Next Step: THE Big Dance

After trailing only once in the first three minutes of the game, the number one ranked Lady Norse earned their second trip in three years to the national tournament with a 77-55 victory over Carl Albert State College, Sunday afternoon in the finals of the Region II Tournament at Shawnee.

While most of the student body will be going home for Spring Break, March 16-23, the Lady Norse will travel to the Recreational Center in Salina, Kan., to participate in the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament.

Sixteen teams will compete in the double-elimination tournament.

Coach B.J. Smith's Lady Norse swept through the three-game regionals and enter the national tournament with a perfect 32-0 record.

The entire 16-team tournament field will not be determined until completion of all the regionals later this week. The regionals finished 3-3-4 and ranked fourth in the nation during the 1999-2000 season.

"Everything in life like Christmas or Easter meet our expectations as human beings. But, an athletic accomplishment like qualifying for the national tournament falls into that category," said Smith.

Lady Norse coaches Carl Albert and Melissa Gasson were selected Most Valuable Players and Miah Shiford earned All-Tournament team honors as the Lady Norse defeated the Lady Vikings in the regional finals.

After falling behind 4-3 in the first three minutes, the Lady Norse offense came alive and mounted a 25-7 run to put the Lady Vikings in a deep hole.

Souza led NEO with 13 points and seven rebounds, while Silva added 13 points and four rebounds.

Laura Hamilton tallied 28 points for Carl Albert.

Lady Norse 87-Semifinal 60

Freshman center Miah Shiford scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Lady Norse defeated the Belles 87-60 in the Region II semifinals.

Suggestion system in place

"We started this system during the 1999-2000 school year, but last year we didn't have any input, so we are starting it up again," said Bandell.

The purpose of the system is to improve the quality of the college for those who live, work and study on this campus.

"A formal system has been designed to help foster a sense of awareness that every reasonable suggestion will be considered and that a timely response to each suggestion will be made," Bandell said.

Suggestions made by the faculty or staff members must be submitted to the campus police by phone or by e-mail to suggestions@neosum.edu.

On Saturdays and Sundays, the suggestions will be reviewed and a response to each will be made.

"Suggestion system in place

If you don't like it, wait one minute cause it goes from zero to 30 in less than a week. These eight inches of snow left quick.

OKLAHOMA WEATHER

If you don't like it, wait one minute cause it goes from zero to 30 in less than a week. These eight inches of snow left quick.
Academy okays adoption by homosexual couples

By Danielle Boyd
Managing Editor

The American Academy of Pediatrics has endorsed homosexual adoption, saying gay couples can provide the loving, stable, and emotionally healthy family life that children need.

The new policy focuses specifically on gaining legal permission and rights for gay "co-parents" whose partners have children, but it also could apply to gay couples who want to adopt a child together, said Dr. Joseph Hagan Jr., chairman of the committee that wrote the policy.

Citing estimates suggesting that as many as nine million U.S. children have at least one gay parent, the academy urged 50,000 members to take an active role in supporting measures that allow homosexual adoption.

An academy report, based on related research, says "there's no evidence that adoption by gay parents is harmful to children." The report also says gay parents "are not more likely to kill, abuse, neglect, or abandon their children than heterosexual parents are." The academy, in its policy statement, calls for increased study of the issue.

"It's a group of professional people who want to further understand the one-man, one-woman relationship in America," said the Reverend Louis Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, a Christian lobbying group.

He called the policy a "disservice to medicine," but added that it is crucial for pediatricians to get involved because gay households are becoming more prevalent and doctors are increasingly confronted with related issues.

Gay parents often are the primary caregivers, but without legal rights they have no legal say in matters as simple as granting doctors permission to give a child a shot, said Dr. Barbara J. Howard, an assistant pediatrics professor at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center who helped draft the policy.

Also children in gay households may lack health insurance if the family's only breadwinner is a gay parent without legal rights, Hagan said.

The academy's own research shows that children raised by gay parents do just as well as those raised by heterosexual parents.

Other research also has shown that gay parents make as good a job of raising children as heterosexual parents do.

Critics say the nation's largest pediatricians' group relies on flawed data and is meddling in a political issue.

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"Denying legal parental status through adoption...prevents these children from enjoying the psychological and legal security that comes with having two loving, capable, and loving parents," the policy says.

Opinions expressed in the Norse Wind are the individual's or group's own, and are not necessarily those of the students, faculty, staff or administrators at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. All letters to the editor are reviewed by the editorial board. Opinions expressed in the by-line letter are those of the individual writer. All submitted letters must be signed. The staff reserves the right to edit all copy to conform with journalistic standards.

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SIGI PLUS program aids career choice

By Kateryna Bukay

Today there are many people out there who desperately need help in making their career choice. Teresa Thompson is a Carl Perkins Consultant at NED offering her assistance.

"I am a liaison with the service that NED has a cooperative agreement with. My job is to encourage students currently enrolled in the system to transfer to NED," Thompson said.

"Also I work with individual unemployed students attempting to convince them in attending NED as a transition in their first step toward career future. Therefore, I do a lot of career counseling." Teresa Thompson has been working at NED for almost seven years. She was born in Virginia, but now lives in Lopolin. "My father was in military so we traveled a lot," commented Thompson.

"SIGI PLUS is a comprehensive career guidance system designed to help people with the process of career decisions and plans. It can help students to figure out what they want as far as their occupation in concerned," Thompson said.

"SIGI PLUS consists of nine different stages designed to define your values and interests. SIGI PLUS has been around for years. We were able to introduce this career assessment program to the students at the Carl Perkins," Thompson said.

"Students can access it on a service and SIGI PLUS can help, but it isn't make your decisions. It can't go out and hunt for your next job."

"One of the nine stages introduced in SIGI PLUS is SELF-ASSESSMENT where you can look at your work-related values and decides what is most important to you. The SEARCH provides students with a college major and list of suitable occupations."

"In INFORMATION you can find out about your opportunities and the general outlook or potential satisfaction. The SKILLS stage will give an idea of which skills are required for certain kinds of work," Thompson said.

"In PREPARING, an individual can select typical college preparation paths to a specific occupation and estimate his/her chances of completing any further preparation. In COPING you get help with practical issues such as time, money, location, common worries."

"The DECIDING stage will help you to decide if which occupation is best choice. There are some other stages, where students are moving toward their career goal by planning short-term goals," said Teresa.

"In a word-SIGI PLUS is designed to get you on the right career path if you don't have any idea of your work-related values. SIGI PLUS helps in individual to pinpoint where his/her skills level is."

"For example, if you are not interested in getting eight years of college, then you probably don't need to be a doctor. In this case, SIGI PLUS helps to be realistic in one's thinking."

"As a matter of fact, SIGI PLUS won't tell you what you should do for living as well as a won't tell you the things to avoid. But this program will give you a list of occupations in the area of your personal interest," Thompson said.

"If a student, after going through the program, feels he needs additional help, I am always willing to assist. Also if a student has a specific field of study and wants to check out do some job shadowing, I can try to find somebody who may be interested in letting that student observe for a day just to get this individual a feel of what that profession would actually be like."

"For example, if a student want to become a vet but really realize that he has to deal with clients, business, money, this person needs to come and talk to me and in turn, will try to help him make the right decision as to his career," said Thompson.

"Besides SIGI PLUS, NED's library also offers a collection of career books. Therefore, if a student wants to know what college offers specific majors, he can access the necessary information from the variety of "blue books", the "Pier's Guide to Four-Year Schools" etc."

"I can assist students in a resume writing and job interview. Also I encourage students to lose time and explore the occupation this are interested in. I am more than welcome to help."
MOUNTAINEERS END NORSE SEASON

Sending third seed Eastern Oklahoma College to the free throw line 40 times cost the Golden Norsemen as the Mountaineers posted a 75-60 win in the Region II semifinal game last Saturday in Shavano.

The Mountaineers suffered a 67-64 loss to defending champion University of Arkansas/Fort Smith in the regional title game on Sunday. The Llions advance to the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament, March 19-23, in Hutchinson, Kan., with a 27-5 overall record.

"I was proud of our effort against Eastern. I thought we battled the entire game," said Golden Norse head coach Lonnie Spencer.

"With four minutes left in the game, they were only up six points. But, we had six guys in foul trouble and that was the difference in the game."

Behind nine points by Brandon Daniels, eight by Alfred Neal, seven by Fabio Trestena and six by Brandon Queen the Golden Norse held a 41-38 lead at halftime.

"Even though we were taller than they were, they played a more physical basketball game inside. They shot 30 per cent from 2-point range (15 of 50), but they outrebounded us 24-9 at the free throw line."

LADY NORSE WIN DOUBLE-HEADER WITH CARL ALBERT LADY VIKINGS

Freshman pitchers Jamie Egan and Ashley Thompson continued their dominating ways as the Lady Norse won a Bi-State Conference double-header 4-0 and 10-0 from Carl Albert State College last week in Ponca City.

The Independence twins will be played at 2 p.m. March 27 in Miami while the Eastern games are reset for April 7 at Wilberforce.

Egan threw only three pitches as NEO won 4-0 while allowing three hits and eight strikeouts.

Thomp./on fanned nine and walked one while giving up three hits in the nightcap.

The Lady Norse offense generated 24 hits in the two games.

GOLFS STRUGGLE DURING SPRING SEASON OPENER

Shooting rounds of 339 and 340, the Golden Norsemen opened the spring season by participating in the Gulf Coast Invitational Tournament in Galveston, Texas last week.

"It was a good experience for the boys, but the score wasn't what we had hoped," said head coach John Lomax.

"The kids play anywhere near their ability." 

NEO finished last in a field of 18 teams with a score of 676.

Midland, Texas won the tournament with a 580 team score.

Phil Braddy led the Golden Norsemen with an 81-81 for a 162 score.

Brian Meador posted an 83-81-168 and Jordan Whitfield a 158-85.

Danny Taylor and Dusty Window both finished with rounds of 79.

Norse wind

Scott Woodall tallied 15 points in the first three minutes of the second half to grab a 64-50 lead.

Following field goals by Rafael Franco and Daniels to create the 66-60 deficit with four minutes left in the game, the Golden Norse were thwarted by the rest of the way. Daniels was the only NEO player to reach double figures with 13 points.

"When you stop and consider we had very limited use of Rick Bruner, our starting point-guard, then you understand how difficult it was for us to get any continuity out of our offense."

"Our kids battled hard, but they just weren't enough to pull it together," Spencer said.

Luis Lemos led Eastern with 20 points while Brice Vosang added 19 and Jermaine Echene scored 11 points.

The Golden Norsemen concluded the season with a 15-14 overall record.

NORSE 6-NORTHERN/TOKANAWA 63

Pulling off the ultimate upset, the sixth seeded Golden Norseman steamed by Northern Oklahoma College-Tokanawa 6-63 last Friday in the quarterfinals of the Region II Tournament in Shavano.

Just like they did one year ago, the Norseman played the role of the spoiler by eliminating the third seed Northern Mavics. The loss left the Mavics with a 20-11 season record.

"Even though we were down 13 points at halftime our kids never gave in," said Spencer.

"This was a total team effort with everyone making one contribution or another." Spencer said.

Brandon Daniels led the Norse with 23 total points while West and Neal combined for 10 points each.

Merrill Andrews led all scorers with 24 points while Josh Nakor added 16 points, and Cody Hopkins chipped in 13 points.

Nor 72-Murray 87

It became same song, second verse after the Golden Norsemen defeated Murray State College, 72-57 in a Region II play-in game to advance to the quarterfinals of the Region II Tournament in the Noble Complex at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shavano.

Last year coach Lonnie Spencer's Norsemen defeated Nor's Arkansas 101-82 in a play-in game before gaining a 84-56 upset over Seminole State in the quarterfinals.

The Norse dropped a 86-77 decision to eventual regional champion Eastern Oklahoma State in the semifinals.

Neal paced the Golden Norsemen with 18 total points, while West scored 16, Daniels 14 and Franco 12 points.

PHYSICAL GAME

Northern Oklahoma/Tokanawa forward Kyle Pheggenin (35) tries to gain position as Golden Norseman Brandon Queen (33) looks for a shot.

BASKETBALL TEAM DROPS TWO

With the loss of eight games the past two weeks, Mother Nature has worsened games than the Golden Norse.

Coach Roger Ward's Norsemen stand 7-3 on the season going into an eight-game homestand.

The Norse hosted Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College in a double-header Tuesday at Homa Thomas Field.

A team from Marshalltown, Iowa, will make their first-ever trip to Oklahoma to face the Norsemen in a 2 p.m. double-header on Friday.

The Norse face Bi-State Athletic Conference Eastern Oklahoma College in a 4 p.m. twinbill on Saturday.

The Golden Norse conclude the homestand by hosting Boone, Iowa in a 1 p.m. double-header on Sunday.

Butler County 5-Norse 4

Unable to generate much offense, the Norse dropped a 5-1 decision to the Grizzlies of Butler County, Kan., last week at Homa Thomas Field.

"I was completely outplayed with the benefit of three Golden Norse errors. A foul by Tim Ryan and 6-8 forward Keith Brooks and 4-10 guard Mekeithonate in the first inning."

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