2009-2010 Basketball Schedule

The Wolverines invite you to come out and see a game during the 2009-2010 season. Mark your calendars for when Grove City College is playing near you or come to campus to see the ladies play. Please let Coach Harris know if you are ever in the area, on campus or would like to see a game.

- Nov. 17 @ Allegheny College 6 p.m.
- Nov. 20 @ Behrend Tournament TBD
- Nov. 21 @ Behrend Tournament TBD
- Nov. 24 Carnegie Mellon 6 p.m.
- Dec. 2 Thomas More* 6 p.m.
- Dec. 5 @ Washington & Jefferson* TBD
- Dec. 9 Hiram College 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 @ Westminster* TBD
- Dec. 29 @ Wittenberg Tournament TBD
- Jan. 5 @ Chatham* TBD
- Jan. 7 Bethany* 6 p.m.
- Jan. 9 @ Thi* TBD
- Jan. 13 Geneva 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20 Westminster* 6 p.m.
- Jan. 23 @ Thomas More* TBD
- Jan. 27 Washington & Jefferson* 6 p.m.
- Jan. 30 Wayneburg* 1 p.m.
- Jan. 31 @ Washington & Jefferson* TBD
- Feb. 3 Chatham* 6 p.m.
- Feb. 6 @ Bethany* TBD
- Feb. 10 Thi* 6 p.m.
- Feb. 13 Geneva TBD
- Feb. 17 @ Thi* TBD
- Feb. 20 @ Westminster* TBD

**1st varsity women's team**

Row 1, from left: Ellen Rosos '78, Karen (Sundberg) '78 Sowell, Angie Caliendo '78, Lynn (Dougherty) '81 Werner, Melilee Meila and Lois (Knecht) '83 Mulhall. Row 2: Head Coach Terry Ehrs, manager Margaret Bodman '77, Lynn Emerson '79, Beth Brandt, Nancy (Faloon) '79 Doid, Sue (Bell) '80 Merchant, Wendy (Taylor) '78 Merscalf and Julie Jones.

400 reasons to celebrate women's basketball

On Dec. 3, Grove City notched a 68-58 victory over Geneva College. The 10-point victory marked the Wolverines' first victory of the season and the start of a three-game win streak. The win also marked the women's basketball program's 400th overall victory. Since its inception in 1976, the women's basketball program has experienced 17 winning seasons in its 33-year existence and currently has a 410-344 record.

Inside ...

- Slater, Harris honored
- Fresh, senior on unique season
- Team in national cancer fundraiser
- Coach helps with Spanish camps
- 2009-2010 schedule
- Program reaches 400 wins

Quick Click ...

Bookmark these links on the Grove City College Web site, located at www.gcc.edu.
- Sports
- www.gcc.edu/sports
- Alumni & Friends
  - www.gcc.edu/alumni

Players work hard in 'off-season'

After the mayhem commonly known as March Madness settles down, basketballs are put into storage and the sounds of squeaky sneakers and bouncing basketballs dim, thoughts often turn away from basketball toward warm weather and other activities. At Grove City College, basketball “off-season” is just another phase of being a part of the basketball program.

For some athletes, the weeks and months following the season are used to rest and heal aching bodies and injuries, however, the while also pursuing their studies and other activities.

For example, sophomore Cristine Slater has never experienced an “off-season” at Grove City College. The two-sport athlete and math major from Aliquippa, Pa., has excelled on both the basketball court and the softball field in her time at Grove City College.

This past season, Slater led the hoops team in scoring and rebounding while earning all-conference and all-region recognition. Please see PREPARE, page 4

Seven: team’s magic number

Seven can be a very powerful number. There were seven wonders in the ancient world; the number seven is symbolic for completeness and perfection in Christianity; and seven is also the largest number of players that dressed for a women’s basketball game this season.

Despite the small roster size, Grove City posted an 11-15 overall record and a 7-7 conference record. Its fourth-place finish in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference was Grove City’s best conference finish since the 2004-05 season and earned the Wolverines home court advantage in the PAC tournament quarterfinals.

The often undersized Wolverines struggled with their small roster at the beginning of the season, losing their first five games before winning three straight games against Geneva, Westminster and Allegheny prior to Christmas. Without any roster depth and further hampered by losing starter Jenna Johnston to an ACL injury on Jan. 5, the team struggled to gain momentum in the second half of the season.

Please see SEVEN, page 2

Raeann Slapong '09 provided veteran leadership on this year’s under-manned squad.
Coaches' Corner

It is a joy to share our first issue of "Full Court Press" with you. As alumna of the basketball program, you must find that many of the events of our program resonate with your own playing experience.

While many faces change during the years, one constant remains: Grove City women's basketball continues to strive for excellence on and off the basketball court. As a coach, it is my privilege to work with the talented women who step onto the court each day. They are an extremely dedicated group who love the game of basketball and desire to achieve success through the sport. More than what they do on the court, they are a fun-loving, passionate team who will accomplish great things because of what they learned and encountered on the basketball court. It is fun to share a little of what we experienced together with you.

Our current players and coaches also recognize how important you are to our legacy and future of the women's basketball program. Thank you for your presence and cheers from the stands motivate us, your encouragement and prayers sustain us and your financial contributions enable us to continue to provide an outstanding experience for future players. Go Wolverines!

Sarah Harris
Head Basketball Coach
sharris@gcc.edu
(724) 450-1533

Basketball, baloncesto y la entrenadora

Harris coaches Spanish summer basketball camps

When the school year ends, the members of the women's basketball program return to their hometowns to find summer jobs, serve internships and take an occasional class. While her players are absent from campus, Coach Sarah Harris seized the opportunity to coach in a very different setting, country and language.

Having graduated as a Spanish major in college, Harris wondered how she could incorporate her love for the Spanish language with her passion for coaching basketball. The answer came four years ago when she traveled to Spain to conduct basketball clinics at L'Arcada camp. Since her initial trip, Harris has returned each year to direct two weeks of basketball camp at L'Arcada during the month of July.

Located outside of Banyoles, Spain, about two hours north of Barcelona in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains, L'Arcada hosts two weeks of residential basketball camps that are conducted entirely in the Spanish and Catalan languages. About 120 campers from the Catalan region attend the basketball camps. L'Arcada functions under the umbrella ministry of Greater Europe Mission and uses camp ministry to present the gospel and discipleship to Spanish youth.

The experience is more than simply adjusting to language differences, international basketball rules and a Spanish style of basketball. Harris notes, "The weeks I coach in Spain are a humbling experience. I find myself tripping over my tongue and struggling to communicate the game of basketball far more than when I'm speaking English. However, the excitement the kids bring to the game is contagious, and it is a blessing to discover how basketball bonds us despite our different cultures and languages.”

Harris also acknowledges that it is a unique privilege to use the sport she loves to share her faith with athletes who attend camp. She adds that coaching in Spain has served as a reminder that basketball is a great sport and vehicle for learning about life and oneself in every language and culture.

The Grove City basketball team has become accustomed to hearing Harris incorporate Spanish into practice on occasion and now knows when she yells, "¡Que nunca pares jugar!" it means to never give up!
Team goes pink for a good cause

Caldwell '12

Raeann Szelong '09

Within a season of competition and an athlete’s career, each person takes away a variety of experiences. Veteran Megan Gabrosky and senior Raeann Szelong each share their perspective on being a part of Grove City College women’s basketball this season.

By Megan Gabrosky ’12

I had a wide variety of college options that I could go to: Penn State, Seton Hill, Ohio University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Grove City. So why did I choose to come to a small, Christian school? To start, a lot of my family members have gone here in the past, so I knew when I was growing up that Grove City would always be an option for me. My mother, Joyce (Weingartner ’81) Gebrosky, came here, and she told me about her experience, and I have seen where it has gotten her, so that was a plus for me. I knew that my classes were going to be tough and I was going to have to work very hard, but I knew that as the end, going to Grove City would give me the best options when I graduated. And I didn’t hurt that I was able to play basketball either!

The reason that I chose to continue to play basketball at the collegiate level is because I could not imagine my life without basketball. I knew that balancing the workload here with practices was going to be tough, and that I was going to have to adjust to everything because it would be completely different than high school, and boy, was I right. We started out with having a big roster in pre-season, but by the time we were ready to start things off, we ended up with only seven people, and I realized then that I was going to be getting a lot of playing time, and I was not expecting as a freshman. But it brought on a new challenge for me, and I was ready to face it head on.

This season as a freshman there was a lot of obstacles at no. I wasn’t used to only having seven people on a team and I had no idea how practices were going to work, or if I was going to be able to make it through the whole season in one piece. The only thing I had, going into the season, was that I was on a short team in high school, so I knew that we were going to have to use our speed to win games.

By Raeann Szelong ’09

What some might have seen as an incredible challenge, I quickly learned was just an opportunity disguised as unfair and difficult. This season was everything from ordinary, in practically every way possible for me. I’m Raeann Szelong and the only senior on this year’s basketball team. That was the easy part though. I have only been playing for Grove City since my freshman year. So I showed up in the fall and expected everyone else to also. But as preseason approached, our team dwindled. We started the season with seven girls on the roster. Going into preseason, I was skeptical and didn’t know how I was going to find success. Tough games, tough opponents, tough practices... all of these were typical of a season. I could barely comprehend the idea of playing with just two substitutes. Yet, within one month of practicing with these six other individuals, I knew something special was in the works. Sticking together as a team and getting that big win made all of the “tough times” seem minimal.

After the initial shock and demand of playing with a limited number, I realized there was more to this team than just basketball. This was the thing missing from many of my other seasons and it made all the statistics and records less important. These seven individuals became more than just my teammates. The experience we went through is unique and not many can say they accomplished what we did. I am incredibly grateful to be a part of it.

“We were often criticized and underestimated. I learned that hard work and heart may not always beat talent, but it sure makes a good fight.”