



## It's not really a sports story.

Well, okay, it **is** a sports story. But it's really much more than that. The Eagles men's basketball team's march into March Madness this year, winning a first-ever berth in the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, is really a story of the university that nurtured them.

Imagine — a scrappy little team of kids from the Pacific Northwest, with a blue-collar work ethic, with coaches and an administration supporting them in this crazy vision that they can compete with the elite (and insisting that their success in the classroom matches their success on the field of play).

In the pages of this issue of *Perspective*, there are lots of "basketball" stories. But only one of them is a true sports story, in the traditional sense. The other stories are about a university that dares to dream big, about the young men with good hearts and spirit who you might never have known about were it not for basketball, about the people who work here who have passion and commitment and, ultimately, about you, the alumni and friends of Eastern, who wrapped your arms around us and danced with us as we went to the Big Dance.

You don't even have to like basketball to love these guys. But, be proud of them, be proud of your alma mater and rejoice in this success — because you helped it happen.

## EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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**Cover:** Eagles fans support their team during the Big Sky Championship game.

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