WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Vikings

VS.

WHITWORTH

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WWU Vikings TODAY'S GAME

The 1991 Western Washington University Football Program is published by the Sports Information Office.
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Good afternoon, fans! Welcome to today's game between Western and the Whitworth Pirates, the final home game of the season for the Vikings. We particularly wish to welcome all parents here for Parents' Weekend.

The Vikings enter 4-2-1 overall, and are tied for second in the Mount Rainier League of the Columbia Football Association at 3-1. The Pirates are 2-5 and in fifth place in the MRL at 2-3.

Today is also Mascot Day, with mascots representing local businesses parading prior to the game.

THE SERIES ...

45 games, Whitworth leads 24-21-0. Their last meeting was in 1990, a game Whitworth won, 22-19, at Bellingham, snapping a three-game Western winning streak. The Vikings' most recent win was 24-9 at Spokane in 1989. Whitworth won seven straight games on the field from 1980-86, but forfeited the 1980 victory.

A LOOK AT THE VIKINGS ...

Western enters today's game on a three-game unbeaten streak after whipping Pacific, 30-10, last Saturday. Extending that string today would give the Vikings their longest streak since 1988. A win today would also put Western in position to grab a share of the MRL championship by defeating NAIA Division II No.1-ranked Central Washington next week.

The Viking defense ranks first against the rush (110.9 avg.) and third overall (293.7 avg.) in the CFA, holding opponents under 100 yards rushing three times this season. Western has 55 tackles for losses, including 19 quarterback sacks, and has forced 19 turnovers. Linebacker **Lynton Hyde** tops all Viking tacklers with 96 stops.

Running backs **Mike Wagner** (574, 4 TDs) and **Steve Brummel** (405, 2 TDs) have combined for 979 rushing yards. Quarterback **Matt Sayre** has passed for 1,129 yards and eight TDs, and has four rushing touchdowns. His favorite targets are **Jeff Starr** (22 for 335, 3 TDs), **Eric Meek** (21 for 289, 1 TD) and **Ken Corbin** (20 for 288, 4 TDs).

Corbin, who already has established a school record for punt return yardage (294), ranks 10th on Western's all-time career pass-receiving list with 968 yards on 57 catches (8 TDs).

Dan Clemensen ranks third nationally in kick scoring with a 6.6 average, making nine of 12 field goal attempts (long of 44) and 19 of 20 extra point tries.

RETURN TO SENDER ...

The Vikings have the best kick return game in the CFA this season. Western is averaging 23.2 yards a kickoff return, with **Shane Volkmann** leading the nation at 34.0 yards a return.

Western opponents are getting a net of just 26.7 yards a punt, as the Vikings are averaging 12.1 yards per punt return. **Ken Corbin** leads the CFA and is fifth nationally at 15.5 yards a return.

GRADUATING SENIORS ...

Today marks the last home game for eight Western seniors.

They are rover **Tab Birdsell**, defensive tackle **George Booker**, wide receiver **Ken Corbin**, linebacker **Greg Enell**, offensive tackle **Todd Harleman**, defensive end **Charles Herbst**, and quarterbacks **Brian Howard** and **Matt Sayre**.

WHITWORTH ...

The Pirates have had an up-and-down campaign, losing their first three games, then winning two, then losing the last two contests, including a 38-0 defeat against Central last week.

The Whitworth offense lost running back **Mark Linden**, who was fourth on the CFA's career rushing list, and quarterback **Jonn Moomaw** to graduation, but still have a big weapon in wide receiver **Mike Hofheins**, a first-team all-CFA selection last season who leads the loop and is fourth nationally in receptions with 48 for 555 yards and six touchdowns this year. Quarterback **Danny Figueira** has passed for 1,145 yards and seven touchdowns, but leads the CFA in interceptions with 17. Leading the running game is **Aaron Pacheco**, who has 634 yards rushing, fourth best in the CFA, despite missing last week's game with an injury.

On defense, the Pirates are led by second-team all-CFA end **Chris Bennett**, who has 10 tackles for losses, including four sacks, and honorable mention all-CFA cornerback **Mark Oty**, who has three interceptions. Free safety **Brent Busby** is the leading Whitworth tackler.

The kicking game rests on the foot of Meridian High grad **John Karuza**. Karuza averaged a CFA-record 44.3 yards a punt last season to earn first-team NAIA Division II All-America honors. He is averaging 40.1 yards a punt this year, ranking fourth nationally, and also handles place-kicking duties.

1990 RESULTS ...

Western slipped to 3-6, snapping a string of three winning seasons, including a 7-2 record - the Vikings' best mark since 1951 - and being ranked 21st in the final NAIA Division II National Poll in 1989. The Vikings tied for fifth place (1-5) in the MRL. Whitworth was 6-3 overall and finished fourth (3-3) in the MRL.

COACHES ...

Rob Smith is in his third year as head coach at Western and is 14-10-1. He was named CFA-MRL Coach of the Year in 1989 and placed second in Northwest small college Coach of the Year balloting. Smith was the Vikings' defensive coordinator in 1988 and was in charge of the defensive secondary in 1987 and 1988.

Smith graduated from Washington in 1981, playing fullback for the Huskies and competing in the 1978 Rose Bowl. The 34-year-old Smith, the youngest head coach in the CFA, attended Hoquiam High School where as a senior he was the state's leading scorer in football and a state champion hurdler in track.

Blaine "Shorty" Bennett (Whitworth-1962) is in his fifth season as head coach at Whitworth and is 17-25-1. He earned CFA-MRL Coach of the Year honors in 1990. Before coming to Whit-

TRIVIA QUESTION ...

Name the Whitworth football coach who had a 32-9-1 record in five years in 1952-56, including two undefeated seasons, and won three conference championships. He later coached at Western.

worth, Bennett coached at Ellensburg and Walla Walla high schools over a 19-year span, directing Ellensburg to Class AA state titles in 1972 and 1973.

LAST MEETING ...

Tailback **Mark Linden** rushed for 161 yards and quarterback **Jonn Moomaw** completed 14 of 20 passes for 152 yards and two touchdowns, leading Whitworth to a 22-19 upset of Western in a CFA-MRL game and season opener at Bellingham. The Pirates, who held a 16-6 advantage at halftime, led 22-6 early in the second half before the Vikings rallied with a pair of touchdowns in the third quarter.

Whitworth scored on its first two possessions, getting a 27-yard field goal from **Chris Nicholson** on the game's opening series and a 13-yard touchdown pass from Moomaw to tight end **Toby Graff**.

The Pirates' other two touchdowns came just four minutes apart. Wide receiver **Mike Hofheins** caught a tipped pass from Moomaw for a 13-yard score with a minute left in the second quarter, then fullback **Blake Tucker** scored from the one with three minutes gone in the third period. Both TDs were set up by Western turnovers.

Tailback **Mike Wagner** scored two touchdowns for the Vikings on runs of 1 and 3 yards. Western's final score came on a 10-yard pass from quarterback **Matt Sayre** to tight end **Sean Hamlin** with 21 seconds left in the third period. The Vikings' best opportunity to score in the fourth quarter came after a short punt gave them the ball at the Pirates' 28-yard line with 5:56 left, but Sayre was intercepted by cornerback **Mark Oty** three plays later.

NOTES ...

Two brothers are on opposite sides of the field today. **Mark Oty** is a senior defensive back for Whitworth, **Brent Oty** is a sophomore placekicker for Western. ... Whitworth starting offensive guard **Paul Johns** spent one year at Western as a redshirt linebacker ... Every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., "Viking Sports Talk" can be seen on TCI Cablevision Channel 10. The show, co-hosted by Western director of marketing and promotions **Kevin Bryant** and associate athletic director **Brad Jackson**, features interviews with Viking coaches and athletes ... Every Tuesday (5:57 p.m.) and Friday (7:20 p.m.), listen to "Today with the Blue & White" on KGMI Radio (790 AM).

MIDNIGHT MADNESS ...

The 5th annual Midnight Madness tip-off of basketball season is at Sam Carver Gymnasium at 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 14. The event introduces the 1991-92 men's and women's teams with scrimmages, slam-dunk contests and shooting contests. Admission is free.

PARENTS' WEEKEND FESTIVITIES ...

President Kenneth P. Mortimer cordially invites Western students and their parents to attend an "After the Game" reception in honor of Fall Parents Open House in the Fairhaven Room at the Best Western Lakeway Inn at 714 Lakeway Drive.

NEXT WEEK ...

Western is on the road for a CFA-MRL contest with archrival Central at Ellensburg, on Nov. 16 at 1 p.m.

A rooter bus to the game is leaving from Carver Gym at 8:30 a.m. that day. The cost is $30, which includes transportation and a game ticket.

RADIO ...

KGMI Radio (790 AM - Bellingham) is broadcasting all Western football games this season with **Gary Johnson** calling the play-by-play and **Bill Mendelson** providing color commentary.

A LOOK BACK ...

The CFA has developed a reputation as a passing league. The Whitworth Pirates had a big hand in that in the mid-1980s.

In 1986, the Pirates had three of the top seven NAIA Division II reception leaders. Heading the list was wide receiver **Wayne Ralph**, the only player in NAIA history to catch 100 passes in each of two seasons. Ralph had 101 catches for 1,111 yards and seven touchdowns in 1985, and followed it up with 105 receptions for 1,204 yards and six scores in 1986.

But Whitworth's history as a passing machine long pre-dates the CFA. The Pirates led the Evergreen Conference in passing offense seven straight times from 1959-65. The best of those years was 1960, when Whitworth led the NAIA in passing at 213.6 yards a game. That mark more than doubled the aerial output of any other league team.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 21	35	WESTERN OREGON		7
Sept. 28	31	at Eastern Oregon		41
Oct. 5	26	at Simon Fraser		21
Oct. 12	21	PACIFIC LUTHERAN		22
Oct. 19	27	PUGET SOUND		9
Oct. 26	19	at Lewis & Clark		19
Nov. 2	30	at Pacific		10
Nov. 9		WHITWORTH		1:30
Nov. 16		at Central Washington		1:00

PROBABLE STARTING LINEUPS:

WESTERN WASHINGTON

OFFENSE

TE	86	Sean Hamlin
ST	74	Todd Harleman
SG	62	Brent McAtee
C	52	Jim Coumbs
QG	66	Brian Fisher
QT	79	John Meagher
SB	1	Eric Meek
WR	88	Jeff Starr
WR	8	Ken Corbin
RB	33	Mike Wagner
QB	9	Matt Sayre
PK	23	Dan Clemensen

DEFENSE

SE	92	LaMarco Mitchell
ST	39	Tom Walters
QT	98	George Booker
QE	97	Charles Herbst
LB	40	Greg Enell
LB	58	Lynton Hyde
R	5	Tab Birdsell
CB	26	Steve Glover
CB	25	Shahid Rahman
SS	19	Torrance Mayberry
FS	48	Shane Volkmann
P	23	Dan Clemensen

WHITWORTH

OFFENSE

LT	61	David Taylor
LG	58	Paul Johns
C	76	Mitchell Osaka
RG	50	Adam Brooks
RT	75	Russ Elkins
TE	88	Scott McEachran
SE	2	Mike Hofheins
WR	85	Lance Abendroth
FB	41	Blake Tucker
TB	40	Aaron Pacheco
QB	6	Danny Figueira
PK	3	John Karuza

DEFENSE

LE	79	Chris Bennett
LT	55	Greg Clardy
RT	47	Mark Vandine
RE	67	Don O'Neal
LB	96	Jeff Johnson
LB	32	Tony Layton
LB	14	Derek Edwards
CB	33	Mark Oty
CB	20	David Thornhill
SS	42	Brent Busby
FS	22	Andy Davies
P	3	John Karuza

Officials:
Referee - Cappy Anderson
Umpire - Scott Greenwood
Head Linesman - Mike Burton
Line Judge - Bishop Wheeler
Field Judge - Buddy Horton
Back Judge - Jeff Sadorus

TRIVIA ANSWER ...

Jim Lounsberry, who coached the Vikings in 1960-65.

1991 WESTERN WASHINGTON ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Elg. Yr.	Hometown
1	Eric Meek	WR	5-9	160	19	Fr.	Bellevue, WA
2	Orlondo Steinauer	CB	5-10	165	18	Fr.	Seattle, WA
3	Greg Root	WR	6-0	190	22	Fr.	Seattle, WA
4	Marc Jones	RB	6-0	190	22	Jr.	Oceanside, CA
5	Tab Birdsell*	ROV	5-8	185	21	Sr.	Renton, WA
6	John Lambert	SS	5-10	185	20	Fr.	Vancouver, WA
7	Maurice Paige**	TE	6-1	210	22	Jr.	Tacoma, WA
8	Ken Corbin*** Capt.	WR	5-10	180	22	Sr.	Woodinville, WA
9	Matt Sayre*	QB	6-3	195	22	Sr.	Olympia, WA
10	Brian Howard**	QB	6-2	205	23	Sr.	Vancouver, WA
11	Joe Ennis	FS	5-7	160	19	Fr.	Everett, WA
12	Chris Witherspoon*	CB	5-10	175	20	So.	Eagle River, AK
13	Ryan Gowin	QB	5-9	170	18	Fr.	Auburn, WA
14	Jason Stiles	QB	6-3	190	18	Fr.	Federal Way, WA
15	Greg Malo	CB	6-0	165	19	Fr.	Bellevue, WA
16	Brad Meyer	SS	6-2	180	19	Fr.	Lynnwood, WA
17	Mike Miller	ROV	5-10	180	19	Fr.	Issaquah, WA
18	Christian Evans	QB	6-4	200	19	Fr.	Bothell, WA
19	Torrance Mayberry*	SS	6-0	195	23	Jr.	Portland, OR
20	Steve Brummel*	RB	5-9	185	22	Jr.	Bellingham, WA
23	Dan Clemensen**	P-PK	5-10	160	22	Jr.	Tacoma, WA
25	Shahid Rahman*	CB	5-11	195	21	So.	Kent, WA
26	Steve Glover**	CB	5-8	185	21	Jr.	Des Moines, WA
27	Garth Haakenson	FS	6-2	175	18	Fr.	Onalaska, WA
28	Pat Banning	RB	6-0	190	19	Fr.	White Salmon, WA
29	Arthur Gouley	CB	5-8	165	18	Fr.	Shelton, WA
30	Brent Oty	K	5-6	165	20	So.	Okanogan, WA
31	Kevin Palmore	WR	6-0	180	17	Fr.	Seattle, WA
32	Bill Hairston	FB	5-9	200	19	Fr.	Bellevue, WA
33	Mike Wagner*	RB	5-7	170	20	So.	Los Angeles, CA
34	Chris Keeffe	LB	5-8	185	19	Fr.	Tacoma, WA
35	Reed Richardson	WR	5-8	160	19	Fr.	Port Orchard, WA
36	Justin LeMoine	FB	6-0	200	19	Fr.	Bellingham, WA
37	Alex Walters	LB	6-0	205	19	Fr.	Everett, WA
39	Tom Walters*	DT	6-2	245	22	So.	Seattle, WA
40	Greg Enell*** Capt.	LB	6-2	220	21	Sr.	Bellingham, WA
41	Stacy Avila	FS	6-1	190	19	Fr.	Snohomish, WA
43	Klete Langdon	ROV	5-9	200	19	Fr.	Castle Rock, WA
45	Mike Fritsch*	FS	6-2	200	21	Jr.	Anchorage, AK
46	Chris Bishop	LB	6-0	190	18	Fr.	Seattle, WA
48	Shane Volkmann**	FS-K	5-11	200	22	Jr.	Lake Stevens, WA
49	Mike Dunford*	DE	6-3	210	20	So.	Culver City, CA
50	Chad Johanson	C	6-1	240	19	Fr.	Renton, WA
51	Scott Bell	OG	6-2	245	19	Fr.	Vancouver, WA
52	Jimm Coumbs	C	6-2	260	22	Jr.	Tacoma, WA
53	John Snider	LB	6-1	230	19	Fr.	Centralia, WA
55	Joe Nance	C	5-11	205	18	Fr.	Issaquah, WA
56	Coley Beaman	LB	6-2	215	18	Fr.	Vancouver, WA
57	Jim Phillips	OT	6-3	240	21	Jr.	Vancouver, WA
58	Lynton Hyde**	LB	6-1	230	20	Jr.	Seattle, WA
59	Kristofer Larson	DE	6-0	210	21	Jr.	Yakima, WA
60	Doug Dreier	OT	6-2	270	18	Fr.	Playa del Rey, CA
61	Dave Steckler	OG	6-4	230	19	Fr.	Renton, WA
62	Brent McAtee	OG	6-3	245	19	Fr.	Bellevue, WA
63	Vince Mazzarella*	OT	6-2	255	20	So.	Canton, OH
64	Eric Cahan	DT	6-1	255	18	Fr.	Olympia, WA
65	Eric Thorsen**	DT	5-10	250	22	Jr.	Clinton, WA
66	Brian Fisher	OG	6-2	290	19	Fr.	Everett, WA
67	Brian Frost*	DT	6-3	280	22	Jr.	Bellingham, WA
68	Jerome Johnson	DE	6-2	235	24	So.	Oakland, CA
70	John Slater	OT	6-1	225	18	Fr.	Seattle, WA
71	Dave Crass	OG	6-0	240	21	Jr.	Montesano, WA
72	Joe DeShaw	OT	6-3	235	20	Fr.	Seattle, WA
73	Paul Selle	DT	6-1	240	19	So.	Edmonds, WA
74	Todd Harleman***	OT	5-11	250	21	Sr.	Maple Valley, WA
75	Aaron Bert	OT	6-3	255	19	Fr.	Olympia, WA
77	Heath Miller	OT	6-2	240	18	Fr.	Spokane, WA
78	Steve Gatterman**	OG	6-5	280	21	Jr.	Renton, WA
79	John Meagher*	OT	6-4	260	20	So.	Redmond, WA
80	Mark Watters	WR	6-3	185	19	Fr.	Yakima, WA
81	Jimmy Gray	WR	5-9	175	20	So.	Port Angeles, WA
82	Gabe Nightingale	TE	6-5	225	19	Fr.	Sequim, WA
83	Mike Harter*	WR	6-1	185	21	Jr.	Gig Harbor, WA
84	Chris Moore	WR	5-9	185	20	Fr.	Issaquah, WA
85	Brent Knittel	WR	6-2	185	18	Fr.	Gig Harbor, WA
86	Sean Hamlin**	TE	6-3	225	21	Jr.	Puyallup, WA
87	Mike Mulhern	WR	6-2	180	18	Fr.	Olympia, WA
88	Jeff Starr	WR	6-3	200	19	Fr.	Everett, WA
89	Todd Bomkamp	DE	6-2	200	19	Fr.	Steilacoom, WA
90	Jeff Zane	DE	6-3	200	19	Fr.	Seattle, WA
91	Matt Madeoy	DE	5-11	205	18	Fr.	Issaquah, WA
92	LaMarco Mitchell*	DE	6-2	245	19	So.	Tacoma, WA
93	Chris Kinsey	LB	5-10	215	19	Fr.	Spanaway, WA
95	Brian Halley	DT	6-2	220	18	Fr.	Monroe, WA
96	Bryce Kisker*	TE	6-3	205	19	So.	Seattle, WA
97	Charles Herbst*	DE	6-3	245	21	Sr.	Redmond, WA
98	George Booker**	DT	6-0	240	23	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
99	Brian Keith	DT	6-1	260	20	Fr.	Everett, WA

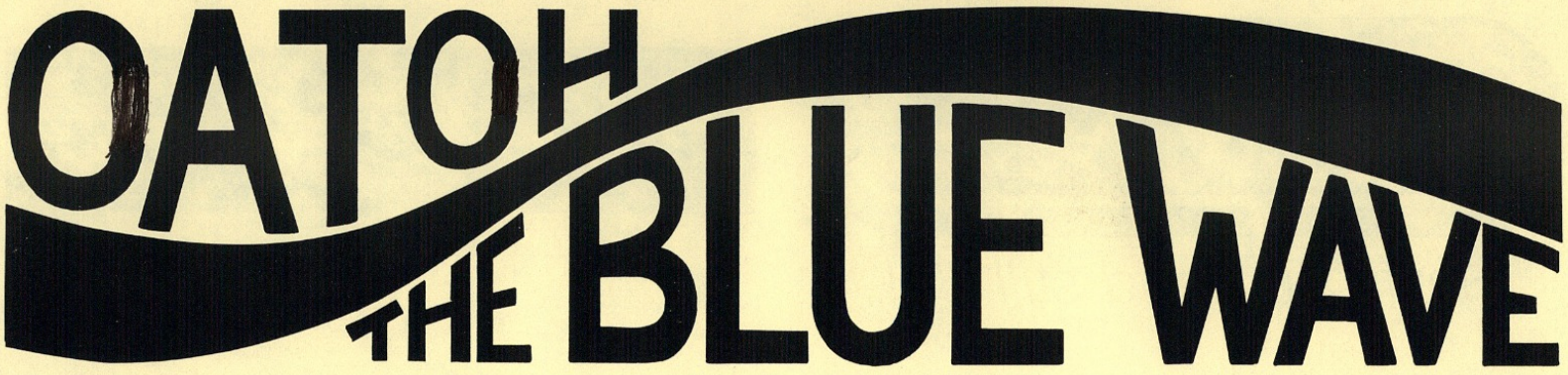
* denotes letters won

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Assistants: Phil Earley, Scott Bostwick, Mark Stewart, Tim Carlson, John Ely, David Fakkema, Artie Holmes, Kirk Kriskovich, Tom Missel, Kevin Ryan, Terry Todd

Equipment Manager: Steve Voigt
Assistant: Kevin Fenwick

Head Trainer: Linda Bergen
Assistant: Lori deKubber
Student Assistants: Mike Fine, Justin Iverson, Valerie Larson, Kendra Levane, Tamara Locke, Chris Murphy, Bonnie Spivey, Keri Stablein, Jennifer Watson



1991 WHITWORTH COLLEGE ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Elg. Yr.	Hometown
2	Mike Hofheins	WR	5-10	170	Sr.	Othello
3	John Karuza	K/P	5-8	148	Jr.	Bellingham
6	Danny Figueira	QB	5-11	188	So.	Honolulu, HI
7	Jon Hall	WR	6-2	179	Jr.	Fresno, CA
9	Phillip Ash	DB	5-7	143	So.	York, SC
10	Jason Tobeck	WR	6-1	175	So.	Olympia
13	Matt Diedrick	QB	5-11	172	Fr.	Moscow, ID
14	Derek Edwards	LB	6-1	198	So.	Cambridge, ID
16	David Fogelstrom	QB	6-1	195	Jr.	Clayton, CA
20	David Thornhill	DB	5-11	139	So.	Spokane
22	Andy Davies	DB	5-10	173	Sr.	Milwaukie
23	Craig Stone	DB	5-10	188	Jr.	Everett
24	Scott Williamson	RB	5-11	185	So.	Bend, OR
25	Ara Balkian	RB	5-8	178	Fr.	Glendale, CA
27	Dave Snyder	DB	5-8	171	Jr.	Tacoma
30	Frank Castaneda	RB	5-7	177	Jr.	Lynden
32	Tony Layton	LB	6-1	196	Fr.	Spokane
33	Mark Oty	DB	5-11	193	Sr.	Okanogan
36	Zane Klym	DB	5-9	176	Sr.	Vernon, BC
40	Aaron Pacheco	RB	5-6	189	Jr.	Pahoa, HI
41	Blake Tucker	RB	6-0	210	Jr.	Tonasket
42	Brent Busby	LB	5-11	201	Sr.	Spokane
44	Andy Hopoi	LB	5-8	210	Sr.	Colbert
46	Mike Henze	LB	6-0	216	Jr.	Kennewick
47	Mark Vandine	DL	6-3	226	Sr.	Kennewick
49	Tim Keifer	LB	6-0	196	Fr.	Rathdrum, ID
50	Adam Brooks	OL	5-11	209	Jr.	Bend, OR
52	John Johnston	OL	6-1	258	Jr.	Spokane
53	Casey Silverthorn	LB	5-10	206	Jr.	Tonasket
55	Greg Clardy	LB	5-11	218	Jr.	Fullerton, CA
56	Arthur Normand	LB	5-10	202	Sr.	Ketchikan, AK
58	Paul Johns	OL	5-9	241	Sr.	Spokane
61	David Taylor	OL	6-2	263	Sr.	Spokane
62	Jeff Edmondson	DL	6-1	215	Jr.	Clackamas, OR
64	Brian Agner	OL	5-10	205	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
65	Scott McEachern	OL	6-3	215	So.	Lewiston, ID
66	Dave Adamson	DL	5-8	227	Jr.	Spokane
67	Don O'Neal	DL	6-1	190	Fr.	Spokane
72	Ron Schafer	OL	6-1	235	Jr.	Spokane
74	Joe Green	OL	6-0	290	Fr.	Spokane
75	Russ Ekins	OL	6-4	258	Jr.	Spokane
76	Mitchell Osako	OL	5-11	287	So.	Pearl City, HI
77	Scott Lopez	DL	6-0	254	Sr.	Vacaville, CA
78	Loren Ayresman	OL	5-11	223	Fr.	Honolulu, HI
79	Chris Bennett	DL	6-5	250	Sr.	Spokane
81	Abe Ramirez	WR	5-11	160	Fr.	Othello
85	Lance Abendroth	WR	6-0	170	So.	Moscow, ID
86	Chris Franklin	TE	6-0	228	So.	Deer Park
88	Scott McEachern	OL	6-3	215	So.	Lewiston, ID
94	Ed Mael	LB	5-11	203	So.	Rathdrum, ID
96	Jeff Johnson	LB	6-1	190	So.	Toppenish
97	Brad Lambson	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Mackay, ID
	Ernest Crawford	DL	6-4	228	Fr.	Costa Mesa, CA
	Tom Crawford	DL	6-3	260	Sr.	Spokane
	Tony Doughty	WR	5-9	166	So.	Olympia
	Shane Hagel	DB	5-11	190	Jr.	Bridgeport
	Chad Hamasake	DL	6-1	215	Sr.	Kailua, HI
	John Harris	DB	5-9	164	Fr.	Palmdale, CA
	Steve Haug	TE	6-1	196	So.	Post Falls, ID
	Peter Lamka	LB	5-11	182	Fr.	Portland, OR
	Erik Larson	RB	6-0	207	So.	Spokane
	Wade McIntire	DB	5-8	185	Jr.	Kennewick
	Eric Nasburg	LB	6-2	200	So.	Spokane
	Tom Wolsborn, Jr.	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	Odessa

Coach: Blaine "Shorty" Bennett

Assistants: Jules Edwards, Sam Wiseman, Mark Bennett, Jessie Klasing, Bob Carbee, Steve Schultz

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WESTERN SPECIAL TEAMS ARE TRULY SPECIAL

Three Vikings among nation's best

by Gene Warnick

Each and every summer, football coaches are asked about their prospects for the upcoming season. The conversation usually boils down to an analysis of the team's offense and defense.

Rarely, if ever, does a coach mention his special teams.

"There's good reason for that," said Western head coach Rob Smith. "There is so much emphasis put on the offense and defense that sometimes the kicking game is an area that is neglected. We want to make sure that doesn't happen here. We put an awful lot of emphasis on the kicking game."

That extra attention has paid off well for the Vikings this season. Their special teams are indeed just that - special.

Entering today's home finale against Whitworth, the Vikings have players in three special teams categories ranked among the tops in the nation in NAIA Division II.

Shane Volkmann, a junior from Lake Stevens, leads the nation in kickoff returns, averaging 34.0 yards on 11 attempts.

Kicker Dan Clemensen, a junior from Tacoma, is third in the nation in kick scoring with a 6.6 points per game average.

Ken Corbin, a senior from Woodinville, tops the Columbia Football Association and is fifth nationally in punt returns, averaging 15.5 yards on 19 attempts.

Pretty impressive numbers, especially for a team that didn't have anyone in the top three in the CFA in those categories last season.

"One of the first things we do in fall camp is to give the players a kicking-game playbook," Smith said. "On the very front page it states our goal, that we will have the best kicking game in the nation.

"I tell the players at the time, 'Sure, that sounds good, but is it possible?' Now you look at the results ... they have been very, very positive."

Volkmann admitted he thought the idea of leading the nation was a bit far-fetched.

"Top of our league, that was what I was thinking," he said. "The nation ... there are an awful lot of teams out there."

But few, if any, are better at special teams play than the Vikings. The reason? Hard work.

On Monday, the only game film Smith shows to the entire team is each kicking play from the previous game. At Monday practices, the Vikings work solely on kick-off returns and kickoff coverage.

After spending a bit of time in practice on Tuesday and Wednesday on the special teams, the Vikings devote their Thursdays to the kicking game, including that day's team meeting.

"We put together a kicking-game scouting report each week and there's a kicking game plan of what we're going to do," Smith said. "We will break down each opponent's kicking game and decide what we can do against that in terms of both returns and coverage.

"People say it's one-third of the game and we believe that. We come pretty dog-gone close to spending one-third of our time (on the special teams)."

In addition, Smith has made assistant coaches the "head coaches" of the various special teams units. For example, Smith is in charge of the punt team while offensive coordinator Phil Earley and offensive line coach David Fakkema work with the point-after touchdown and field-goal squads. Each unit has its own coach.

Western has also had a special teams captain for each game this season, based on the performances of the previous week.

Corbin said the big difference from a year ago is that the Vikings now take pride in their special teams.

"That's what carries you," he said. "When you really believe that you can accomplish things in the special teams and you take pride in what you do, your actions are going to express that on the field.

"It's just another opportunity. That's the way we look at it. It's an opportunity to do something really good on game day."

No player has made more of his opportunities than Clemensen. After earning first-team all-CFA honors and second-team Little all-Northwest recognition in 1989, he made just one of seven field-goal attempts last season.

This year, he's made nine of 12 field-goal tries, including a 44-yarder, and 19 of 20 extra-point kicks.

"I took it (last season) as a learning experience," Clemensen said. "From there, I just had to work hard and come out ready for this year. I did that and my stats have been a lot better."

Smith added a kicking coach this season, Kevin Ryan, to work specifically with the punters and place-kickers.

"It (having a coach) has helped me relax a lot more," Clemensen said. "Last year, I was just kind of flaky. This year, my head is into it and I'm pretty confident."

While Volkmann, Corbin and Clemensen have been receiving the attention for their statistics, several other players have stood out on the special teams.

Smith singled out redshirt freshmen Stacy Avila from Snohomish and Klete Langdon from Castle Rock, and freshman Eric Cahan from Olympia. Avila gets one of three open spots on the traveling roster because of his play on the kicking teams, Langdon has twice been named the Vikings' special teams player of the week and Cahan is the long-snapper.

"That (playing on special teams) is a way for players to be noticed and it's also a way for backups to get some playing time. They take a great deal of pride in that," Smith said. "We've got some players who are really performing and really are enjoying being a part of it.

"It is fun. When you're flying down there on kickoffs and have to bust the wedge or on punt coverage when you get a chance to nail a guy who's looking to the sky ... it takes a special kind of person to recognize that role and execute it as well as some of the players we have.'

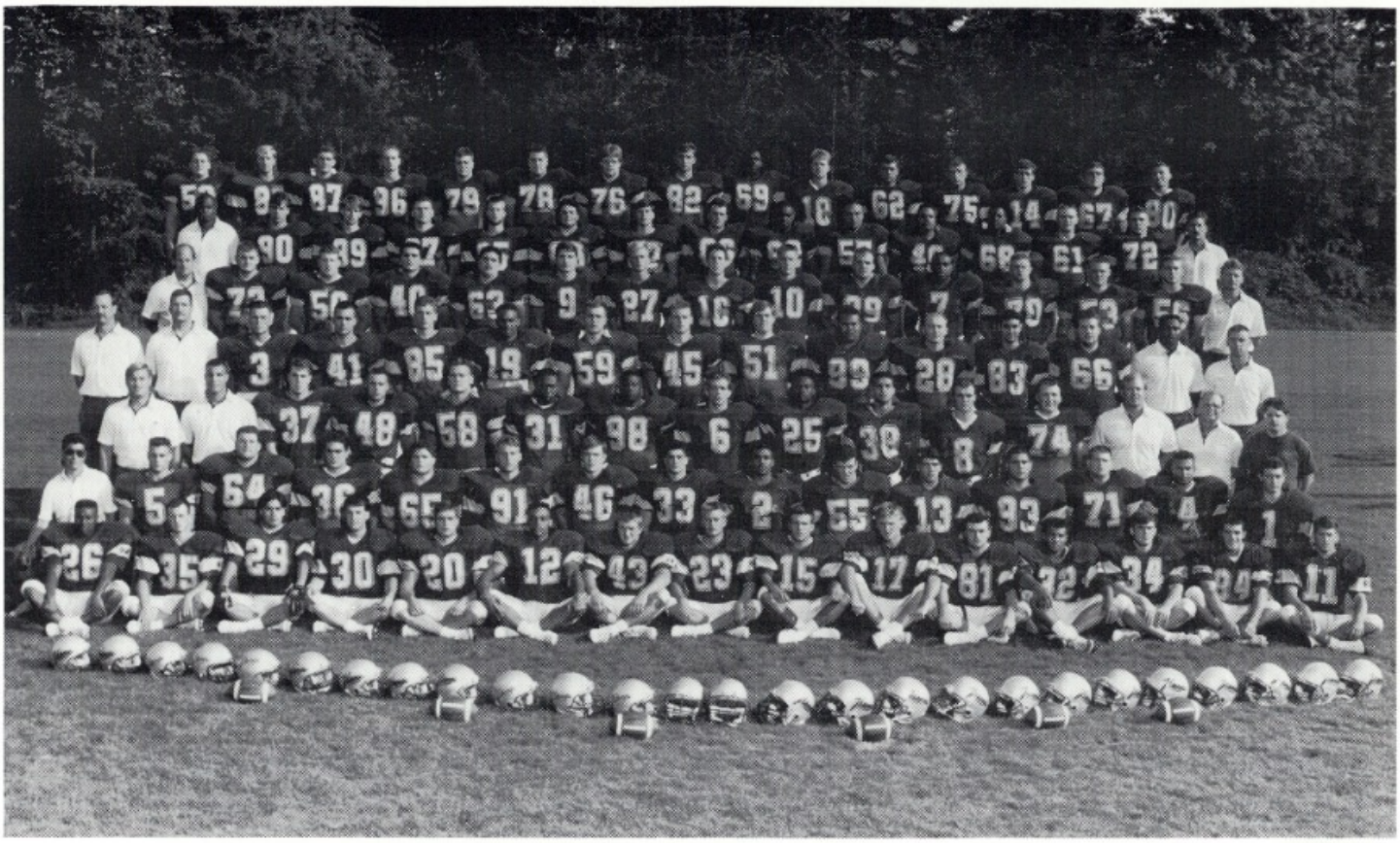
Perhaps Smith appreciates that more than other coaches because he was a special teams player at the University of Washington in the late 1970s.

"I certainly wasn't a star (at the UW)," Smith said. "A lot of my playing time came in the kicking game. I accepted that role and took a great deal of pride in that role. So I've been able to try and convey that to the players who are part of it here at Western."

From all accounts, he's accomplished that with his players - especially this season.

"I know players who ask to be on the special teams," Volkmann said. "And if they aren't producing, there's another teammate waiting to get out there. That's great and I think that's why we're so good."

1991 WESTERN FOOTBALL



VIKING RECORDS

CAREER — INDIVIDUAL

Yards Rushing — 4049, Pat Locker, 1976-79
Yards Passing — 5503, Kirk Kriskovich, 1985-86, 1989
Yards Pass-Receiving — 2321, Hoyt Gier, 1975-78
All-Purpose Yards — 5085, Pat Locker, 1976-79
Total Yards — 5385, Kirk Kriskovich, 1985-86, 1989
Pass Receptions — 148, Hoyt Gier, 1975-78
Touchdown Passes — 34, Glenn Hadland, 1968-71
Points Scored — 266, Scott Lohr, 1986-89
Touchdowns Scored — 44, Scott Lohr, 1986-89
Touchdown Passes Caught — 17, Bill Handy, 1979-82
Pass Interceptions — 26, Vic Randall, 1967-70
Fumbles Recovered — 14, Chuck Houser, 1973-76
Tackles — 431, Wayne Lewis, 1984-87
Quarterback Sacks — 34, Doug Groves, 1977-80

BEST PLAYS

Rushing — 89 yards, Al Anderson, 1967 (PSU)
Passing — 98 yards, Dan Brigham from Dave Peterson, 1984 (SFU)
Field Goal — 52 yards, Peter LaBarge, 1986 (L&C) & 1988 (WOSC)
Interception Ret. — 100 yards, Al Cornett, 1952 (UBC)
Punt — 62 yards, Peter LaBarge, 1987 (CWU) & 1988 (CWU)
Fumble Recovery Ret. — 92 yards, Ron Storaasli, 1958 (EWU)
Punt Return — 90 yards, John Huntley, 1975 (EOSC)
Kickoff Ret. — 99 yards, Mark Moran, 1983 (SFU)

SEASON — INDIVIDUAL

Yards Rushing — 1395, Scott Lohr, 1989
All-Purpose Yards — 1788, Pat Locker, 1976
Yards Pass-Receiving — 743, Hoyt Gier, 1976
Pass Receptions — 53, Ken Sager, 1985
Touchdown Passes Caught — 8, Jeff Potter, 1976
Kirk Schneider, 1989
Yards Passing — 2480, Dave Peterson, 1984
Touchdown Passes — 18, Kirk Kriskovich, 1989
Total Yards — 2429, Dave Peterson, 1984
Points Scored — 120, Scott Lohr, 1989
Touchdowns Scored — 20, Scott Lohr, 1989
Passes Intercepted — 9, Vic Randall, 1970
Tackles — 164, Jim Sterk, 1977
Fumbles Recovered — 6, Three players
Quarterback Sacks — 14, Doug Groves, 1978

GAME INDIVIDUAL

Yards Rushing — 243, Scott Lohr, 1989 (UPS)
Yards Pass-Receiving — 187, Hoyt Gier, 1978 (EOSC)
Yards Passing — 430, Dave Peterson, 1984 (PU)
Total Yards — 436, Dave Peterson, 1984 (PU)
Passes Caught — 11, Three players
Touchdown Passes Caught — 3, Two players
Touchdowns Scored — 4, Four players
Points Scored — 27, Fred Emerson, 1957 (UBC)
Tackles — 34, Gary Fumano, 1961 (PSU)
Fumbles Recovered — 3, Two players
Pass Interceptions — 4, Tim Richard, 1984 (PLU)

WESTERN ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT IN GOOD HANDS WITH VOIGT

by Kevin Jackson

Give Western equipment manager Steve Voigt half-a-dozen old towels and he might produce a valuable piece of protective gear for the Viking football squad.

That was the challenge Voigt faced in Western's final game of the 1989 season when the Vikings visited nationally-ranked Linfield at McMinnville, Ore.

Western's team bus had gotten lost on its way to the stadium and the squad didn't arrive until 10 minutes before kick-off.

After a few Viking players got dressed and on the field, the officials sent them back to the locker room because they weren't wearing tailbone pads.

"The guys came running off the field and said they needed to get tailbone pads," Voigt recalled. "Most of the players don't like to wear them and they hadn't even brought them to the game. I was only carrying about three or four extra sets of pads and we had to get them or they weren't going to let us start the game."

So what did Voigt and Western's equipment staff do?

"We started ripping up these old towels and we could get about eight strips out of each towel," Voigt said. "We sent the players back out to the field with these towels stuck down their pants and I don't think (Western coach) Rob Smtith or I were ever as relieved as when they finally kicked off. Looking back at it, it was probably one of the best psyche jobs we've ever pulled off."

The Vikings won 27-24, handing Linfield its first league loss at home since 1976.

"The refs were checking a piece of equipment that they hadn't checked in our first eight games that season and Steve was calm the whole time," Smith said. "His influence was a big help and when you look at it from a coaching standpoint, it's important to have someone you can rely on like that."

Western's coaches have found Voigt to be a person they can depend on since he took over as the school's athletic equipment manager in 1987.

A native of Los Angeles, where he graduated from Franklin High School and Los Angeles City College, Voigt worked as a unit technician at ARCO in Ferndale for 12 years before reading about the opening at Western while browsing through the classified ads.

His specific duties include ordering, repairing, cleaning and keeping inventory of uniforms and equipment; and supervising a staff that includes a part-time assistant and numerous work-study students.



Voigt

Voigt said he does most of his work with the football, basketball and track squads, but is responsible for all athletic teams.

"My role really starts with the coaches," he said. "A lot of times, coaches will get distracted and not pay attention to the small details. That's where I try to help out. They might forget to notify someone when they alter their (practice) schedule; I try to communicate those messages all the way down the line."

Western basketball coach Brad Jackson said he appreciates Voigt's assistance, adding that his contributions often go unnoticed.

"That type of role is a very difficult one," Jackson said. "Coaches can get so focused on their teams that details seem to fall through. When that happens, Steve is right there and he does a fantastic job."

"A lot of people probably don't even know what Steve does or even who he is," Jackson said. "His role is an extremely important one, but it is also a very unsung one."

Western athletes also appreciate Voigt's work.

"He's out there at practice all the time and he's always ready to help out," Western football player Ken Corbin said. "Steve gets along with the players really well and it feels like he's part of the team."

Perhaps it is Voigt's past athletic career that allows him to have such a strong relationship with Western athletes.

Voigt lettered two years at Glendale Junior College in both football as a running back and free safety, and track as a long jumper.

"My athletic experience helps me a tremendous amount," Voigt said. "It's kind of like a bond or fraternity. They say that once you are a Marine, you're a Marine your whole life. Well, sports is the same way. No matter what the age gap, I have the same feelings and see these guys going through what I went through."

"In football, I get almost as emotional as the players. There's times I've started to tear up because the emotion was so strong."

Voigt's enthusiasm has not gone unnoticed.

"Steve loves what he's doing," said Smith. "All you have to do is look at him on the sidelines during the game to see that."

Whether he is washing towels for the athletic department or using them to substitute for a tailbone pad, Voigt said he hopes to remain at Western as long as possible.

"I love the camaraderie I'm able to have with the players, coaches, just the whole thing," he said.

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