

1984

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Athletic Director (503) 538-8383 Ext. 250
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September 25, 1984

GFC VOLLEYBALL: HOW IT LOOKS FOR 1984

How important is setting in the game of volleyball?

Just ask George Fox College's Steve Grant. The Bruin volleyball coach two years ago coached his squad to a sparkling 15-6 record and a conference title.

Last year, minus that needed setting, the Bruins finished 11-18 and out of the running.

Grant has taken steps to turn that around and says "we've dealt with that weakness from last year and made those our strengths."

What does that mean? For the Bruins, Grant says, its a sharp improvement over a year ago.

"I'm very optimistic," he says. "We've got the same basic team from the last two years, but the difference is that we have some very good setting."

The player experience is a large plus to the Bruins. Grant has three previous MVPs on his 10-player roster this year. Melody Groeneveld McMasters, a hitter and middle blocker, two seasons ago was the Most

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Valuable and a Women's Conference of Independent Colleges all-star. She's a Camas, Wash., senior, who was married this summer and now lives in Dundee. Grant calls her "an outstanding all-around player."

Then there's Diane Walter, a Vancouver, Wash., junior who also is a hitter and middle blocker and won the MVP award last fall. Grant identifies her as "an outstanding leaper, and excellent hitter, and I expect her to have her best year ever."

And this season Grant has Denise Iverson Vernon back. A senior from Newberg, she was the Bruin MVP three seasons back, but sat out the last two years for work and marriage. "I'm very pleased to have Denise back; she's our key in setting," Grant says. Vernon has been elected team captain.

The top newcomer is expected to be Danette DeFord, a freshman from South Albany. A hitter, she earned honorable mention all-state honors last year and played this summer in the State vs. Metro series.

It won't be easy for the Bruins to advance in the 16-team district that features four independents (including GFC), four WCIC schools, and eight members of the Cascade conference.

Grant, in his third year at GFC, says some goals have yet to be set, but one of the biggest will be to make the eight-team playoffs. It depends on compiling "power points," awarded on the basis of wins and losses to winning and losing teams.

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"The district has to be one of the top districts from top to bottom on the West Coast," Grant says. "But I'm cautiously optimistic, we can be in the race," he says.

He tempers that with a word of caution that he hasn't yet had a real opportunity to see his players in action. The Bruins, because of the late start of classes on the Newberg campus, did not start practice until Sept. 14, nearly a month later than some schools. "That works against us," Grant says, "just 12 days until our first match."

The Lady Bruins open their season on the road, meeting Northwest College in Kirkland, Wash., at 7 p.m. Friday (Sept. 29). They open at home Tuesday, (Oct. 2) as Pacific University visits for a 7 p.m. contest.

GEORGE FOX COLLEGE
1984 VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

NAME	POS	HT	CLASS	HOMETOWN
Deanna Aarhus	Setter	5-4	Fr	Vancouver, Wash.
Danette DeFord	Hitter	5-8	Fr	Albany, Ore.
Sharon Guyton	Hitter/Spiker	5-8	So	Milwaukie, Ore.
Melody McMasters	Hitter/Middleblocker	5-8	Sr	Dundee, Ore.
Lael Pinney	Hitter/Back Row	5-8	Sr	Oregon City, Ore.
Debbie Pruitt	Setter	5-6	Fr	Albany, Ore.
Melanie Reinstra	Back Row/Hitter	5-9	Fr	Salem, Ore.
Debbie Sayre	Setter	5-4	Jr	Yerington, Nev.
Denise Vernon	Setter/Hitter	5-7	Sr	Newberg, Wash.
Diane Walter	Middle Blocker	5-9	Jr	Vancouver, Wash.

Coach: ~~Craig Taylor~~

Steve Grant



GEORGE FOX COLLEGE
1984 VOLLEYBALL

NAME OF INSTITUTION: George Fox College LOCATION: Newberg, Ore.

PRESIDENT: Edward F. Stevens COLLEGE ESTABLISHED: 1981 ENROLLMENT: 630

INSTITUTION'S PROGRAM: A four year, Christian liberal arts college founded by the
Friends Church. 27 majors in six divisions. Accredited by the Northwest Association
Secondary and Higher School

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Rich Allen FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE: Mike Allen

HEAD COACH: Steve Grant YEARS AT GFC: 2 LAST YEAR'S GFC RECORD: 11-18

SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR: Barry Hubbell OFFICE: (503) 538-8383 Ext. 224

HOME: (503) 538-4332

ATHLETIC AFFILIATION: Independent, NAIA; NCCAA MEMBER SINCE: 1965/1981

TEAM NAME: Bruins TEAM COLORS: Old Gold and Navy Blue



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November 5, 1984

VOLLEYBALL BRUINS THIRD IN DISTRICT

A year ago the George Fox College volleyball Bruins finished out of the running, not even in the season-ending NAIA District 2 tournament.

This year the Newberg squad not only made the playoffs, but captured third place in the district as they upped their season record to 18-10.

The change is not going unrecognized. The turnaround has brought GFC coach Steve Grant Coach of the Year honors for the district.

Grant's squad won three and lost two in the district playoffs, meeting Lewis and Clark to open the tourney in the first-ever college game in the University of Portland's new Chiles Center.

The Lady Bruins went down 7-15 in the first game, but came back to win 15-11, 11-15, 15-4, 5-11. Up against district champion Western Oregon in the second round, a squad the Newberg team beat during the regular season for the Wolves first loss of the year, George Fox lost, 15-7, 15-10, 15-5.

Defeating Oregon Tech in three straight contests (15-3, 15-10, 15-10) George Fox advanced to the second day of action, stopping Southern Oregon in five games to move to the semifinals where GFC was stopped by the host team 15-6, 15-12, 15-5.

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George Fox College

Volleyball Bruins Third In District
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Portland then went on to nail Western Oregon in three straight to force a sudden-death playoff game that went to the Wolves 15-13.

GFC's Middle-blocker Diane Walter was named to the all-tourney team.

With NAIA District 2 action completed, George Fox Monday (Nov. 5) hosted the National Christian College Athletic Association tournament with seven teams in a day-long tourney in Newberg.



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November 12, 1984

GFC VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS NCCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

A national team championship--perhaps the first ever for Newberg--, a Coach of the Year, and two national All-Americans are proudly in residence this week on the George Fox College campus.

GFC's Lady Bruins Friday and Saturday (Nov. 9, 10) in Chicago captured the National Christian College Athletic Association volleyball title.

The championship came almost easily as Coach Steve Grant's Bruins went undefeated in their march to the NCCAA crown.

George Fox won three games the opening day, defeating Anderson College (Indiana) 15-8, 15-13, then rolling past Houghton (New York) 15-2, 15-8, and stopping Covenant College (Tennessee), 15-4, 15-8.

As the top seed of a four-team pool, one of the two in the eight-team national tournament, GFC matched up the next day in cross-pool play, getting by Marlon College (Indiana) 18-6 in the only real contest for the Lady Bruins, then winning 15-3 to take the semi-final match.

In the championship final Grant's squad squared off against host Trinity College, taking the crown 15-11, 15-8 to sail through the

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GFC Volleyball Team Wins NCCAA National Championship
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tournament without a single loss. Overall it was 153 to 81 for the Bruins in five games.

"We played very well," Grant said, "We rose to the occasion and played the best we have all year."

"I feel we won on Saturday by making the other teams less capable," Grant said, but adding "after Friday I was very nervous that we'd even make the final four."

For the third time in two weeks Grant was named Coach of the Year. In addition to the NCCAA national title, he earlier was given the same honor for NAIA District 2 and NCCAA Region 7.

Grant turned around an 11-18 record of a year ago to coach a 21-10 regular season record this year and 30-10 overall.

Two Lady Bruins also received national recognition. Newberg senior Denise Vernon, a setter/hitter, and Melody Groeneveld-McMaster, Dundee, a hitter/middleblocker, were named NCCAA All-Americans.

George Fox reached the national tournament by dethroning two-time NCCAA district winner Warner Pacific, which won the national title last year. The Lady Bruins also were undefeated in hosting the seven-team regional tournament.

Earlier George Fox captured third in the NAIA District 2 action in a season in which the Lady Bruins defeated nationally-ranked Western Oregon, which later won the District 2 title.

The triumphs may not be a total surprise to Grant who started the

GFC Volleyball Team Wins NCCAA National Championship
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season with "I'm very optimistic." After a sparkling 15-6 first season with George Fox, Grant saw his team falter the second year without some good setters. He took steps to remedy that and said "we've dealt with that weakness from last year and made those our strengths." He may have been right in noting he expected "sharp improvement."

"I really didn't think we'd go this far," Grant said Monday. "I am very pleased with the way things went," he said modestly.

The Bruins this year featured a large plus: three previous MVP's on the roster. Diane Walter, a Vancouver, Wash., junior won the award a year ago, McMaster was the recipient two seasons before, and Vernon had the honor three seasons back, then sat out two years for work and marriage. She was the key in setting and the team captain.

"Our seniors really found themselves; they set a good example for the others," he said.



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