CSU Rob Upton Invitational	Fort Collins, CO
Sat Apr 5	UNC Tom Benich Invite	Greeley, CO
Sat Apr 12	Colorado College Invitational	Colorado Springs, CO
Wed Apr 16-19	KU Relays	Lawrence, KS
Sat Apr 26	CSU Christiansen Invite	Fort Collins, CO
Sun May 4-6	RMAC Outdoor Championships	Gunnison, CO
Fri May 9-10	Air Force Twilight Championships	Colorado Springs, CO
Sat May 10	Emporia State Last Chance Meet	Emporia, KS
Thu May 22-24	NCAA II Outdoor Championships	Pomona, CA



Track & Field

Continued from previous page

Veteran Alex Tiernan was 15th in the 1,500 meters and 13th in the steeplechase a year ago and should improve upon those numbers. Joel Keinitz was 10th in the steeplechase and 19th in the 1,500. Gabe Small was 14th in the steeple and 19th in the 1,500, while Dustin Simeons was 15th and 17th respectively.

Carlos Ruibal took 10th a year ago in the 10,000 but will likely run shorter distances this season as he recovers from a prolonged illness. Allen Browne, David Andrews and Steve Yeager will also run distance events for UCCS.

The Mountain Lions' three throwers will be Preston Williams, Blake Hansen and Trevor Nau.

Talent will only take this group so far. If they are to be the true team that

Misch wants them to be, they'll have to embrace the team's motto "Harrabee," a Swahili word meaning to come together as a unified whole. Misch and harmer think they're well on their way.

"We have a good group overall," said Misch. "We're headed in the right direction."

UCCS 2008 women's track roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous School(s)</u>
Kelsey Barry	So	Sprints	5-7	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Mitchell HS
Leslie Bennett	Jr	Distance	5-2	Albuquerque, N.M.	Hope Christian HS
Jennifer Callan	Fr	Throws	5-8	Fountain, Colo.	Fountain-Fort Carson HS
Alicia Del Pardo	Fr	Distance	5-2	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Sierra HS
Jenna Dorsey-Spitz	Sr	Mid-distance	5-7	Pueblo, Colo.	Air Force (Pueblo South HS)
Tracy Falsetto	So	Mid-distance	5-11	Trinidad, Colo.	Trinidad State JC (Trinidad HS)
Kaitlin Frier	Fr	Distance	5-3	Valley Springs, Calif.	Lewis-Palmer HS
Paige Hall	Fr	Mld-distance	5-7	Potomac, Mont.	Hellgate HS
Tavia Hammond	So	Distance	5-4	Rocky Ford, Colo.	Rocky Ford HS
Josi Heer	Fr	Sprints	5-5	Weare, N.H.	John Stark HS
Jessica Hudson	Jr	Mid-distance	4-10	Fountain, Colo.	Fountain-Fort Carson HS
Brittanea Kirby	Fr	Throws	5-8	Maniou Springs, Colo.	Manitou Springs HS
Kirstin Knobbe	Fr	Sprints	5-5	Lamar, Colo.	Lamar HS
Whitney Lund	Sr	Distance	5-3	Basalt, Colo.	Alpine Christian Academy
Melissa McKinley	Fr	Mid-distance	5-7	Hermiston, Ore.	Hermiston HS
Shannon Payne	Jr	Distance	5-6	Franktown, Colo.	Ponderosa HS
Vivian Reed	Fr	Distance	5-3	Tuscon, Ariz.	Cienega HS
Christy Severy	So	Distance	5-3	Aspen, Colo.	Aspen HS
Amanda Stoesz	Fr	Sprints	5-10	Berthoud, Colo.	Berthoud HS

UCCS 2008 men's track roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Previous School(s)</u>
David Andrews	So	Distance	6-2	175	Elk Grove Village, Ill.	Harper College (Conant HS)
Branson Bartlett	Fr	Distance	5-10	135	Peyton, Colo.	Peyton HS
Allen Browne	So	Distance	6-6	180	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Mitchell HS
Blake Hansen	Jr	Throws	6-1	235	Denver, Colo.	Northern Colorado (Machebeuf HS)
Almir Hodzic	So	Sprints	5-10	170	Aurora, Colo.	Gateway HS
Joel Kienitz	So	Distance	5-11	145	Rocky Ford, Colo.	Rocky Ford HS
Carl Lum	So	Sprints	6-2	165	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Rampart HS
Trevor Nau	Fr	Throws	6-1	180	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Coronado HS
Vy Nguyen	So	Sprints	5-7	150	Minnesota, Minn.	
William Pendarvis	Fr	Sprints	5-5	145	Aurora, Colo.	Gateway HS
Dan Pinter	Sr	Mid-distance	5-7	135	Saline, Mich.	Saline HS
Chris Reynolds	Fr	Mid-distance	5-11	145	Evansville, Ind.	F.J. Reitz HS
Carlos Ruibal	Jr	Distance	5-9	145	Del Norte, Colo.	Del Norte HS
Jason Shaver	Fr	Sprints	5-11	160	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Coronado HS
Dustin Simeons	So	Distance	6-3	160	Grand Junction, Colo.	Fruita Monument HS
Gabe Small	Sr	Distance	6-2	160	Lafayette, Colo.	CU-Boulder (Fairview HS)
Alex Tiernan	Jr	Distance	5-9	140	Carbondale, Colo.	Roaring Fork HS
Alex Vazquez	So	Mid-distance	5-9	145	Aurora, Colo.	Gateway HS
Preston Williams	So	Throws	6-2	200	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Rampart HS
Steve Yeager	Fr.	Distance	6-0	155	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Sand Creek HS