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**"It takes iron resolve, nerves of steel and an ass of titanium to be a real sledder. It takes moxie and spirit."**

— Austin Dodds  
staff writer, The Easterner  
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## Send-off for the seniors

Eastern Washington serves Lumberjacks on Eagle home turf with 28-13 victory

BY SCOTT DAVIS  
sports editor

After losing two consecutive home games, Eastern's football team surmounted a 13-0 deficit to defeat Northern Arizona 28-13 Saturday, Nov. 15, in a penultimate Senior Day game in Cheney.

Trailing NAU by 13 points, the Eagles scored the game's final 28 points after a dearth

of offense in the first half. Eastern's defense held the Lumberjacks to negative-1 yard rushing and recorded five sacks in the game.

"We came together both offensively and defensively and made some plays. We got back into it in the first half and made a lot of plays in the second half," said Head Coach Beau Baldwin.

A 53-yard pass from junior Matt Nichols to junior Aaron Boyce set up a touchdown play for senior Dale Morris following an NAU touch-

down with 6:03 left until halftime. This bolstered Eagle confidence, knowing that the game was within reach.

Senior Greg Peach recorded his sixth multiple-sack game of the season with two, increasing his single-season record to 18 and career school record to 35 1/2. Senior Lance Witherspoon also had a pair of sacks and forced, then recovered, a key fumble that solidified Eastern's lead in the

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## Hard work honored since 1983

In 25 years, EWU/KHQ "Teacher of the Month" awards have gone to over 175 educators

BY VERONICA LAMB  
senior reporter

The much appreciated EWU/KHQ "Teacher of the Month" award has been surprising teachers, exciting young students and delighting viewers for more than 20 years now.

It began in 1983 with Dr. Jack Martin. Serving as principal of Robert Reid Laboratory School (now, simply Reid Elementary), Martin began asking the staff what they should do to start honoring the teachers who graced their halls.

Taking a year's sabbatical, Martin appointed the fill-in principal, Sally Brucker, to come up with ideas on how to acknowledge excellent teachers for all their hard work. Brucker came up with a

program called "The Teacher Hall of Fame," which was sponsored by Washington Mutual at the time. This new program became one of the first of its kind in Washington state.

Through that program, and after running the idea past the EWU education department, "Teacher of the Month" was born. Soon after, KHQ got on board as a corporate sponsor, launching the program in September 1987.

The process begins with eager young students writing letters to the EWU Education Department, boasting of their favorite teacher in hopes of their letter being chosen. "Each month, a group of staff from the education department goes through all the choices and picks one," said Lester Portner, director of the Educational Leadership Program.

"From these heartfelt messages, one teacher is selected each month to be recognized for his/her contribution to the education of children," the KHQ Web site explains. "Over 175 educators from throughout the Inland Northwest have been dubbed the EWU/KHQ 'Teacher of the Month.'"

All the entries the education department receives are exciting, Portner said, adding that they all have their own uniqueness, and go beyond their teacher's subject matter. Instead, numerous entries explain the extra things teachers do, like taking the time to care about their students and how the teachers are deeply interested in their students as people.

Portner, who heads out with the KHQ news team when awarding teachers for "Teacher of the Month," said that the teachers

are very grateful. "It's usually just shock," Portner said, adding that the teachers just can't believe it, and that they're very humble and grateful as well as quite surprised.

The most memorable "Teacher of the Month" award for Portner showed just how much time the teacher took outside of class to help one of their students. "They're all so special," Portner said, but the one he remembers the most was one student who was going through a difficult time and her teacher helped her cope. She went on to write in her entry just how much her life had changed as a result.

Not to be left out of the excitement, KHQ came on board with EWU as a partner in the "Teacher of the Month" program around

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## Intelligence put to the test

Battle of the Brains competitors tested on ability to solve real world issues

BY JASON KEEDY  
staff writer

Eastern teams finished with high marks Saturday, Nov. 15, as the Eastern campus served as regional headquarters for the 33rd annual Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) international contest.

The Eagle Black team, consisting of Tim Hill, Christopher Coleman and Gary Duncan, placed third on site and 36 out of 85 in the entire region.

The Eagle Red team, comprised of Taylor Gray, Quinn Hoener and Bryan Masterson, also fared well, placing 40th overall.

The Battle of the Brains is a mentally grueling, five-hour competition, which pits schools from across the region against each other in a challenge that tests students' problem solving abilities. Using computer-programming languages like Java, C and C++, competitors must use their knowledge of algorithms, geometry and other skills to figure out real world challenges.

The Computing and Engineering Building was abuzz with activity as players from local schools, including Gonzaga University, Washington State University and Whitworth

University, put their knowledge to the test. All eyes were on the prize, with the top teams from the regional receiving an all-expenses-paid trip to the world finals in Stockholm, Sweden.

Immediately following the close of the event, Eastern's Red team competitor, Duncan, expressed his feelings concerning the conclusion of his second regional: "I came here with the intention of enjoying myself and I did just that."

Coleman, a veteran of this annual event, said, "We solved more [challenges] than other regionals I've been in."

Senior lecturer in computer science, Tom Capaul, explained that Eastern faced tough competition in the Pacific Northwest Regional. Schools such as Stanford, Berkeley and the University of British Columbia (which has won the past four years), are widely known for their computer science programs.

Participating in the contest for the last 20 years, Eastern did have a team compete in the world finals during the late 1980s.

Taking a breather after five fever-pitched hours, Capaul said, "The contest is a great way for contestants to practice and show off their problem solving skills."

Capaul also commented on the extra bonus of having the entry in their resumés.

"What employer wouldn't want to hire someone that en-

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## Rec center goes for gold on environmental structure

BY JASON KEEDY  
staff writer

In contrast with the fall leaves outside, the Eastern campus is turning a shade greener, as the newly constructed rec center has been awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification.

With the Hargreaves renovation also being projected to earn a gold certification, light is now being shed upon the nationwide movement toward green building and the concentration on energy efficiency.

Sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council, the LEED certification process documents the scoring of buildings based on their sustainability and impact on the environment.

Based upon the LEED score sheet, the rec center scored points in areas such as water use reduction, optimal energy performance, exterior design and construction waste management.

Among the particular green features, Troy Bester of Construction and Planning Services noted the use of recycled steel, low water use through efficient irrigation techniques and natural lighting to mitigate energy use.

LEED certification is divided into four categories; the order being certified, silver, gold and platinum. In Washington, state capital projects are required to be at least silver certified.

In describing the 39-point total achieved, Bester commented that the award was doubly gratifying because the construction used techniques that the school had used for years and because the use of green design for the rec center wasn't mandatory. "The rec center wasn't required to have this [silver certified planning] because it wasn't a capital project; it was a bond project. We have student fees paying for construction bonds. [So] to make good faith we thought we should go for it."

In describing the approach to designing the building, Bester stated that in the beginning they had gone through the LEED checklist in an effort to find what they could achieve. After an initial projection of 37 points, Bester explained they were pleased; however, Bester said, in certain categories, by going "above and beyond ... we were able to get some more innovation points."

Bester also looked to an adherence to sustainable policy in off-site applications as well. In speaking of