

For more information contact: Dorothy Thompson
1200 Highway 14 West, Richland Center, WI 53581-1399
E-mail: dorothy.thompson@uwc.edu
Phone: (608) 647-6186, Extension 231

Press Release



Roadrunner s with their trophies:

Front row (L-R): Amanda Bloedow, Kassy Lisney, Jessie Erdmann, Desiree Hofmeister, Birana Bauer, Nicole Bielfeldt
Back row (L-R); Coach Craig Kreger, Amanda Leonard, Jessica Parker, Steph Mick, Amber Noble, Kayla Leonard, Denae Johnston

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A proud but disappointing season ends for the Roadrunner women: Season review from team captain Steph Mick

The University of Wisconsin-Richland Roadrunner women's basketball team made it all the way to the WJCAA state tournament this year, where they came within a point of winning the semi-finals, losing 65-66 to UW-Waukesha. "It was really, really sad," said team captain Steph Mick, **Onalaska**. "We're all proud that we made it that far." The Roadrunner women finished the season 12-3 in conference play.

"The end of the season is especially hard for the five of us ending our Roadrunner basketball careers. We all realize that we might not play after this year. It's hard to for the first-year players to see us go, and for us to say good-bye to them," she said.

Mick said the team became like family and she will miss playing with fellow second-year players Amanda Leonard and Kayla Leonard, **Linden**; Deane Johnston, **Muscoda**; and Ashley Sponem, **Mount Horeb**.

She sees the Roadrunner women's prospects for next season as strong with the potential of first-year players returning. "Amanda Bloedow (**Ithaca**) made First Team All-Conference. Jessie Erdmann (**LaCrescent, MN**) earned Conference Honorable Mention. Kassy Lisney (**LaFarge**) loves the game. Briana Bauer (**Spring Green**) is a strong player with potential. Nicole Bielefeldt (**Mondovi**) is an excellent shooter. Jessica Parker (**Westby**) has height. Amber Noble (**Richland Center**) really stepped up the second half of the season. And Desiree Hofmeister (**Hillsboro**) kept up the team's spirit," she said.

Mick gives a lot of credit for the success of the season to Coach Craig Kreger. "He works hard. He scouts. He lets us know what to expect from our opponents. He's built a very strong program. Coach Kreger knew our potential. His attitude is that little Richland Center can play with the big schools—and we did."

Mick also credits Roadrunner men's coach Phil Benson for "giving us fire. He cared about both teams—the men and the women," she said.

"When I first came to UW-Richland, I wasn't planning to play," she said. "Joining the team was one of the best decisions I've made. Team members become your friends on and off the court. I got to meet players from other schools, too, and I've been a member of two successful teams. Even the long, sometimes cold, trips (to away games), have been just the BEST experiences."

Mick ended the season with Honorable Mention from the Wisconsin Collegiate Conference.

"Steph was a great leader for me this season both on and off the court," Coach Kreger said. "She always gave it her all when playing and even battling knee problems always seemed to find that little extra at game times."

Mick plans to transfer to UW-LaCrosse next fall to pursue studies in business.

Coach Kreger said, "It was a true pleasure to coach this group. They had a great year on and off the court. They accomplished a lot of goals--from placing second in the conference to winning the conference tournament and qualifying for the state tournament only to come up one point short at in the semi finals. Their 19-6 record (overall) was exceptional and wouldn't have been accomplished without the work of all 13 players. The sophomores were great leaders and really fit in well with the talented freshman. It was truly a team success this year. The future looks bright for next year with a large group returning. They can all be proud of their accomplishments. The terrific turnout of fans and spectators we had, along with an exceptional group of parents, made this a very memorable season."

For more information about UW-Richland basketball, contact director of athletics Gail Hoffman by e-mail at gail.hoffman@uwc.edu or by calling the campus at (608) 647-6186, Extension 217.

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