



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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For Immediate Release

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Den Boer Helps Lead Central Past #22 Alaska Fairbanks

Junior Scores 30 to Aid Wildcats Over Nanooks in 2005-06 GNAC Opener

ELLENSBURG, Wash. – Central Washington University junior **Lance Den Boer** (Sunnyside, Wash./Sunnyside Christian HS) scored 30 points, just two shy of his career-high, in helping lead the Wildcats to an 85-73 defeat of 22nd-ranked Alaska Fairbanks in their Great Northwest Athletic Conference opener on Thursday night at Nicholson Pavilion.

Den Boer made 11 of 15 field goal attempts, leading a trio of CWU players in double figures. Seniors **Chris Bannish** (Menlo, Wash./Willapa Valley HS) and **Robert Hicks** (Lakewood, Calif.) scored 19 and 17, respectively, and the Wildcats committed just six turnovers in defeating the nationally-ranked Nanooks.

Central Washington, now 6-4 overall and 1-0 in the GNAC, trailed just four times in the contest - all in the first half. The Wildcats and Nanooks were also tied on eight occasions in the opening 20 minutes, but Den Boer's layup with 1:17 remaining in the first period gave the Wildcats the lead at 38-37. His jumper with five seconds to go sent CWU into the locker room with a three-point margin and capped an 18-point stanza.

The Wildcats used a 12-4 run in the first 4:27 of the second half to push their lead to double digits, where it remained for most of the rest of the game. Alaska Fairbanks (7-3, 0-1 GNAC) whittled the lead to eight at the 10:13 mark, but a trey by Bannish quickly pushed it back to 11. Central saw its lead reach 14 on three occasions in the final 69 seconds before settling for the 12-point win.

Den Boer's performance against the Nanooks marked the second straight year that he scored 30 or more in his first conference game. His career-high of 32 points came in a loss to Saint Martin's in the 2004-05 GNAC opener at Lacey.

Julius McMillion (Seattle, Wash./Cleveland HS), who returned to the Wildcats' starting lineup for the first time since the season opener against Chico State, had a well-rounded game with nine points, seven rebounds, and four blocked shots. Freshman **Johnny Spevak** (Edgewood, Wash./Puyallup HS) overcame a poor shooting night by finishing with a game- and career-high nine rebounds while adding five assists and two steals.

Alaska Fairbanks was keyed by the 15 points and seven rebounds from senior Andrew Smith. Justin Bourne had 12 points and six boards, while Jonathan Osborne scored 11 points - 10 of which came in the first half.

(more)

Central Washington finished the game with a 37-36 rebounding edge while committing just six turnovers. The Wildcats also made 77.8 percent of their free throws (21 of 27), and made two more field goal attempts than the Nanooks (29-27) in an equal number of attempts (62).

The Wildcats return to action on Saturday afternoon, closing out a brief two-game home stand against Alaska Anchorage at 4 p.m. Central Washington will then have a return showdown with archrival Western Washington at Bellingham on Jan. 7, with its next home game coming Jan. 19 versus Seattle Pacific.

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL**At Ellensburg, WA (Nicholson Pavilion)****Central Washington 85, #22 Alaska Fairbanks 73****12/29/05 7:30 pm PST**

#22 ALASKA FAIRBANKS (7-3, 0-1 GNAC) - Smith,Andrew 6-9 3-3 15; Bourne,Justin 4-8 4-6 12; Osborne,Jonathan 4-10 1-2 11; Von Tellrop,Alec 4-8 0-0 10; Miskovic,Ivan 4-6 0-0 8; Jordan,Chris 2-10 0-2 6; Ballard,Chaun 1-3 4-4 6; Barker,Kenny 2-6 0-0 5; Moss,Andre 0-1 0-0 0; Titus,Mike 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-62 12-17 73.

CENTRAL WASHINGTON (6-4, 1-0 GNAC) - Den Boer,Lance 11-15 4-4 30; Bannish,Chris 5-11 8-8 19; Hicks,Robert 7-11 2-2 17; McMillion,Julius 4-8 1-5 9; Assink,Grant 1-2 2-4 4; Spevak,Johnny 1-6 2-2 4; Monti,Colton 0-3 2-2 2; Curry,Tremaine 0-0 0-0 0; Luke,Joey 0-2 0-0 0; Conner,Mike 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 29-62 21-27 85.

Halftime-Central Washington 40, Alaska Fairbanks 37. **3-point goals**-Alaska Fairbanks 7-18 (Jordan,Chris 2-6; Osborne,Jonathan 2-3; Von Tellrop,Alec 2-4; Barker,Kenny 1-2; Moss,Andre 0-1; Ballard,Chaun 0-2), Central Washington 6-17 (Den Boer,Lance 4-5; Hicks,Robert 1-4; Bannish,Chris 1-4; Spevak,Johnny 0-2; Monti,Colton 0-1; Conner,Mike 0-1).

Fouled out--Alaska Fairbanks-None, Central Washington-None. **Rebounds**-Alaska Fairbanks 36 (Smith,Andrew 7), Central Washington 37 (Spevak,Johnny 9). **Assists**-Alaska Fairbanks 11 (Bourne,Justin 4), Central Washington 13 (Spevak,Johnny 5). **Total fouls**-Alaska Fairbanks 25, Central Washington 14. **A**-418.

Great Northwest Athletic Conference game

-CWU-