

# Tech college seeking athletic advisory members

By Tom Betz  
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It has been quite a first year for Northwest Tech Activity Director Steve Lampe and he is looking for people to serve on an athletics advisory committee to help with the future.

"It has been quite a year for me," Lampe said Friday in his office at the Derrick Lutters Armory Building. "I am experienced, but not in the activity director position. It has put a lot on our plate even for Bill Finley and Dr. Ed Mills, college president.

"This can mean a lot in the long haul for the college and the community, and we have the right attitude. It is my job to make people realize that and come on board. We want people to join us and promote the college and that is what makes college programs work.

"It is true for all colleges and universities. They all depend on the alumni. We don't have a lot of alumni athletes at this time."

He said the cost for athletics is about \$173,000, and without developing outside support the college may be able to run for about two years.

"We have to figure out how to make this work," he said. "That is my job. We are bringing in more students, not just the athletes, but the ones who will follow and will walk on."

He said soccer is the fastest growing sport in the world, and there are a lot of people who want to come to America to play. He said these students pay their own way and that is one reason the college chose soccer. He said the foreign students use soccer to get to American because they really want that American degree.

Talking about the advisory committee Lampe said he is looking for outside people who can help grow the connection with the college and the community.

"Six heads are better than me," he said. "The outside people know how to make the connections in the community.

"We are not here to make money, but we are here to advance the college and if that happens the community and economy advance. We don't just want to survive, we want to excel. We want to be a program the community is proud of, and want to be a winner and people like to associate with a winner."

He said he wants help getting input into what the college is doing, and help look at how to make that connection.

"I want people to call me and say they want to do it and maybe they



Northwest Tech Activity Director Steve Lampe pointed proudly to the new sign on the front of the Derrick Lutters Armory Building. The city had the sign put up after the building was named in Sgt. Lutters name after he had been killed in Iraq in May 2005 while serving on active duty. Lutters was a member of the Goodland Kansas National

Guard unit that was decommissioned in April last year and the armory was given to the city who has leased it to Northwest Tech for classes and for wrestling practice. Lampe's office is inside and the new nursing program is moving into the west part of the building.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

have a few other friends who would like to help. They can call me at (785) 443-2220."

We are trying to do things to spike enrollment and that is why we are doing things like soccer, he said. We would like to do all the big sports things in the future.

We have a problem with immediate access to facilities for indoor sports, he said. The Max Jones Fieldhouse is a great facility, he said, but he said it is hard to get access for practice and for scheduling the availability of Max Jones. He said that is a busy building.

Lampe said the first year of college sports has been tough and realizes the teams haven't won much. He is concerned some have already developed a negative image.

He was pleased to see the city got the sign on the building naming it the Derrick Lutters Armory Building. He said the nursing program from Colby is getting moved in and should be ready to start later this spring. He said the class already has

12 students signed up.

Lampe said the spring seasons are starting for rodeo and golf with the men's team practicing. He said in college athletics one semester is considered a scrimmage season and the other semester is considered competition. The golf season is a split season between the fall and spring.

He said soccer is going to start in the fall, and the season is short with the national tournament the first week of December. Lampe said he does not expect to make it to the national tournament the first year.

The Soccer head coach is Rex Branum. He is not in Goodland yet as he is finishing the school year at Lassen College in Susan Ville, Nev.

Pedro Lopez is the other soccer coach and Lampe said he is on campus and working. Lampe said he was not sure which one will coach the men's and the other will coach the women's team.

"We are going to have growing

pains," he said, "but we know we have about 25 of each gender to be here. Soccer is the largest and most watched sport in the world, and fastest growing sport in America."

He said the college needs to get started on the field, and it has to be built in the early summer or possibly started before the end of this school year.

The soccer field is going to run north and south east of Keirns Recreation Center.

Lampe said he has begun recruiting for wrestling for next year. He

said he hopes to have a few of the first year wrestlers return including Ricardo Valdez, Lorenzo Delgado and Dault Aliev are the top ones he hopes to get back.

Aliev is a first year Business student who came to Northwest Tech from Uzbekistan. Aliev has been named the Student of the Month in his program and received the National Junior College Academic All American Award.

Taylor Wuthnow is another one Lampe would like to have come back for another year, but it will

depend on his interest in continuing his education or going to work.

Lampe said Delgado has been a good listener and has improved. He thinks Delgado will do better at 165 pounds, and hopes he comes back.

Lampe said he has a verbal commitment from Goodland senior Seth Miller, and has a few more prospects in the region. He said he has a couple of national recruiting trips coming up and then it is a matter of seeing who is interested.

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**School calendar for March 16-22**

Wednesday: Gold day  
7:30 a.m.: PLC  
4 p.m.: Tech Roundtable

Thursday: Black day  
Earliest Competition date for Spring Sports  
4-8 p.m.: Parent/Teacher conferences

Friday: NO SCHOOL  
8 a.m. to noon: Parent/Teacher conferences

Saturday: 6 p.m.: Talent Show Fund Raiser-Brianna Linin Memorial Scholarship Fund in High School Auditorium

Monday: Gold day

Tuesday: Black day  
3 and 5:30 p.m.: Varsity/Junior Varsity Baseball, here, versus Scott City  
3 and 5:30 p.m.: Varsity/Junior Varsity Softball at Scott City

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