

# Athletics

## Football ...

Eastern's 2001 football team had its share of star performers and record-breaking performances. What head coach Paul Wulff will remember most about his second Eagle football team is its resiliency.

There was no better example than Eastern's season-ending 48-45 victory over Idaho State that helped the Eagles — including 19 seniors — conclude the 2001 season on a winning note.

Ravaged by injuries during the season, Eastern battled back from a 17-7 first-half deficit to wrap-up sole possession of fifth in the Big Sky Conference standings with the win. Eastern finished 7-4 overall and 3-4 in the conference. The Eagles had their third-straight winning season, a feat that hasn't happened since 1984-86.

"That's what our team is all about: it's all about heart," added senior quarterback Fred Salanoa, who passed for three touchdowns and had 360 yards in his final game as an Eagle — the 12th-best performance in school history.

## Academic Honors . . .

Eastern football players Chris Polinder, Tyler Randall, Anthony Griffin and Bryan Shireman were honored for the first time on the Verizon Academic All-District VIII football team as selected by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).



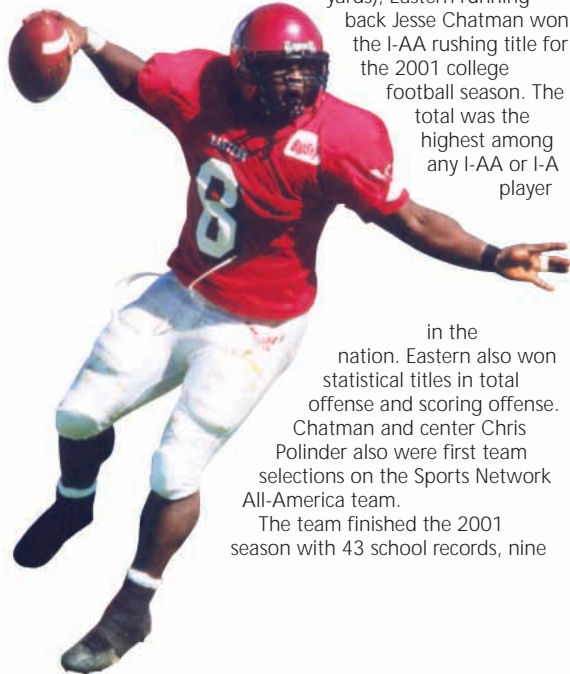
Robyn Felder was honored on the same squad for women's

volleyball players.

All four will receive Big Sky Conference All-Academic honors when the team is announced in January.

## Titles and Honors . . .

Finishing with the fourth-highest rushing total in NCAA Division I-AA history (2,096 yards), Eastern running back Jesse Chatman won the I-AA rushing title for the 2001 college football season. The total was the highest among any I-AA or I-A player



in the nation. Eastern also won statistical titles in total offense and scoring offense. Chatman and center Chris Polinder also were first team selections on the Sports Network All-America team.

The team finished the 2001 season with 43 school records, nine

Big Sky Conference marks and two I-AA records. Eastern became only the second team in I-AA and Big Sky history to have a 2,000-yard rusher and 3,000-yard passer in the same year.

As a final honor in mid-December, Eastern football players Fred Salanoa, Chris Polinder and David Sherrod were selected to play in the inaugural Paradise Bowl on Saturday, Jan. 12, in St. George, Utah.

## Volleyball . . .

Making history at every turn, Eastern's volleyball team advanced as far as any other



said of the win, Eastern's first-ever against a nationally-ranked NCAA Division I opponent. "You come to these types of events to give yourself a chance to play a nationally-ranked team on a neutral court. It's one thing to talk about it and sell it to recruits, but it's another thing to do something with it when you're here. We talked about the window of opportunity, and by gosh we took advantage."



Big Sky Conference school when the Eagles defeated Oregon State on Nov. 30 to advance to the second round of the NCAA Volleyball Tournament.

The Eagles lost to Hawaii 3-1 in the second round as only four other teams in conference history have advanced past the first round. No Big Sky team has ever advanced past the second round.

"This was a huge win for our program and a huge win for these players," Eastern head coach Wade Benson said of the victory over the Pacific 10 Conference members. "Even though this wasn't our best performance, it was a great win."

## Basketball . . .

Registering perhaps the greatest men's basketball win in school history, Eastern opened the season with a stunning 68-67 victory over nationally-ranked Saint Joseph's on Nov. 15 in the Black Coaches Association Classic in Berkeley, Calif.

"It's huge for our university and our program," Eagle head coach Ray Giacoletti

## Soccer . . .

Coming up just short in its bid for a berth in the Big Sky Conference Tournament, Eastern soccer finished 2001 with a win and a tie over its biggest rivals.

A double overtime tie with Inland Northwest rival Gonzaga was followed three days later by a 1-0 win over Big Sky Conference rival Montana, which finished third in the conference.

Eastern finished 3-12-1 overall and 2-4 in the Big Sky, but was 2-1-1 in their last four games of the season. Three times during the season Eastern played matches that went to double overtime.

"What a great week and series of games to end the season on," second-year Eagle head coach George Hageage said of his team's performances against the Grizzlies and Bulldogs. "The Montana win was the biggest win in school history. It was the first time this program has gained a victory over a team ranked in the top 80 teams in the nation."

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## Sports Information Via E-Mail, on the Internet . . .

For up-to-date sports stories from the Eastern Athletic Department, alumni, parents and fans can sign up to have information e-mailed directly to them. Send your e-mail address to Sports Information Director Dave Cook (dcook@mail.ewu.edu) and he'll add you to the list.

You can access more information through the internet. Schedules, results, rosters, statistics, photos, ticket information, staff listings and a special news and notes section are all available via the following URLs:

[www.goeags.com](http://www.goeags.com) or  
<http://athletics.ewu.edu>

By accessing the staff directory on the Web site, you can send e-mail messages to coaches and staff.

Call the athletic department at 359-6334 or 1(866) 4GO-EAGS if you have any trouble accessing information. You can also e-mail your comments to Dave Cook at (dcook@mail.ewu.edu).

## Locker Room Project Crown Jewel of Athletics

"If you build it, they will come." That line from the movie *Field of Dreams* describes the modern phenomena

that accompanies the building of new athletic venues: great facilities attract people.

Never is that statement truer than when talking with college coaches about their locker rooms. The locker room, more so than the arena or stadium, is the crown jewel of the campus recruiting visit. So when Athletic Director Scott Barnes began to move ahead with the locker room renovation project 18 months ago, he received overwhelming support from Eastern's coaches.

The project consisted of two simultaneous phases: creating a volleyball/basketball team room along with locker room space (housing women's basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf and soccer), and creating a new football locker room, complete with coaches' office suite.

"We had a goal to create an impact facility for recruiting and for the daily use of our current student-athletes," says Barnes. From the comments of recruits, coaches and players,

the new locker rooms met that goal.

"Our women's teams now have an 'upper echelon' quality locker room," said Senior Women's Administrator Pam Parks. "We are on the fast track to having one of the best overall facilities in the west."

"The space is awesome – a major college type of locker room. It definitely made a difference in how the players felt about showing the campus to recruits," adds All America running back Jesse Chatman about the football program's new home.

The total bill for the 9,500-square-foot project exceeded \$800,000. Funding came from several sources, including a state appropriation grant for gender equity and several significant private gifts. Current EWU Foundation Chairman Don Rodman (EWU '69) along with former Eagles (and current NFL players) Kurt Schulz (EWU '91) and Tom Ackerman (EWU '97) each made a major gift to the project.

Thirty-one of the individual pro-style lockers were endowed by donors and commemorated with engraved plaques. Both locker rooms were completed prior to the opening of the 2001 fall quarter and had their official unveiling at a Locker Room Open House Sept. 22 during the Hall of Fame Weekend.

## The 2002 Eagle Athletic Association Fund Drive is coming!!!

April 11-May 16  
2002: REACHING THE NEXT LEVEL