

# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COWGIRLS

A LOOK AT 2007-08



Who could have imagined the magical run by the Wyoming Cowgirl basketball team at the end of last season? The run would result in winning the program's first-ever post-season title – the WNIT Championship. With a six-game winning streak heading in to the 2007-08 season, the excitement continues to surround the Cowgirl program. They drew large crowds in the tournament including a sell out of 15,462 in the championship game against Wisconsin. With their top eight players returning, fifth year head coach Joe Legerski and the Cowgirls are poised to make another run at post-season play.

"When we go into a season we are constantly trying to improve as a team," said Legerski. "If we have the opportunity at the end of a year to win a conference championship that is just from the work that has been put in over six months. We continue to strive to make the Wyoming fans proud of the Cowgirl basketball program."

Five starters and ten letterwinners return to a team that finished 27-9 overall and 11-5 in the MWC. The 27 wins were the most since the 1989-90 season, when that team won 24 games, and the eleven conference victories were also the most in school history. It was the first time a Cowgirl team had won 20 games or more in back-to-back seasons. In all of that excitement, the Cowgirls also defeated two ranked opponents (#25 New Mexico and #23 TCU) during the conference season and headed to post season for just the fourth time in school history. After earning a bid to the WNIT, Wyoming hosted all six games throughout the tournament and averaged almost 9,000 fans per contest.

"The WNIT Championship was a huge lift for our fans as well as for this program," added Legerski. "To be able to have the opportunity to host six post-season basketball games shows the commitment that this administration has to women's basketball. The crowds grew as we moved through the tournament and then in the final game there were over 15,000 fans witnessing our victory over Wisconsin for a championship. It was truly a tremendous moment for our program and for Wyoming basketball in general."

Of those ten letterwinners, eight of them played in 32 games or more in 2006-07. That included five juniors, two sophomores and one true freshman. There is, however, one returning starter that this team is mainly centered around.

Hanna Zavec, a 6-0, senior from Melbourne, Australia, is a two-time First Team All-MWC selection during her career. She led the team in scoring (13.9 ppg), assists (3.8 aspg), steals (1.7 spg) and blocked shots (1.4 bpg). In each of those categories, Zavec was also ranked among the top ten in the Mountain West Conference.

"Hanna is a two-time First-Team All-Conference selection, WNIT MVP and is the heart and soul of this team. She can dominate a game both offensively and defensively.

As Hanna goes, this team goes and they look towards her for leadership and she is able to respond to that. She will go down in history as one of the all-time greats at the University of Wyoming and yet her greatest skill may be how humble she is and how she makes sure that her teammates are always contributors to the program."

Without a doubt, Zavec is a key component for the Cowgirls, but there is still a great amount of experience and talent back for Wyoming this season. In all, the 2007-08 squad is comprised of four seniors, three juniors, five sophomores and four freshmen.

Four other starters will join Zavec and be expected to carry the load both offensively and defensively. Seniors Jodi Bolerjack, Justyna Podziemka and Dominique Sisk along with junior Elisabeth Disen will be a few of those key players. Bolerjack finished her junior year averaging 11.7 points, 2.5 assists and a team leading 38.4 minutes per game. Podziemka capped her first season with the

Cowgirls averaging 13.1 points and a team leading 6.5 rebounds which helped her earn Second Team All-Conference and MWC Newcomer of the Year honors. Sisk averaged 7.3 points and 3.6 rebounds in the starting point guard position, while Disen added 3.9 points and 3.1 boards in 36 games last season.

"Jodi is our long-range shooter, and has really come into her own," said Legerski. "She has been on the floor since her sophomore year, averages the most minutes of any player, and has really picked up her game. Defensively, Jodi has become a better player year after year and her all-around game is a tremendous strength for the Wyoming program.



**Hanna Zavec**

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## 2007-08 OUTLOOK

"Justyna, in her first year of Division I basketball, had a huge impact resulting in a Second Team selection in the MWC. She is a tremendous passer, shoots the ball extremely well from the perimeter and we are looking for a tremendous final year from her.

"Dominique has matured into a talented point guard who can get to the basket. Her shooting is improved and she can also make an impact on the defensive end.

"Elisabeth goes to the block, rebounds, defends and has come back in the best shape of her career."

Three other individuals who will play an important role on the team this season will be juniors Megan McGuffey & Rebecca Vanderjagt and sophomore Aubrey Vandiver.

McGuffey continued to be impressive in her second year with the program. She averaged 9.4 points and 4.1 rebounds in 36 games that she played.

"Megan is bigger, stronger and more confident than ever this year. She displayed toughness around the basket and her game continued to grow as the season progressed," Legerski said. "We expect Megan to continue her improvement on the offensive end of the court and step up as a young leader in the program."

Sophomore Aubrey Vandiver was dynamic for the Cowgirls in her first year with the team. She played in all 36 games and averaged 6.1 points and 3.7 rebounds per game. During the year, she was also named the MWC Player of the Week twice.

"Aubrey had a tremendous freshman campaign. She has the ability to go down low and post up point guards, while controlling the ball on the perimeter. She worked extremely hard over the summer and has improved in shooting the basketball from the perimeter. We are going to be able to play Aubrey in several positions to take advantage of her skills."

Rebecca Vanderjagt adds much needed depth to the Cowgirls' inside post game. While playing in 32 games last season, she averaged 1.4 points and 1.3 rebounds.



**Jodi Bolerjack**

"Rebecca is a player who I say understands the game similar to a coach. She is always in the right position, and her length creates problems for our opponents."

Other returning players Mallory Cline, Megan Mordecai and Gemma Koehler will also have the opportunity to showcase their talents.

"Gemma has worked hard to get back into playing shape and is in a position to support the veteran players. Mallory has really improved from her last season and continues to show the progress that we were hoping for when we recruited her out of high school. At 6-4, she is a presence down low and we look forward to great things from her in the future. Megan is in her second year with the Cowgirl program and adds depth to the perimeter."

Legerski is also very excited with the incoming players he has this year and feels they have the ability to come in and contribute right away.

In all, the Cowgirls welcome five newcomers to this year's team, which includes four freshmen and one transfer. They include Hillary Carlson (6-3, Forward, Cheyenne, Wyo.); Paula Elum (5-9, Guard, Valencia, Spain); Jade Kennedy (6-1, F/C, Cairns, Australia);



**Justyna Podziemska**

Randi Richardson (5-7, Guard, Arlington, Wash.) and Irena Vankova (6-3, Center, Prague, Czech Republic).

The fans should be excited to watch a local product with the addition of Hillary Carlson from Cheyenne. She was a three-time All-Conference and All-State selection along with being named the SWAC Player of the Year in both 2006 and 2007. Carlson led her team to the state runner-up spot a year ago, while she also earned Gatorade Player of the Year honors for the state of Wyoming, the Milward L. Simpson Award, given to the top female

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athlete in the state, and being named a Wendy's High School Heisman State Finalist.

"We like our newcomers, led by Hillary Carlson from Cheyenne, Wyo. at 6'3", we're getting her to play on the perimeter. She's worked extremely hard to become a perimeter player and should have an impact as a freshman."

Kennedy was a two-time member of the U18 Queensland North All-State Team, while a member of the Cairns Dolphins QABL team for two seasons. She recently averaged 17.8 points and 13.9 rebounds per game, which helped her earn QABL MVP honors, while leading her team to a 13-6 overall record.

"Jade is an undersized post player from Australia. Offensively, she is as good as any post player that we have had in our program. We look for big things from Jade."

Paula Elum comes from Valencia, Spain, where she played for Ros Caseres for three seasons. She helped her team to a first place finish in the Spanish Zonal Tournament twice, and a fourth place spot in the Spanish Championship. Irena Vankova (Prague, Czech Republic) was a member of the Czech Republic Girls U-16 Junior Basketball team and was named to the All-Star Tournament Team.

Richardson will sit out this season after transferring from the University of San Francisco. She played in 31 games and started seven times her freshman year, while averaging three points and 1.8 assists.

"Paula and Irena are two freshmen who are going to have to learn to play at this level. Both players have exceptional skills, but it will take some time for them to be able to step in to the rotation due to the number of veterans that we have in the program. Randi is one of the hardest-working players in our program and keeps everyone driven in conditioning, the weight room and on the practice court."

With all of this in place, Legerski feels that as a program they have really developed a good nucleus to move forward in to the future.

"The strength of this team lies in the number of our returning players. To have our top eight players return

puts us weeks, if not months, ahead in preparation, because they understand what it takes. We are a senior-oriented group. This is the first time in my career that we've had a number of seniors returning to step on the floor as starters and contribute to this program."

The schedule will present many challenges for this team as they are slated for a very tough non-conference schedule in the early going. They will take on such perennially strong teams as Colorado, Idaho State, Iowa, Kansas State, Montana, Saint Joseph's and Wisconsin.

In all, Wyoming's 2007-08 schedule includes nine teams that participated in either the NCAA Tournament or WNIT (BYU, Idaho State, Kansas State, Montana, New Mexico, Saint Joseph's, TCU, Utah and Wisconsin).

"The 2007-08 basketball season presents several challenges for this team with our schedule. It's the most difficult schedule we've had in place since I've been at Wyoming, with non-conference games against Big 12 opponents Kansas State and Colorado, Big Ten opponent Wisconsin, as well as a trip to Iowa to play Saint Joseph's. Also on our schedule is perennial champ of the Big Sky Conference Montana, along with often NCAA-bound Idaho State. As I look at this non-conference schedule it should prepare us for a very difficult conference season."

There will also be fierce competition as the Mountain West Conference enters its ninth season of existence, where the Cowgirls will face such powerhouses as BYU, New Mexico, TCU, UNLV and Utah. Other teams challenging in this very competitive league are Air Force, Colorado State and San Diego State.

"The MWC is one of the top conferences in the country – BYU, New Mexico, TCU and Utah have been to the NCAA Tournament several times over the past few years and once again field strong teams. The strength of any league is determined by all of the teams and from one to nine this may be as strong as the conference has ever been. I can see the conference champ possibly losing four to five games and still coming out on top."

The Mountain West Conference Basketball Tournament will be in Las Vegas at the Thomas and Mack Center. Each team in the conference will qualify for the single-elimination tournament, which begins on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 and runs through Saturday, March 15, 2008.



**Dominique Sisk**

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# RADIO/TV ROSTER



**Jodi Bolerjack**  
2 G, 5-9, Sr.  
Columbia, Mo.



**Randi Richardson**  
3 G, 5-7, So.  
Arlington, Wash.



**Gemma Koehler**  
4 F, 6-1, So.  
Geelong, Australia



**Hanna Zavec**  
5 F, 6-0, Sr.  
Melbourne, Australia



**Rebecca Vanderjagt**  
10 F, 6-3, Jr.  
Townsville, Australia



**Irena Vankova**  
11 C, 6-3, Fr.  
Prague,  
Czech Republic



**Dominique Sisk**  
12 G, 5-10, Sr.  
Colorado Springs,  
Colo.



**Jade Kennedy**  
14 F/C, 6-1, Fr.  
Cairns, Australia



**Aubrey Vandiver**  
20 G, 5-11, So.  
Laramie, Wyo.



**Megan Mordecai**  
23 G, 5-10, So.  
Gillette, Wyo.



**Megan McGuffey**  
24 C, 5-11, Jr.  
Cheyenne, Wyo.



**Justyna Podziemska**  
25 F, 6-2, Sr.  
Wroclaw, Poland



**Paula Elum**  
32 G, 5-9, Fr.  
Valencia, Spain



**Elisabeth Dissen**  
33 C, 6-1, Jr.  
Hillsboro, Ore.



**Hillary Carlson**  
41 F, 6-3, Fr.  
Cheyenne, Wyo.



**Mallory Cline**  
45 C, 6-4, So.  
McClave, Colo.



**Joe Legerski**  
Head Coach  
(Wyoming, '79)

## Pronunciation Guide

Elisabeth Dissen	(Dis sen)
Paula Elum	(Ee Lum)
Mary Grothe	(Grow Thee)
Gemma Koehler	(Gem A Coe Ler)
Joe Legerski	(Le Gur Ski)
Justyna Podziemska	(U Sten A Po Gem Ska)
Rebecca Vanderjagt	(Van Der Jack T)
Aubrey Vandiver	(Van De Veer)
Irena Vankova	(I Reena Van Coe Va)
Hanna Zavec	(Han Nuh Zaa Veck)

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## Numerical Roster

No	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Jodi Bolerjack	G	5-9	Sr.	3L	Columbia, Mo. (Hickman HS)
3	Randi Richardson	G	5-7	So.	TR	Arlington, Wash. (San Francisco)
4	Gemma Koehler	F	6-1	So.	SQ	Geelong, Australia (Sacred Heart HS)
5	Hanna Zavec	F	6-0	Sr.	3L	Melbourne, Australia (Australian Inst. of Sport)
10	Rebecca Vanderjagt	F	6-3	Jr.	2L	Townsville, Australia (James Cook University)
11	Irena Vankova	C	6-3	Fr.	HS	Prague, Czech Republic (Catalina Foothills HS)
12	Dominique Sisk	G	5-10	Sr.	3L	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Palmer HS)
14	Jade Kennedy	F/C	6-1	Fr.	HS	Cairns, Australia (St. Monica's College)
20	Aubrey Vandiver	G	5-11	So.	1L	Laramie, Wyo. (Laramie HS)
23	Megan Mordecai	G	5-10	So.	1L	Gillette, Wyo. (Campbell County HS)
24	Megan McGuffey	G	5-11	Jr.	2L	Cheyenne, Wyo. (Cheyenne East HS)
25	Justyna Podziemska	F	6-2	Sr.	1L	Wroclaw, Poland (Casper College)
32	Paula Elum	G	5-9	Fr.	HS	Valencia, Spain (I.E.S. Ramiro de Maeztu)
33	Elisabeth Dissen	C	6-1	Jr.	2L	Hillsboro, Ore. (Glencoe HS)
41	Hillary Carlson	F	6-3	Fr.	HS	Cheyenne, Wyo. (Cheyenne Central HS)
45	Mallory Cline	C	6-4	So.	1L	McClave, Colo. (McClave HS)

## Alphabetical Roster

No	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp	Hometown (Previous School)
2	Jodi Bolerjack	G	5-9	Sr.	3L	Columbia, Mo. (Hickman HS)
41	Hillary Carlson	F	6-3	Fr.	HS	Cheyenne, Wyo. (Cheyenne Central HS)
45	Mallory Cline	C	6-4	So.	1L	McClave, Colo. (McClave HS)
33	Elisabeth Dissen	C	6-1	Jr.	2L	Hillsboro, Ore. (Glencoe HS)
32	Paula Elum	G	5-9	Fr.	HS	Valencia, Spain (I.E.S. Ramiro de Maeztu)
14	Jade Kennedy	F/C	6-1	Fr.	HS	Cairns, Australia (St. Monica's College)
4	Gemma Koehler	F	6-1	So.	SQ	Geelong, Australia (Sacred Heart HS)
24	Megan McGuffey	G	5-11	Jr.	2L	Cheyenne, Wyo. (Cheyenne East HS)
23	Megan Mordecai	G	5-10	So.	1L	Gillette, Wyo. (Campbell County HS)
25	Justyna Podziemska	F	6-2	Sr.	1L	Wroclaw, Poland (Casper College)
3	Randi Richardson	G	5-7	So.	TR	Arlington, Wash. (San Francisco)
12	Dominique Sisk	G	5-10	Sr.	3L	Colorado Springs, Colo. (Palmer HS)
10	Rebecca Vanderjagt	F	6-3	Jr.	2L	Townsville, Australia (James Cook University)
20	Aubrey Vandiver	G	5-11	So.	1L	Laramie, Wyo. (Laramie HS)
11	Irena Vankova	C	6-3	Fr.	HS	Prague, Czech Republic (Catalina Foothills HS)
5	Hanna Zavec	F	6-0	Sr.	3L	Melbourne, Australia (Australian Inst. of Sport)

**Head Coach:** Joe Legerski (Wyoming, '79), Fifth Year  
**Associate Head Coach:** Gerald Mattinson (Weber State, '81), Fifth Year  
**Assistant Coaches:** Kristin Becker (Vanderbilt, '90), Second Year  
 Katie Kern (New Mexico, '99), Second Year  
**Dir. of BB Operations:** Mary Grothe (Lynchburg, '04), Third Year

### Cowgirls By State/Country

**Colorado (2):** Mallory Cline, McClave; Dominique Sisk, Colorado Springs  
**Missouri (1):** Jodi Bolerjack, Columbia  
**Oregon (1):** Elisabeth Dissen, Hillsboro  
**Wyoming (4):** Hillary Carlson, Cheyenne; Megan McGuffey, Cheyenne; Megan Mordecai, Gillette; Aubrey Vandiver, Laramie  
**Australia (4):** Jade Kennedy, Cairns; Gemma Koehler, Geelong; Rebecca Vanderjagt, Townsville; Hanna Zavec, Melbourne  
**Czech Republic (1):** Irena Vankova, Prague  
**Poland (1):** Justyna Podziemska, Wroclaw  
**Spain (1):** Paula Elum, Valencia

### Cowgirls By Class

**Seniors (4)**  
 Jodi Bolerjack, G, 5-9  
 Justyna Podziemska, F, 6-2  
 Dominique Sisk, G, 5-10  
 Hanna Zavec, F, 6-0

**Juniors (3)**  
 Elisabeth Dissen, C, 6-1  
 Megan McGuffey, G, 5-11  
 Rebecca Vanderjagt, F, 6-3

**Sophomores (5)**  
 Mallory Cline, C, 6-4  
 Gemma Koehler, F, 6-1  
 Megan Mordecai, G, 5-10  
 Randi Richardson, G, 5-7  
 Aubrey Vandiver, G, 5-11

**Freshmen (4)**  
 Hillary Carlson, F, 6-3  
 Paula Elum, G, 5-9  
 Jade Kennedy, F/C, 6-1  
 Irena Vankova, C, 6-3

**Cowgirls By Position**  
**Guards (7)**  
 Jodi Bolerjack, Paula Elum,  
 Megan McGuffey, Megan Mordecai,  
 Randi Richardson, Dominique Sisk,  
 Aubrey Vandiver

**Forwards (6)**  
 Hillary Carlson, Jade Kennedy,  
 Gemma Koehler, Justyna Podziemska,  
 Rebecca Vanderjagt, Hanna Zavec

**Centers (3)**  
 Mallory Cline, Elisabeth Dissen,  
 Irena Vankova

**Returning Starters (5)**  
 Jodi Bolerjack, Elisabeth Dissen,  
 Justyna Podziemska, Dominique Sisk,  
 Hanna Zavec

### Starters Lost (0)

**Returning Letterwinners (10)**  
 Jodi Bolerjack, Mallory Cline,  
 Elisabeth Dissen, Megan McGuffey,  
 Megan Mordecai, Justyna Podziemska,  
 Dominique Sisk, Aubrey Vandiver,  
 Rebecca Vanderjagt, Hanna Zavec

**Letterwinners Lost (3)**  
 Amy Bolerjack, Annie Gorenstein,  
 Angiah Harris

**Newcomers (5)**  
 Hillary Carlson, Paula Elum,  
 Jade Kennedy, Randi Richardson,  
 Irena Vankova

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