



THE WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGIAN

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Willamette Community mobilizes against discrimination

by Jeremy Hall
Contributor

In 1991, the Board of Trustees and Jerry Hudson, prompted by faculty and student efforts, adopted a Non-discrimination policy. This policy is not only limited to prohibiting discrimination in the relationships between students, administrators, and staff, but strives to cultivate an environment of acceptance and support of all people in the Willamette community.

The policy explicitly states that "Willamette University opposes discrimination in the recruitment and hiring of students and graduates based on sex, race, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, religion or national and ethnic origin." For six years, Department of Defense recruiters could not come on campus because of discriminatory policy that excludes lesbians, gays, and bisexuals from military service.

"This is nothing more than a chance to wave a big stick at us."

—Law student
Beth Allen

But that all changed this year. Congress passed a bill that contained the Solomon Amendment that singled out ten universities that deny access to DOD recruiters. If these ten schools, Willamette included, did not allow recruiters back on campus, they would lose Stafford loans and work-study money.

President Brian Johnston, recognizing that the loss of approximately \$3 million in financial aid to students would force a number of students to withdraw from Willamette, authorized an exemption to the discrimination policy last month. While this decision enabled Willamette's name to be dropped from the list of institutions with threatened federal financial aid, the issues are far from over.

The College of Law Faculty, the College of Liberal Arts Faculty, and ASWU each passed resolutions supporting the Non-discrimination policy and urging the board of trustees to pursue litigation against the federal government. In the CLA Faculty resolution, passed on October 14 with 62 votes in favor and no votes in opposition, professors accept the potential of low pay increases or pay freezes of pledging to a long legal battle. "We accept the financial consequences of such a commitment," the resolution reads, "believing that the issue of non-discrimination is of fundamental importance to our community."

Lack of involvement puts Collegian on hold

by Joo Chan
Contributor

Effective October 17, 1997, the Collegian will temporarily suspend service to allow the newspaper to make organizational changes long overdue.

The first order of business for

the law school sponsored two rallies to protest the arrival of the recruiters on campus as well as the intervention of federal policies into Willamette's autonomy. In the morning rally, approximately 75 gay rights activists and Willamette students, professors and administrators greeted the lone Army recruiter. Demonstrators carried signs and wore stickers which read: "I'm gay for the day", adorned with the pink triangle symbolizing the celebration of gay, lesbian, and bisexual identities and rights.

Many students in attendance felt that the rally certainly had the classic "Willamette comfortable feeling," as caterers laid out a spread of crumpets, muffins, and hot drinks. "This feels like an English tea," said one senior, as he watched a circle of administrators gossip about office politics, as the military recruiter, Capt. Natalie Kolb, skirted through the crowd with a wide, nervous smile.

Kolb found the welcome to her first day at work frightening, as she "didn't know how to deal with all of these adversaries." Freshman Alexia Brenholtz felt that Kolb was "carefully selected and groomed for the event" as the recruiter kept reiterating soundbite points such as the "fault for this whole issue was with Congress and not the military." But she listened attentively to the speeches of a gay rights advocate, an alumni, and a professor.

For all of the inactivity of the crowd, the gathering galvanized a sense of solidarity of the Willamette community to oppose federal governmental intervention into school policy. "The support was still there," said sophomore and LGBA member Kelly Arthur.

From noon until 1:00, demonstrators held an open-mike session in the courtyard south of the law school. Law professors occupied the majority of the speaking slots, although a few students and activists spoke their minds as well. "It was awesome to see everyone out there to tell the administration how they were feeling. With both gay and straight people speaking very strongly for zero tolerance for discrimination, I felt very supported," said Arthur.

The highlight of the afternoon came with the oration of College of Law student Beth Allen. Allen warned that this act by the military and the federal government was "nothing more than a chance to wave a big stick at us." She believes that while the threat of losing financial aid money is indeed a "big stick," the greater menace is the "loss of the sanctuary that this institution used to be and should continue to be."

the Collegian will be to convene the restructured Collegian Advisory Board concurrent to ASWU Senate Bill 979802 which calls for regular advisory meetings by the Board.

The Board is expected to be the starting point of a larger plan for separation of the Collegian from

Other speakers supported the faculty and student proposals in their respective referendums to seek legal council. Others felt that private donors impressed by the moral stand taken by Willamette could more than make up for the lost revenue from the federal government. Others felt that students, faculty, administrators and staff to be willing to take risks and sacrifice for their beliefs.

Despite the feelings of community and support, many in attendance silently or audibly questioned themselves or their colleagues: Where do we go from here?

"We need to encourage students at large to make their voices heard."

Selena Hair
ASWU Senator

Arthur feels that the "the only way we can win is in the courts. I don't feel that we can change the mind of the board of trustees and reverse Johnston's decision for the

temporary exemption of the Non-discrimination policy."

Sophomore Selena Hair, one of the ASWU Senators who authored the ASWU resolution, agrees. "We need to encourage students at large to make their voices heard and to support the core people in ASWU who will continue to pressure the administration to sue the federal government."

President Johnston has already contacted the ACLU and a civil rights lawyer from San Francisco about the case.



LEFT: Law student, LGBA member, and veteran of military basic training Beth Allen addresses demonstrators at a rally on Wednesday. Allen and dozens of others criticized the federal government for prompting President Johnston to exclude military recruiters from a Non-discrimination policy in lieu of losing \$3 million in financial aid. "An environment that does not welcome all people may, at any time, not welcome you," cautioned Allen.

BOTTOM: Charlotte Jones, Jennifer O'Neal, Leah Cutler, and Kelly Arthur join about 75 protesters who converged upon the Career Center at the Law School to greet Capt. Natalie Kolb, a recruiter for the Army. Kolb's presence on campus on Wednesday marked the first time in six years that military recruiters have been present on campus.



the Associated Students of Willamette University. The separation will be a positive step for both the Collegian and the Associated Students, as the Collegian is allocated a significant portion of ASWU's annual operating budget. The break could not come at a more opportune moment as the Associated Students face a difficult financial future.

Above all, the Collegian plans to use this period of time to recruit

newspaper staff and raise product quality. Collegian Editor Billy Dalto concedes it has been a difficult year for the newspaper. "We're in a period of transition" says Dalto. "Anytime you set out to change things, you need support from others. In this case, the support needed relates to section editors. The biggest challenge in terms of content has been the lack of interest for these positions."

Still, Dalto remains optimistic about the future of the newspaper. "We have a long way to go," says Dalto. "But we're in a position to effect both positive and lasting changes, changes which will allow us to be more representative of the current student body."

The Collegian will resume publication following Thanksgiving break, with the next issue to be published on December 5th.

Time to rethink college newspapers

I once read a paper written by a previous Collegian Editor in Chief regarding the role of a student newspaper in a liberal arts college setting. This twenty six page tome covered a wide range of issues, including the social organization of writers and the community feeling developed by a group dedicated to producing a newspaper. It takes an incredible amount of dedication and responsibility to get the job done, meet a deadline, and do it again the next week.

Yet across the face of small college newspapers everywhere, the responsibility incumbent in the process perpetuates a group of insiders that often have a skewed perspective of the community they represent.

Clearly a group that works so close together can be expected to share ideas and opinions. However, it is my contention that such a sys-

tem year after year tends to spawn a cynical approach to journalism. After three years of wading through negativity and the thoughts of an inner circle, I decided to try my best to reform the system.

The trouble is, I was naive to some of the challenges that face a student-run newspaper. Willamette is a unique place with a dynamic system of student values. For the most part student priorities seem to be oriented towards academics first, socializing second, employment third, and extra curricular activities after that.

Therefore, it is no wonder that the Collegian has had trouble recruiting staff. This year in particular, it seems that writing for the school newspaper is not that high on the list of student priorities.

Attempts to reform a system as complex as the Collegian's from the ground up have resulted in an

incredible struggle for motivation and active student participation. Despite having a wonderful team at present, this struggle has definitely affected the Collegian this year.

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Billy Dalto

You may wonder why we didn't do a better job of recruiting people before we began to publish editions. While I take full responsibility for not hiring a complete staff, there were issues beyond my control. My predecessors were confirmed much earlier in the spring semester than I was. They had several months to recruit students and build a staff. My confirmation came during the last week of school, when finals and summer break were on everyone's mind. Having said that, the miscalculation I made was to think we could produce a high qual-

ity newspaper with a limited staff. I can assure you from the 80 or so hours I spend per week on the 3rd floor of the University Center, I've tried.

So why have we decided to temporarily suspend publication of the Collegian? It's time to restructure the system to allow for a more open exchange, a fresher dialogue. This is an opportunity for everybody to participate in an organization that affects the entire campus.

However, that brings us right back to the problems that activities face when they depend on student involvement.

Many people were disappointed when the 88 year tradition of Glee ended due to lack of student interest. Perhaps that was a harbinger of a changing dynamic at Willamette. Are we in a different time, where men and women are so absorbed by issues and internships, jobs and

causes, that they direct their attention externally instead of internally within the Willamette community?

To me, Willamette doesn't seem as much a community anymore as it does a waystation where students learn skills they need to support others. I am reminded of the Willamette University motto which states "Not unto ourselves alone are we born." In that respect, Willamette students are fully living up to what the institution expects of them. Still, it brings mixed emotions to people like myself who value tradition and look fondly upon school spirit. How does one build community spirit at a place like Willamette? I'm not sure anyone has the answer to that question, but I for one won't stop thinking about it.

Alternatives in the pro-con debate

The recent controversy concerning the military recruitment on campus has stimulated more lively debate than I have seen on this campus in quite awhile. Not only does this issue affect the students on a more personal level, but this conflict bites at the most sensitive core of our identity as rational, emotional human beings; mainly, our beliefs and morals. Students believe this to be more of an issue than just money, and rightly so. The difficulty, and the main struggle with many students, lies within the issue of money and the personal financial cut that students would have to take to support their adamant beliefs. The question is posed then, is the individual student willing to sacrifice federal

money to support an outcry against discrimination?

I propose this question need not be answered. In any fight, one must evaluate what losses one must endure to accomplish one's goal. President Johnston promised to fight this issue in the courts. Litigation, if we choose to take this route, would be an expensive alternative, but one that would signify a dedication to our high standards against discrimination. If we are willing to sacrifice this money to litigation, let us look at another alternative. Fortunately, this University has a substantial base of monetary support from alumni and various organizations; enough, I believe, to allow for a momentary loss of funds. I challenge the Board

of Trustees to be proactive in their fight against discrimination. I challenge the Board of Trustees to transfer the amount of money that would be lost and put the same amount into the general student fund. This support should continue for one

REASON

Jonathan Eames

year, after which an evaluation should take place to assess the efficacy of this policy. This money would pay for students work-study funding and provide for the loss incurred.

The advantages of this plan would be three-fold. Primarily, Willamette University's students would be mon-

etarily satisfied and the continuance of their education would be assured. Secondly, the Board of Trustees would be able to retract this plan; a proviso that gives the board total power to ensure that Willamette's financial security will be maintained. If Willamette realizes its efforts to fight this issue are in vain and it simply cannot afford to continue this plan, the option to allow the recruiters on campus should be reviewed. Finally, and most importantly, a stand against the military would epitomize what we want Willamette to achieve; a community that welcomes all. Willamette could publicize themselves as the most open, welcoming, and minority-safe campus in the nation.

Willamette would be known as the university that sacrificed money in favor of principle. Frankly, it can only look good.

I understand the amount of money Willamette is prone to lose is quite substantial. I also understand President Johnston is being fiscally responsible. Where others see a win/lose situation, I simply see a win/win scenario. Let us prove to the nation that we will walk in front of the conformists and lead in an area desperate for a leader. We may not win the fight, but standing firm on one's principles can only be positive for a university's image.

Apologist inconclusive on existence of God

Since Lloyd Kurnley was completely unable to refute the "proof" as to the existence of God offered by Bob Seigel at Monday night's "Christianity or Nontheism" debate, I will take up the argument and refute the three main points offered by Seigel.

In his opening comments, Seigel argued that he is certain of the existence of God because of three things: 1) The resurrection of Jesus was documented in the New Testament and by one pagan, Flavius Josephus. 2) The existence of God has been witnessed by Bob Seigel himself. 3) Finally, there must be a God since everyone lives as if there is a

God.

Seigel claims to have communicated with God many times, but are we to take his word for it? Seigel's argument seems to be cyclical since Christians can see or hear God, but skeptics cannot. To prove the existence of God in this way it is necessary to be a Christian. For the non-believers, this is a completely ridiculous claim that proves nothing since we are supposed to believe someone that may be deluding him or herself.

Seigel also claims that the world lives as if there is a God because people make moral judgments and live according to their conscience.

Seigel is making a huge leap by even implying that civilization of all kinds derived from the existence of God. It is not impossible, in fact, it's probable that the creation of morals derived from the need to prevent chaos and create order. It is not

GUEST EDITORIAL

Dan Rivas

unreasonable to think that people would much rather live on this Earth peacefully than suffer pain whether it be physical or emotional. From this basic need derived the first laws and the general notion of a conscience. The fact that there are also

have been thousands of thriving pagan cultures across the world is proof.

The first argument Seigel offers is clearly his strongest. The account of Josephus, a pagan, is difficult to refute if one takes the account as truth; however there is some dispute about the accuracy of the document and some have said that the document was in fact written after Josephus' death. Whether this is true or not remains to be seen, but how can anyone be certain of the existence of God through one man's alleged account of what he supposedly saw? As for the four different accounts in the New Testament, one

cannot prove the validity of Christianity with the Bible. It's obvious that the Bible will say that Christ was resurrected. Anything else would be a contradiction.

In short, the entire argument of whether or not there is a God, based on Seigel's speech, hinges on the disputed account of one man. Since the proof is no more conclusive than that of any other religion, believe what you want because who is to say who is following the one true God, if there is one?

Willamette football survives early Eastern scare to remain undefeated

by Mike Benkoski
Staff Writer

The Willamette Bearcats are heading into the homecoming game with a perfect record.

The Bearcats will battle a scrappy Linfield team that is looking to end Willamette's unbeaten streak. The homecoming fans as well as those from nearby McMinnville will be there to watch as the Wildcats battle the mighty Bearcats.

Willamette's last victories haven't come easy. After a scare from Eastern Oregon, the Bearcats handled Lewis and Clark with ease to head into Saturday's game with a perfect record.

Parents weekend brought a big crowd, a big scare and a tragedy to the Willamette football team. On their way to Parent's Weekend, offensive lineman Garret Wood's parents were in a serious car accident. Wood's father was killed in the accident, and his mother was hospitalized. Coach Dan Hawkins took Friday practice off to drive Wood to see his mother.

With spirits a little low, the

Bearcats faced a winless Eastern Oregon team in front of a packed house. The game did not look good for Willamette. Penalties plagued the Bearcats all afternoon. Willamette was penalized 11 times for a total of 94 yards. The penalties hampered scoring opportunities, including a punt return for a touchdown by Kamell Eckroth-Bernard that was called back for an illegal block. The first half was also full of bad bounces for the Bearcats. Quarterback Chuck Pinkerton had a pass deflected off his receiver's shoulder pads and shoot straight up into the air, only to have it intercepted when it came down. Eastern Oregon fumbled twice, but both times lucky bounces got the ball back.

The Bearcats were down 7-0 when back-up quarterback Jeff Olsen threw a 15 yard touchdown pass in third quarter. The Bearcats did not look good, but their sloppy first half play was beginning to wear off and their defense was holding strong.

Willamette managed to move the ball down field and Pinkerton started the scoring by running it in

from two yards out. After the up lifting tying touchdown, the panic left the Bearcats and they were able to relax and play their style of game.

Willamette received the break they needed late in the game when linebacker Jon Franco sacked an Eastern quarterback and forced a fumble. The Bearcats proceeded to take the ball down field and Danny Osborne's six yard touchdown run with 1:42 remaining all but clinched the Bearcats win.

The Bearcats also made easy work of Lewis and Clark. The 34-14 romping could have been a lot worse. Willamette outplayed and dominated the Lewis and Clark team. Quarterback Chuck Pinkerton added to his sensational season with 98 yards passing and 102 yards on the ground, including a touchdown run. The Bearcat defense was swarming once again and have been a dominant force this year for Willamette.

With the tough defense and high scoring offense Willamette is the team to beat this season. With an undefeated record at 5-0, Willamette hopes for another jump in the conference polls.

Men's soccer continues to fight for conference playoff berth

by Jan Davis
Staff Writer

The Bearcats faced tough competition last Saturday. The men's soccer team suffered their second loss against Linfield. The Willamette men went home very frustrated because they were hoping to gain revenge on their home field. Though they played an extremely tough game, WU was unable to pull through with a win. Junior Jeb Haber scored Willamette's only goal, while many unlucky shots increased frustration among the players.

Last year the men finished with an 8-8-3 record and hoped to improve upon that this fall. Because of the number of returning players on the '96 roster, the abundance of new freshmen and new transfers, the team had high expectations for a stronger season. Coach Tursi was excited to lead his first Willamette men's team into the playoffs. Unfortunately, the Bearcats chance at the playoffs looks dim this season. "We needed to beat Whitman, Whitworth and Linfield to be eligible for the

playoffs," stated Tursi. On the optimistic side, WU still has a small chance to reach the playoffs through the back door. But, in order to perform at their full potential the players need to get their spirits up again.

This Sunday the men are taking on Puget Sound for the second time this season. "We should have beat them the first time. This weekend is our chance because we have them at home," said freshman David Pietrok. This season our team is young, and gaining more experience on the field is our main goal," stated Pietrok. The Bearcats have the natural talent and the coaching staff to play competitively against the top teams in the league.

With only six more games left in the season, Willamette needs to rally and continue to play hard. The players say their losing streak stems from their inability to play well together as a team. "We are losing our motivation. We have all the talent in the world, but we can't win," said Doug Pham. Doug thinks that it is difficult for their young team to cooperate because one of their captains has been on

and off the field due to an unfortunate hamstring injury. "Eric Freitag is a great leader but he is stuck in the goal and we need someone on the field at all times who can help lead," said Pham.

The team's goal for the rest of the season is simply to have fun playing the game. When Puget Sound arrives this Saturday at 2:30, the Bearcats will be ready for revenge. The Puget Sound team does not have a distinct manner of performance. Returning sophomore Doug Pham emphasized, "All we have to do is play our game well."



Bearcat women set to battle Puget Sound

by Matt Kosderka
Staff Writer

Like a friend who can't be trusted, Willamette's women's volleyball team has been extremely two-faced this season.

The Bearcats were struggling just to break into the win column early on, due to a lack of team cohesiveness. However, despite dropping seven of their first eight matches, the Bearcats have done an about face, and are clinging to the fourth and final conference playoff spot, as the season reaches its midpoint.

Perhaps there is no better example of the Bearcats' turnaround, then in their recent rematch with Linfield in Cone Fieldhouse. Willamette, 8-11 on the season, and 6-3 in the Northwest Conference, drubbed the Wildcats in the first game of their first meeting, 15-1. However, the Bearcats would never threaten thereafter, losing the match in four games. So, when the Bearcats jumped out to a big lead early on in the rematch with Linfield, nobody was thinking that the match was over, and with good reason.

The Bearcats, who lead by as many as nine points in the first game, barely held of a Wildcat comeback, before taking the game 15-11.

The next two games followed suit, as the Bearcats built an early lead, and then played just well enough to hold. Linfield actually lead midway through game two, before the Bearcats put on a serving display, taking them out of the offensive attack. The Wildcats then fought off numerous match points in game three, before finally succumbing 15-11, 15-8, 15-13.

While she felt her team played not to make mistakes at times, Willamette Head Coach Marlene Piper gave a lot of credit to the Wildcats for not allowing the Bearcats to walk away with the match. "That's a decent team," said Piper of the Wildcats. "They decided they're not going to give up."

Pacific Lutheran looked more than ready to give up over the weekend, as the Bearcats put together what might have been their best game of the season, with a 15-3 win in game one.

And Willamette showed no signs of slowing down in game two. Willamette continued to serve

with precision, for the most part keeping the Lutes from running any type of offensive attack. When the Lutes did manage a kill attempt, the Bearcats blockers managed to get a hand on just about every ball, slowing them down, and creating better hitting opportunities for their teammates.

Willamette did have one hiccup, as they dropped game three 8-15, before storming back from an early deficit in game four, to win the match 15-3, 15-8, 8-15, 15-11.

The victory was extra special for the Bearcats, considering that they had lost a five game thriller to the Lutes earlier in the season at the George Fox Invitational.

"This team, more than any other team since I've been here, improves every week," said Piper of her team's turnaround against the Lutes. "It makes my job fun."

With the Bearcats becoming a more tight knit bunch with every match, that only spelled trouble for Pacific, the Bearcats' other weekend opponent. The Boxers lost just one player from last year's squad, but surprisingly, put up little fight, as the Bearcats rolled in three games.

While Piper was surprised how poorly the Boxers' returning starters played, she wasn't sure if it really mattered. "I don't know why, but our kids (Willamette) were on a serving rampage," she said. "The match was almost over before it began."

While the Bearcats have come together in matches, Piper thinks that the main reason for their turnaround is the extra work that they put into each practice session. "They know what to do, and they are in the gym doing it," she said. "And now they are doing things that they couldn't do before."

Another thing that the Bearcats haven't been able to do is beat this weekend's opponent, Puget Sound. The Loggers, ranked in the top 10 nationally, have already defeated the Bearcats twice this season, and this time around, will have the comfort of being on their home floor.

Although the Loggers are one of the most formidable teams in the country, Piper isn't counting her team out, although she realizes that they must be nearly flawless if they are to have any chance of upsetting the Loggers.

Judging by the way that the Bearcats have already overcome such a slow start this season, anything is possible.

WU Invitational draws record breaking crowd

by Maegan Hoefel
Staff Writer

The Willamette cross-country team hosted the largest meet ever in Bearcat history. On Saturday, October 4, the team hosted the Willamette Invitational. On top of being the largest meet in 23 years, it was also the largest collegiate meet in the Northwest.

How did the Bearcats do it? Coach Kelli Sullivan said it was sort of a snowball effect. He invited his friend, a Boise State University coach, to bring his team over. Sullivan has a number of other connections and invited a number of other schools to participate. Once area teams started hearing about the caliber of the meet, they too asked to run. Teams came from throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, and even as far as Alaska. In the end the Bearcats hosted 35 men's teams and 33 women's teams. Over 600 runners finished the race, which is pretty impressive compared to last year's 400 finishers.

Besides getting the wide range of teams to compete here in Salem, the Bearcats were also able to make the meet run smoothly. Coach Sullivan recruited volunteers from all sorts of facets, including some independent runners who he is currently training. The volunteers assist at the starting line, on the course, and at the shoots. The meet ran without a hitch due to Sullivan's impeccably thought-out planning, a great deal of volunteer support, and a team eager to make the meet a success.

Along with hosting an excellent meet, Willamette also had a great day of running. The women, in particular, ran quite well. They placed fifth out of 28 Division 2 teams. The women's team came in behind Pacific Lutheran University who took first for the Division 2 schools and Southern Idaho State University, Eastern Oregon University, and Spokane Community College. The women beat out George Fox by almost 50 points, which was an exciting feat because they lost to them just two weeks ago. Coach Sullivan was very impressed with the strong team effort out on the course.

Kelly Underwood took first for the team again with a 19:01. She placed 41st overall and took almost a minute off her time from the last meet. Rayona Weber was back running this meet and took second for Willamette with a 19:21. Amber Strickler had an awesome race, improving her time by almost a minute and thirty seconds. She placed 75th overall with a 19:30. Fourth in for the team was Lisa Starkey who ran the

course in 19:54. Emily Williams came in close behind Starkey with a 19:59. Sara Brown ran a 20:23, which was a minute off her time in the last meet. Next in was Jackie O'Connor. O'Connor placed 144th overall with a 20:27. Jami Mickelson followed in the pack with a 20:32. Gina Ahnen placed 179th with a time of 21:07. Tansy Middy came in just eight seconds behind her personal best of 21:14. Kristana Kinnett ran a 22:32, beating her last week's time by a few seconds. In only her second collegiate meet, Michelle Loperena ran a 23:02. Esther Smith finished 244th overall, running the course in 23:27.

A number of these women ran the fastest they had all season and others even got personal bests, dropping minutes off their times. They were terrific!

As for the men, they are still red-shirting their top three runners. Bryce Mercer, Chris Lyke, and Tim Peterson. Sullivan is hoping to save them for the future. The team's sixth and seventh runners, Chris Olson and Bret Jensen were also out because of minor injuries.

However, the men were still able to place 16th out of the 35 teams. Steven Cruise was the first runner in for Willamette with a 26:22, which was about 30 seconds off his time in the last meet. Next in was Anthony Hager. Hager came in 101st place overall, running the course in 27:05. Brian Robertson took over a minute off his personal best time of 28:54. Robertson ran this course in 27:16. Also running a minute faster was John Urdal who took fourth with a 27:43. Zach Myers ran an impressive 27:52, a big jump from his previous times. John Waller placed 210th with a time of 28:12. Andy Foster ran 28:36, coming in seventh for the team. Shawn Bagley ran in right after Foster with a time of 28:37. Next in was Nathan Gushwa. Gushwara ran a 29:03. Karl Hochl placed 295th out of the 327 runners, running the course in 30:48. Chris Roberts came in 12th for Willamette in 31:42 minutes. Jimmy Beauschamp finished off the race in 31:57.

Normally with so many runners out on the course it is difficult to settle into your pace. However, the sheer numbers are excellent for increasing the level of competition. Despite the constant shuffle of runners throughout the race, the Bearcats ran well. Overall, they were very pleased with their times and the meet. They hosted an exceptional meet that attracted fast runners from all over the Northwest. The Bearcats are proud and expect next year's invitational to be even better now that the word is out about their success this year.



John Urdal joins participants from throughout the Northwest at the WU Invitational. Urdal earned fourth place in the men's race, while both the men and the women finished the race successfully.

National rankings conflict with NCIC first place Willamette soccer

by Dillon Shea
Staff Writer

After beating Seattle University, the number two ranked team in the nation, the women's soccer team dropped in the national rankings.

After a weekend road trip which included shutouts against Whitman and Whitworth, the Bearcats dropped in the rankings again. After a convincing 5-3 win over Linfield, the Bearcats look poised to drop further down in the rankings. Head Soccer Coach Jim Tursi said, "We have won three straight, including two shutouts and we still dropped... We think if we lose a game we might move up in the rankings."

The Bearcats may be getting overlooked in the national rankings, but they are receiving plenty of attention around the NCIC, with a record of 8-1-1. The Bearcats stand in first place and any team looking for the conference championship is going to have to prove they can beat the Bearcats at home; six of the women's seven remaining conference games will take place in Salem. Tursi said he believes the team controls their own destiny, so long as they not let themselves overlook teams they have already beaten this year.

On October 4, Willamette drubbed Whitman University 4-0. Senior Jamie Barton and junior

Heidi Hausermann scored one goal a piece. Sophomore Katie Edmonds chipped in with two goals, her third and fourth of the season.

The next day, playing at Whitworth, the Bearcats won 2-0. Barton and Edmonds scored the two goals for Willamette, and the Bearcat defense walked off the field without allowing a goal all weekend. Tursi said, "Getting away with two shutouts on a road trip is always good."

Playing at home against Linfield, the defense allowed two goals in the first ten minutes of the game. Tursi said, "I could see our season coming to an end... Luckily they scored early and we had time to catch up." Tursi substituted players in and, "They clicked."

The Bearcat offense stepped up, the defense clamped down, and by the end of the first half, Willamette held a 3-2 lead.

Despite being behind early, the Bearcats ended the game, making it look like a blowout. Barton scored her third goal in as many games and sophomore Natalie Flindt scored her third goal of the season. Freshman Jenny Frankel-Reed scored two goals, her first and second of the season, and Dana Christopherson, a freshman as well, chipped in with her first goal of the season. The Bearcats walked off the field 5-3 winners, after allowing Linfield one second half goal.

The defense has now recorded

eight shutouts in only 10 conference games. Willamette has outscored their conference opponents 23-5.

Tursi said, "Defensively, nine shutouts is impressive. They have done a nice job; we should set a school record." Tursi is also pleased with his forward's play of late. "I am happy in that we have a sense of what we want to do as opposed to just relying on our athletic ability. We have learned to create opportunities for ourselves. If we get more scoring out of the midfield we will be very strong."

"Right now," Tursi said, "our goal is to win the conference again. That is the most important thing. We have won four in a row and we want another one."

In the long term, the Bearcats have their sights set on, at least, equaling last year's accomplishment of making it to the national tournament. "It is a long haul to nationals. We have to win a lot of games against some very good teams."

Willamette has a balanced offensive attack with 10 different players having scored goals this season.

Edmonds leads the team in goals with five. Barton, after her offensive outpouring over the last three games, is second on the team with four goals. Flindt a junior, Frankel-Reed and Katie Privette both freshmen, are all tied with three goals each.