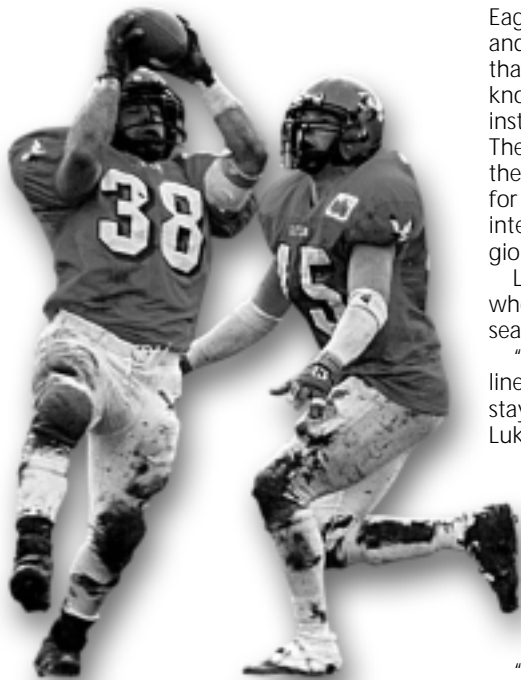


Athletics

Vincent Brothers part of Clan from Pasco
 Luke Vincent's first career interception came last November versus Central Washington in Cheney. If the pass had traveled a few inches farther, it could have been the first career interception for



his brother Doug.

The ensuing collision — captured in a photo by photographer Ron Swords — will forever be family lore.



Luke Vincent

"I joke with him about it all the time," said Luke, who eventually earned second team All-Big Sky Conference honors as Eastern's starting middle linebacker.



Doug Vincent

The mere fact the two brothers from Pasco, Wash., shared the field at times in 2001 was a precursor for the 2002 season. A senior co-captain who

originally walked-on at Eastern, Luke will return as middle linebacker. Doug, a sophomore who played as a true freshman in 2001, will start alongside him at strong-side inside linebacker.

"It's always good when you can get kids who play well together and fit," said Eagle head coach Paul Wulff. "With Luke and Doug, is it that they are brothers or that they are just good football players? I know they both have good football instincts and are good football players. They may not run the fastest 40 or have the strongest lifts, but they have a nose for the football. They bring a level of intensity to our defense that is contagious and exciting."

Luke had his work cut out for him when he arrived in Cheney for pre-season practices in the summer of 1998.

"I'm probably the smallest middle linebacker in I-AA, so I definitely have to stay strong and keep working hard," Luke said. "I can't relax for a second.

Besides taking over as a starter, in 2001 Luke also mentored Doug, who chose Eastern because of the opportunity to eventually play alongside his older brother. Instead of being redshirted, Doug played on special teams and continued to learn and improve.

"He had the same advantage as I had playing in the same defense in high school," Luke said. "He knew the basics of the defense before two-a-days. He had a jump on every freshman there. He watched film with me and had me dragging him in there every chance we got.

"It was fun," Luke remembered of Doug's early-season playing time. "I tried to lighten it up for him because he was a little nervous."

Eventually, the brothers would combine for 18 tackles, a sack and two fumble recoveries in a win over Cal State Northridge in late October, and Doug finished the season with 28 tackles. Doug started against Northern Arizona and Central Washington in November.

"I hope I led him the right way," Luke added. "I'm sure he looks up at me for some things, but he's a pretty independent person and likes to figure out things on his own."

EWU Basketball Adds UW to List of Foes

It may be one of the shortest road trips of the season, but it will be the most anticipated.

Eastern Washington University head basketball coach **Ray Giacoletti** and his large contingent of Puget Sound area players will visit Seattle on Dec. 14 when the Eagles play at the University Wash-



Ray Giacoletti

ington. Tipoff at the Bank of America Arena is tentatively set for 3 p.m. as Giacoletti returns to the school where he spent four seasons as an assistant coach under Bob Bender from 1993-97.

The Eagles have seven players and two assistant coaches from the Puget Sound area, plus four more players within a couple of hours driving distance. Included is 2000 Franklin High School graduate **Alvin Snow**, selected as the inaugural winner of the Big Sky Conference Defensive Player of the Year last season. **Marc Axton**, a 2001 graduate of Foss High School in Tacoma, was the Big Sky's Freshman of the Year last season.

"It's a great game for us to add," said Giacoletti, who was 3-0 as a Husky assistant versus EWU. "We've developed our program around players from the Pacific Northwest, so this is a natural game for us to play. And we have a large base of alumni in the region that we hope will come out and support us."

Eastern has played Washington just four times, the first time in 1990 (74-58 Husky win) and the most recent on Dec. 29, 1996 (84-54 Husky win). Washington also defeated EWU 54-48 in the 1994-95 season and 74-55 the following year.

Last year, the Eagles opened the season with a stunning 68-67 victory over nationally-ranked Saint Joseph's Nov. 15 in the first round of the Black Coaches Association Classic in Berkeley, Calif. St. Joseph's entered ranked ninth in the pre-season ESPN/USA Today poll, and 10th by Associated Press.

"Our non-conference schedule is pretty tough again," said Giacoletti. "The nice thing about success is that you get invited to some tournaments that not everybody has an opportunity to play in. But we get thrown to the wolves right away against Wisconsin at the NABC Classic."

"It will certainly be challenging again," Giacoletti added of his team's schedule. "Each year you're looking to take that next step, and we have to be better in the non-conference portion of our schedule. We have a number of teams we played on the road last year coming to our place this year. We lost to San Diego State, Portland and Saint Mary's on the road last year, so there are areas where we can improve during the non-conference schedule."

With nine returning letterwinners for 2002-2003, the wins should keep coming for Giacoletti. He has back three starters who were honored by the Big Sky as Newcomer of the Year (Chris Hester), Defensive Player of the Year (Snow) and Freshman of the Year (Axton). Hester and Snow were first team All-Big Sky selections.

"There's still one last step to the ladder, and that's to win the Big Sky title outright," Giacoletti said. "Beyond that, we want to win the Big Sky Tournament to get to the NCAA Tournament. Those are the two distinct goals we are directed toward. We were close in both of those situations the last two years, but didn't get it done."

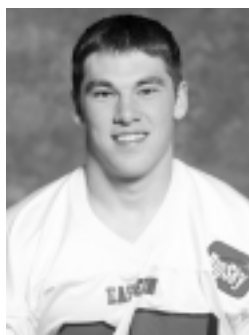
Record Total Raised During EAA Drive

The 2002 Eagle Athletic Association fund drive set a new record with more than \$156,000 in cash and \$65,000 in gift-in-kind contributions made toward scholarships and recruiting at EWU. The total of \$225,000 exceeded the goal of \$210,000, and the previous record of \$133,000.

EAGLE ACADEMIC NOTES

For spring quarter 2002, Eastern student-athletes had a collective 3.26 grade point average, including a 3.43 mark for women and 3.12 mark for men. Women's basketball had the highest team grade point average at 3.75, followed by women's tennis at 3.66 and volleyball at 3.54. Tennis had the top grade point average among men's sports at 3.22.

Nearly half of all Eastern Washington University student-athletes had a grade point average of 3.5 or better to earn Dean's List recognition in the spring quarter of 2002. Of Eastern's 240 athletes, 111 (46 percent) had a GPA of 3.5 or



Josh Blankenship

higher. Seven-four percent (178) had at least a 3.0 grade point average. All nine members of the women's basketball team had a GPA of 3.5 or above. Five student-athletes earned perfect 4.0 grade point averages in the spring quarter of 2002, including the new Eagle quarterback **Josh Blankenship** who transferred to EWU in January from the University of Tulsa. He has now earned a 4.0 GPA in each of his two quarters at EWU. The others with 4.0 averages in the spring were **Jacqueline Bennion** (women's basketball), **Kathleen Nygaard** (women's basketball), **Christie**

Kight (track & field) and **Rebecca Lewis** (track & field).

Track standout and volleyball player earn prestigious honor after making Big Sky history



Robyn Felder



Mike Oien

Robyn Felder and Mike Oien, a pair of athletes who made Big Sky Conference history during the 2001-2002 school year, have been selected as Eastern's recipients of the this year's Big Sky Conference Scholar-Athlete Award. One senior male and one senior female from each school in the conference are honored for their athletic and academic achievements.

Intense, but undefeated.

Eastern's volleyball team returned from an intense two-week road trip in early September with an unblemished 8-0 record that equals the 2001 squad as the best start in school history. The Eagles received 21 votes in the USA Today/AVCA Coaches Top 25 Poll, ranking them 33rd nationally.

"It was a fantastic road trip," said Benson, whose team played eight matches in a nine-day span. "It was a great beginning to the season, and we're very excited how we're coming together as a group. We have a lot of contributors — freshmen included — and we feel like it was a great start for a season that has the potential to be very special."

On their trip, the Eagles won two tournament titles and a lot of individual hardware. The team is trying to duplicate last season's success when they finished 21-6, won the Big Sky Conference Tournament title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament second round.

On the trip, Eastern played — and won — eight matches in a nine-day span. Sophomore **Lindsay Page** was MVP of tournaments in Jacksonville and Georgia, and was rewarded with the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week honor for her efforts. All-tournament honors were also won by **Janelle Ruen** (Jacksonville and Georgia) and setter **Jessie Wright** (Jacksonville). Ruen has now been selected to all-tournament teams six times in her career, featuring three MVP awards that included the 2001 Big Sky Conference Tournament.



Janelle Ruen