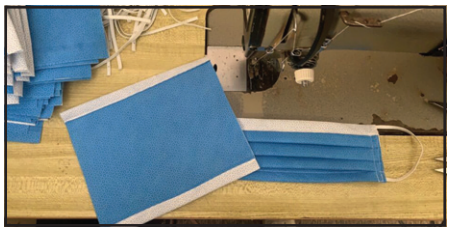
THE DA

A second wave of emergency relief grants will be given to students soon.

p. 3



Fashion, dress and merchandising program making new masks to stay up with CDC guidelines.

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Bob Huggins 'not caught up on that other stuff' as he nears 900 career victories.

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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2021 www.thedaonline.com

SGA expresses support for CROWN Act

Bills aim to make discrimination based on hair texture or style illegal

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
CO-NEWS EDITOR

This past Wednesday, the Student Government Association Student Assembly passed AP-2021-01, an assembly proclamation stating support for West Virginia Senate Bill 108 and House Bill 2698.

The proclamation was authored by student Sens. Micaela Colbert and Sohan Daniel, and it was passed on Feb. 24.

The assembly proclamation sent out by the SGA is meant to voice the concerns of the student body, since the group can't take any true legislative action to make changes in regard to the bills stated. The proclamations act as the students' voice, according to SGA vice president Jaron Bragg.

West Virginia SB 108 and HB 2698, also known as the CROWN (Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair) Act, protects against discrimination statewide by expanding the definition of discrimination based on race in the West Virginia Human Rights Act to include "hair textures and protective hairstyles historically associated with a particular race."

Daniel, the co-author of the proclamation, said in an email that the WVU SGA is dedicated to ensuring the personal freedoms and general welfare of all students.

"We believe that it is important for the CROWN Act to be passed within the West Virginia Legislature because we believe no mountaineer should endure any form of discrimination," Daniel said. "Hair discrimination is a form of racial discrimination, forcing many people of color to change their hairstyle due to rules & regulations."

The proclamation was sent to members of the WV Senate, in hopes of gaining support on a legislative level.

State Del. Danielle Walker offered her recognition and agreement of the newly passed bills, as well as the proclamation released by the SGA.

"This is absolutely one solution to end discrimination based on hair texture and protective hairstyles," Walker wrote in an email. "The protection of strands, curls, and coils growing from a person's scalp is a freedom liberation of harmful chemicals and suppressing an expression of our ancestors, heritage, and religion. Please thank all your members of WVU SGA as this is the positive change to the once cruel Tignon Act."

The assembly proclamation allows the SGA to communicate with the state legislature, and the SGA released a statement saying student Sen. Sarah Zanabli and College of Education and Human Services Sen. Zac Backus, as well as the rest of SGA, will continue to push for these changes to better the University.

PHOTOS VIA WVU SGA

SGA Sens. Micaela Colbert, left, and Sohan Daniel, right, co-authored the resolution.

"We urge you to pass this bill within both the senate and the house," Daniel said. "I myself also must encourage the legislators receiving this message to pass the aforementioned Senate and/or House bill to take one more step forward towards making 'montani semper liberi' not just an idea but an actuality in terms of individual liberties."

WVU allows in-person practices for club sports

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
CO-NEWS EDITOR

After getting the go-ahead from the University, club sports are now allowed to host in-person events and practices.

As stated in the most recent Campus Conversation, events must be limited to 25 people or less, and students must continue to follow WVU's policy of mask wearing and physical distancing. However, the teams are still unable to travel or compete with visiting teams.

Ian Vilevac, a senior global supply chain management student and president of the WVU Frisbee Club, is preparing to get his team ready to practice safely again starting March 3.

"During practices we have to wear masks and maintain distance between players. Shared equipment, like discs, must be sanitized between practices," Vilevac said. "And we are limited to groups of ten unless approved for more with a plan to maintain the separate groups."

All members participating in club sports must be tested weekly and are expected to inform team presidents and fellow members if they do test positive for COVID-19.

"As president, I am the one that is responsible for making sure masks are worn, protocols are followed, and players are coming to practice healthy," Vilevac said. "I do have help from my other leadership and the coach, but at the end of the day it falls on me if guidelines are not being followed."

A virtual format is the default for any event, and as stated by the University, any in-person activity requires a staff consultation and prior approval and must be restricted to current members of the organizations.

Gymnastics Club team member freshman Haley Maier is looking forward to returning back to the gym.

"I'm very excited to get back to practice. Being a part of this club keeps me active and helps me make new friends. I miss doing the sport I love, and it's a nice break from all the school work," Maier said.

Practices are limited, however, and certain equipment and venues still cannot be used due to COVID restrictions.

According to Maier, the most difficult thing about practicing during these times is that club members don't have access to as many resources as before.

"We don't have access to the Rec Center to lift and workout, and we only get to practice at this one gym once a week. Before, we could go to another gym for their open gym hours, but they aren't doing that now because of COVID," said Maier.

Although safety precautions will be taken, there is still slight concern amongst students for the risk of being quarantined due to COVID exposure during practice.

"I do feel comfortable with meeting in person, even though I am concerned about being exposed," Maier said. "But, I'm willing to take that risk in order to be able to do gymnastics again and get some time out of the dorm with my teammates."

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FRIDAY 3/5
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 40° - LOW 24°

SATURDAY 3/6
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 39° - LOW 21°

SUNDAY 3/7
SUNNY
HIGH 43° - LOW 23°

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FEB. 28
12:30 a.m. | Citation.
North High St.
ABCC Violation.

FEB. 28
2:36 a.m. | Warning
North High St. / Prospect St.
Traffic Stop.

FEB. 28
3:23 a.m. | Arrest
College Ave. / University Ave.
DUI.

FEB. 28
5:38 p.m. | Resolved
WVU Art Museum
Alarm Condition.

FEB. 28
9:21 p.m. | Unresolved
WVU Area 44
Auto Tampering.

MARCH 1
12:12 p.m. | Inactive
WVU Area 15
Vandalism.

MARCH 1
5:52 p.m. | Citation
University Ave. / Campus Dr.
Traffic Stop.

MARCH 1
7:48 p.m. | Warning
WVU Oakland Hall - East
Drug Incident.

MARCH 1
10:59 p.m. | Warning
Van Voorhis Rd. / Elmer Prince Dr.
Traffic Stop.

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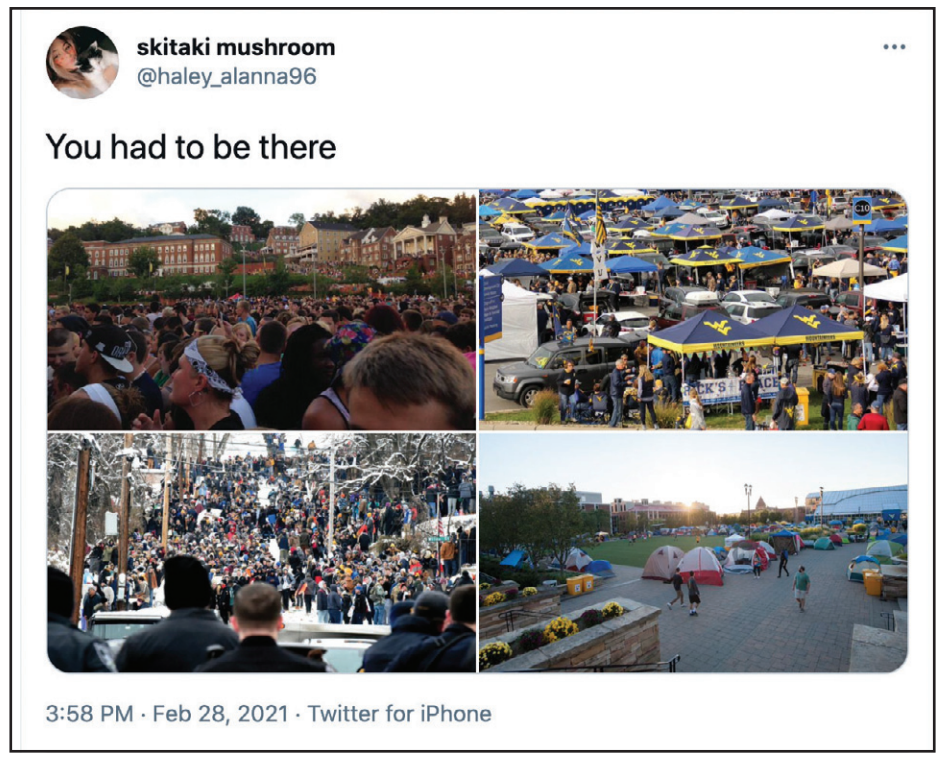

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THE DA

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Did you know the DA is editorially Independent from the University?

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Co-Editor:
Emily Rexroad
err00002@mix.wvu.edu

NEWS

Co-Editor:
Christina Rufo
cvr00001@mix.wvu.edu

Dates and times announced for May 2021 commencement; preregistration required

BY EMILY REXROAD
CO-NEWS EDITOR

The University released updated information on the spring 2021 commencement on March 1, including the schedule for graduates.

Starting May 15 at 9 a.m., the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design and Reed College of Media graduates will start the commencement ceremony.

Following in the afternoon at 2 p.m. will include the College of Creative Arts and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences graduates.

Continuing on May 16 at 9 a.m., the College of Education and Human Services and the John Chambers College of Business and Economics commencement ceremony will take place.

Finally, on May 16 at 2 p.m., the College of Law, School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health graduates will finish the spring 2021 commencement ceremony.

STAFF PHOTO

Graduates during the December 2018 commencement.

Each of the ceremonies will last approximately two to three hours.

Prospective graduates who are interested in participating in the in-person ceremony will need to register in advance. Current students must complete an application to graduate, which is through the Office of the University Registrar, but 2020 graduates only need to register to participate.

Step-by-step instructions on how to register is available at the Office of the University Registrar's webpage under the graduation and diploma tab.

Caps and gowns will also be required at the ceremony. Students can order them through Herff Jones or purchase them in-person at both WVU bookstores located on campus. More information on purchasing caps and gowns and announcements can be found under the graduate info tab.

Diplomas and programs will be mailed to graduates after grades are finalized and certified by the Office of the Registrar to the permanent address the student has on file.

Due to ongoing health and safety protocols, there will be limited ticket distribution for guests, which more information will be released in the ongoing weeks.

Ticket requests will be available starting April 5 through the ticket request system, and those who require accessible seating will need tickets for the accessible seating area.

Entrances to the stadium will be released at a later date, but volunteers will be available at the ceremony to assist with any questions families may have and guide them to their seats.

The Clear Bag Policy will continue to be enforced at the ceremony.

Guests will not be permitted to approach the field to take pictures with the graduates or present gifts.

Although the ceremony will take place no matter the weather, the current COVID-19 situation will play a role in deciding whether an in-person ceremony will be a safe option, and plans will adjust accordingly.

For those who are unable to attend the in-person commencement for any reason are encouraged to watch the livestream of the event, which will be broadcasted on webcast.wvu.edu.

Second wave of emergency relief fund aids more students through the pandemic

BY EMILY REXROAD
CO-NEWS EDITOR

The U.S. Department of Education announced Jan. 14 that an additional $21.2 billion is available to higher education students and will continue to be distributed to eligible students for the spring 2021 semester to combat financial difficulties following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grant funding was approved by the federal government to provide students emergency funding from COVID-19 with the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II), which was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA).

After the first phase of grants were distributed to recipients of the spring 2021 Federal Pell Grant, more emergency grants will be given to more students with financial need who weren't eligible for the Pell Grant that already have a FAFSA on file by Feb. 5.

The amount recipients will receive is based on their 2020-21 FAFSA Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Students with an EFC of $0-$10,000 may receive $750 and students with an EFC of $10,001-$20,000 may receive $500.

Graduate and professional students who meet the criteria will be considered in this phase of grant distribution.

At this time, those with an EFC of $20,001 or greater and international students will not be considered for the emergency grant. Also, those who didn't have a 2020-21 FAFSA on file with the University by Feb. 5 will not be considered for the CRRSAA Emergency Grant.

Students that want to be considered for this grant should ensure that they are eligible by making sure they do not have unsatisfied requirements for aid.

The grant will be issued, however, student accounts are set up to receive refunds, whether that be direct deposit or to their student account.

Students who have been drastically impacted financially may submit a Family Contribution Appeal if the information on the student FAFSA no longer accurately reflects the student's and/or their family's financial situation. This appeal must be submitted by March 8 by 4:45 pm to be considered for grant eligibility.

If a student's EFC is zero, they've already been offered the maximum amount of aid they're eligible for. They could, however, be considered for the emergency funding. If their EFC is greater than zero, there is information posted on WVU's Financial Aid website under the Family Contribution Appeal tab that can provide them more information to see if they are eligible for a Family Contribution Appeal.

The Mountaineer Hub staff is available to assist students and families with any questions they might have regarding their cost and aid options.

Generally, students may be eligible for the appeal if their family faced a loss of income due to unemployment, pay reduction, death of a parent or spouse, reduction or loss of child support and more.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

A student walks in front of the Mountainlair on March 3.

Ashton Kudlak, a junior public relations and advertising student, said that COVID-19 has affected her family's financial situation from employment to pay cuts.

"If I am [eligible for the emergency funding], that would help out immensely because I'm currently struggling with student loans... and my parents don't even know if they can take out a loan for me," Kudlack said.

Since this emergency relief is a grant, students are not expected to pay back the amount they received. Students are expected to use this funding towards any school expenses, unexpected expenses they may have and unmet financial needs.

WVU will notify students and families if there are any changes to the information released by the U.S. Department of Education. More information on cost and aid through the emergency fund can be found at the University's Return to Campus webpage.

How much aid could I get?

A family contribution of:

$0-$10,000 means approximately $750 in aid.

$10,001-$20,000 means approximately $500 in aid.

$20,001 or more means you likely would not be considered for aid.

Graduate and professional students who meet the criteria will be considered in this phase of grant distribution.

Virtual Edit-a-Thon hosted by WVU libraries to improve Wikipedia articles

BY PETER KRCH
CORRESPONDENT

WVU Libraries is hosting "Amplifying Appalachia," a virtual Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon from March 1-5. The event is open to anyone who would like to participate.

Assistant English professor and co-organizer of the event Erin Brock Carlson said Edit-a-Thon is a "community-organized event that aims to teach attendees how to edit, update and add articles on Wikipedia, with the hope that this would create like regular contributors and regular editors."

At the event's kickoff Zoom meeting on March 1, Carlson and her co-organizer, Humanities Librarian Lynne Stahl, spoke about the astounding lack of diversity among current Wikipedia contributors.

Carlson cited a 2011 study conducted by the Wikimedia Foundation that found that less than 10% of Wikipedia contributors identify as (cisgender or transgender) women, and only about 17% of Wikipedia's biographical articles are about women.

"There's one really wonderful organization called Art + Feminism... founded in 2014," Carlson said during the Zoom meeting. "It's this ongoing effort to really improve gender equity in Wikipedia's art-related content, because that's a space in which there is definitely a lack of representation."

WVU's "Amplifying Appalachia" Edit-a-Thon is supported by Art + Feminism, which has already contributed to improving more than 80,000 Wikipedia articles at the time of writing.

Previously, WVU has only held in-person Edit-a-Thons, but the "Amplifying Appalachia" planning committee was determined to overcome the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in organizing this entirely virtual event.

The Edit-a-Thon will be continuing through the week until Friday, March 5, following an asynchronous format. According to Carlson, an asynchronous format might allow for more people to edit on their own time and at their own pace.

Participation is expected to exceed the planning committee's goals, with 81 participants currently enrolled.

"We've [also] been working with 15 or so instructors who are incorporating the Edit-a-Thon into their courses this semester, which is exciting," Stahl added.

Carlson and Stahl also emphasized during the event's kickoff Zoom meeting that although editing Wikipedia pages may seem like a daunting task, it's actually quite simple once you get started.

"Familiarizing yourself with [Wikipedia's] major guidelines and policies is a good idea," Stahl said, "and once you've done that, I think the best way [to get started] is just to jump in and make some edits. You can start small—adding links, sources and categories, for example, which helped me get over the intimidation factor."

The event's organizers have put together a collection of resources that can be easily accessed through the event dashboard to help answer any questions new editors may have.

According to Carlson, the planning committee hopes that the "Amplifying Appalachia" Edit-a-Thon will help increase familiarity with Wikipedia across campus and encourage the amplification of stories, people and accomplishments of Appalachia, especially for women, people of color, LGBTQ+ community members and others who are often overlooked.

In addition, drop-in hours will be open to all from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. March 4-5 via Zoom, and a post-participation survey will be available for anyone who has participated in the event.

"Since Wikipedia is a community-driven, crowd-sourced space for information, it's up to us to make sure that it reflects the stories that ought to be told," Carlson said.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

The Downtown Library, located at 1549 University Ave.

> *"Since Wikipedia is a community-driven, crowd-sourced space for information, it's up to us to make sure that it reflects the stories that ought to be told."*
>
> *-Erin Brock Carlson, assistant English professor and co-organizer of the Edit-a-Thon*

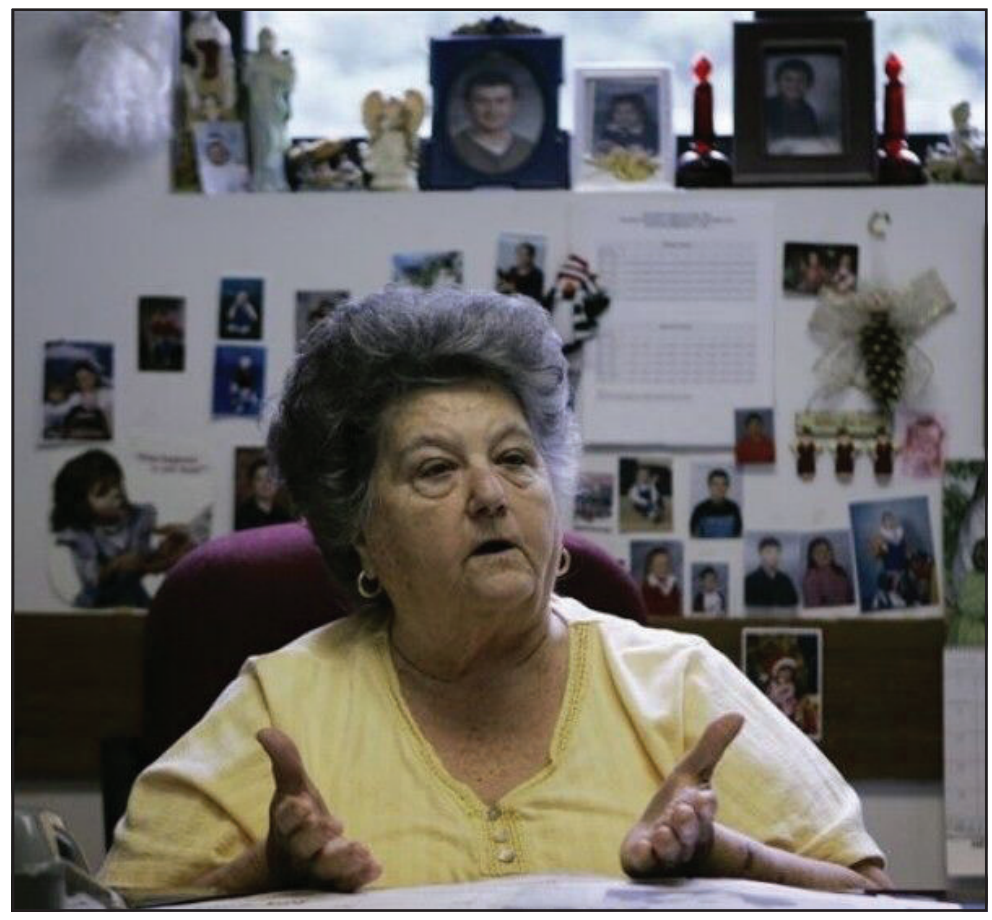

PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA

Eula Hall, founder of the Mud Creek Clinic near Grethel, Kentucky, is one of the entries on Wikipedia that has been edited by participants in the Edit-a-Thon event.

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WELLWVU
well.wvu.edu

Editor:
Raeanne Beckner
rmb0035@mix.wvu.edu

CULTURE

Assistant Editor:
Craig Weimer
ctw0012@mix.wvu.edu

From concept to creation: A peek into how WVU's face mask design came to be

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Masks are everywhere, but does anyone ever stop and think about how their masks came to be?

"For the masks that we distributed after the COVID testing, the company we worked with actually designed those at our direction," said Nikki Goodenow, director of brand and trademark licensing at WVU.

"We have licensees, so essentially, a company that is authorized to produce products using our trademarks," Goodenow said. "We had over 50 companies apply -- to sell them at retail or to work with individual departments on campus to give them away and so forth."

Goodenow said the selection process was extensive, involving an elimination process.

"All those 50 companies who wanted to sell face masks for WVU sent us samples," Goodenow said. "And we just went through and found the one that we thought would be the best option for our students, for faculty and staff, and for everyone all the way around."

Goodenow said the University eventually chose the current designs with both variety and functionality in mind.

"We wanted to offer some more designs, so we thought doing a gold version with the all-over print would help a little bit from a dirt perspective," Goodenow said. "And then the navy one with the Flying WV, we thought that would be a good change and it would provide people some options."

Goodenow said the process was also influenced by the explosion of the facemask industry.

"As the face mask industry has expanded and exploded, you can see that there's all different designs that are out there," Goodenow said. "We thought people might like a smaller logo on it. Much like a tee shirt; some people love a giant logo on it, some people prefer something more discrete, but they still want to show the brand."

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Kalin Stanley, a freshman physics and math student from Charleston, wears one of the WVU mask designs.

So, what do students think about the masks? Mercedes Snyder, a freshman secondary education student, said she likes the newest design the most.

"I think the simpler the better," Snyder said. "I feel like if it's too loud, it's not for me. It's just too busy."

She also said that the masks fit comfortably on her face. Comfort was something that Goodenow's team was paying special attention to during the selection process.

"One of the reasons we went with [our] company... was the fact that it was adjustable," Goodenow said. "They were one of the first companies to offer us an adjustable band around the ears. [In the early days of masks] a bunch of [designs] came out, and now they've had the opportunity to refine it. When you're quick to market you're going to go with one design, and then tweak it as you go."

Goodenow said WVU's supplier was the only one to offer such comfort in subtle features.

"Fabrique was the first company to really come with a wider piece that goes around your nose to assist people with glasses and also to have the adjustable part around the ears," Goodenow said. "What we had found was some companies had one of those features but not both. Fabrique was one of the few that had both and had more than one layer of protection."

This final feature was the decisive factor in the selection process because according to Goodenow, safety is WVU's highest priority.

"A lot of the masks that first came out to market just had the one layer of protection, but we made sure that the company that we licensed had to have a minimum of two-ply layers of protection," Goodenow said. "That was working closely with Clay Marsh [West Virginia's COVID-19 czar] who said, 'Alright, for masks, make sure they have XYZ,' and we used those standards for the masks we put out."

Fashion, dress and merchandising program stays on top of mask design

BY MARIANO MARADIEGUE
STAFF WRITER

Face masks have come a long way since they started being widely produced almost a year ago.

Elizabeth Shorrock, an assistant professor of fashion, dress and merchandising, was the one who kicked a project into gear to get masks to the Morgantown community. Originally, with the intention of designing and producing masks for the workers at J.W Ruby Memorial Hospital, it grew to other users around the community that wanted to get involved.

"It took about two weeks to get the prototype right," Shorrock said. "That's all we did; we worked six hours a day and sometimes five or six days a week just pumping out masks for Ruby."

In terms of design for these masks, the crucial part of it was figuring out a way to keep the mask up and secure around the nose area.

"We were concerned with the bridge of the nose, we experimented with a lot of different materials to pinch that in, and we ended up finding that bread ties were the best solution," Shorrock said. "We stacked three bread ties along the bridge, and we got Kroger to donate thousands of bread ties that we used, but now you can sort of create that effect with seams just running up the middle of the mask."

New requirements from the CDC now have suggested that doubling up on the masks could become the new protocol. With that now being a possibility, potential new design ideas have been brought up.

"I did notice that a lot of my students were doubling up on their masks," Shorrock said. "So we talked about how instead of just wearing two masks, could we double up on the amount of fabric that we were using to make a mask that fit that criteria."

During the initial months of the pandemic, Shorrock had volunteer students come in and help her with this project. One of them was a recent graduate from the fashion, dress and merchandising program, Will Whittaker.

Whittaker explained what drew him into being a part of this experience with Professor Shorrock.

"I enjoyed the fact that it was really benefiting the overall community, but as well I was doing something that I really enjoy," Whittaker said. "It was really rewarding on top of being a learning experience to work in an environment like that and understand how to make things on a little bit of a larger scale."

Colleen Moretz, a fashion design professor, also gave her insight on the masks.

"It's about safety, so the best mask is something that is tightly woven and more than one layer," Moretz said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL WHITTAKER

One of the masks after being produced.

Moretz also stressed the importance of how these masks fit around someone's face.

"I always say it's got to be comfortable for the wearer because otherwise they're going to keep pulling it down," Moretz said. "A lot of times with some fabric, when you breathe in it sort of sticks to your nose, which then makes it very uncomfortable, so you really have to see which is the best for you."

Understanding that masks are for the safety of everyone, some students do not want to become too comfortable with them either.

"They're really wanting this to be temporary," Moretz said. "They're more concerned about getting through this, so what most of them do is wear the throw away masks that we provide for them."

Editor:
Duncan Slade
dhs0007@mix.wvu.edu

PHOTO

Morgantown through the lens: 50 years of change

BY DUNCAN SLADE
PHOTO EDITOR

Earlier this year, a man sent us a Facebook message with a series of old photographs, showing Morgantown in the early 70s.

They were stunning, the colors and grain of a film camera just don't compare to today's digital camera. The photos, provided by Aaron Helmick, class of 1974, showed a city very different from the one students see today.

We spread out around the city to find the places and scenes in those photographs. Buildings have been knocked down and new ones built in their place. Take a look at Morgantown then and now.

See more at **www.thedaonline.com**

In the grassy knoll formerly at the top of High Street where the original photo was taken is now a Panera Bread. The chain restaurant sits at the corner of High Street and Willey Street. While the location of the photograph has changed, many of the same buildings remain.

On the Health Sciences Campus, several new buildings have been added since the early 70s. During President E. Gordon Gee's first stop in Morgantown, Ruby Memorial opened in 1988. The new Children's tower is set to be opened in mid-2021.

The building on the left in the old photo is the Farmer's Merchant Bank. This building is no longer standing. When a CVS Pharmacy moved onto High Street, the building was knocked down and is now a parking lot. The other building remains intact.

Many of the buildings along Willey Street remain the same today. The paneling, the colors, almost everything. However, a close look at the vehicles and outfits on display on the street are very different. Baggy clothes were the norm in the 70s, and there's an iconic Volkswagen bus in the middle of the line of waiting cars.

WELLWVU

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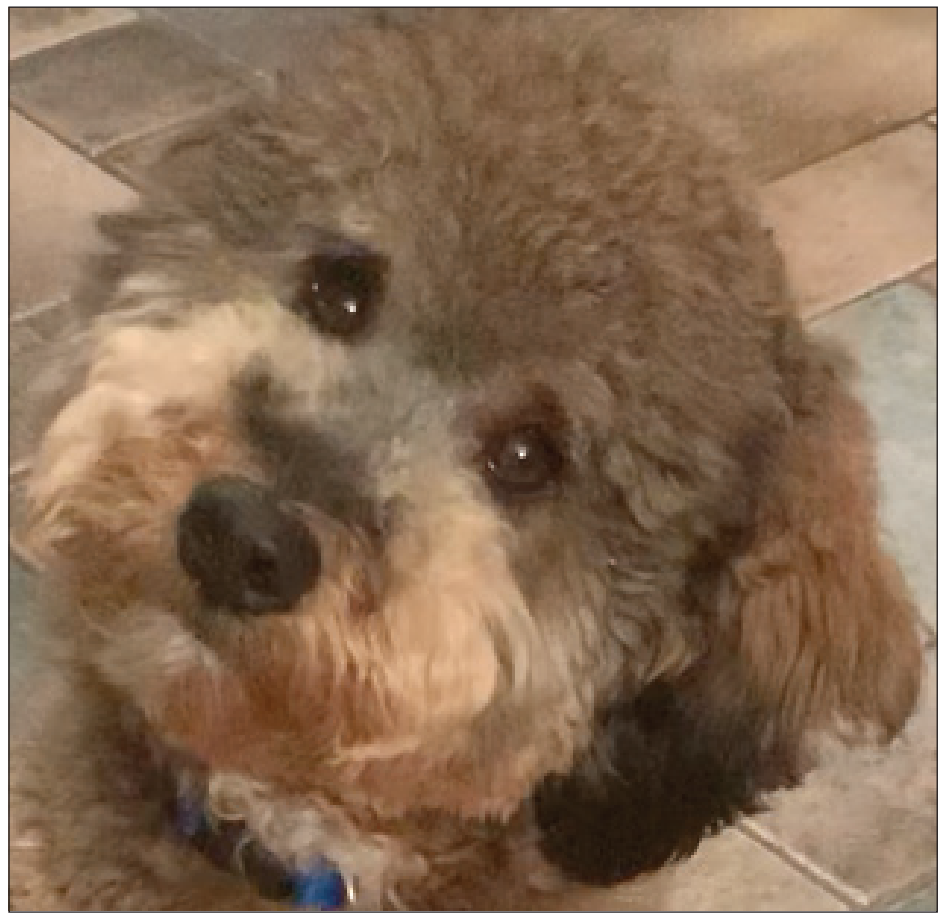

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TAYLOR ENGLISHMAN

Meet Mack, a Bernedoodle named after Mack trucks. He loves walks, car rides and running in the yard! Mack's can stands on his hind legs, and his favorite treat is cheese.

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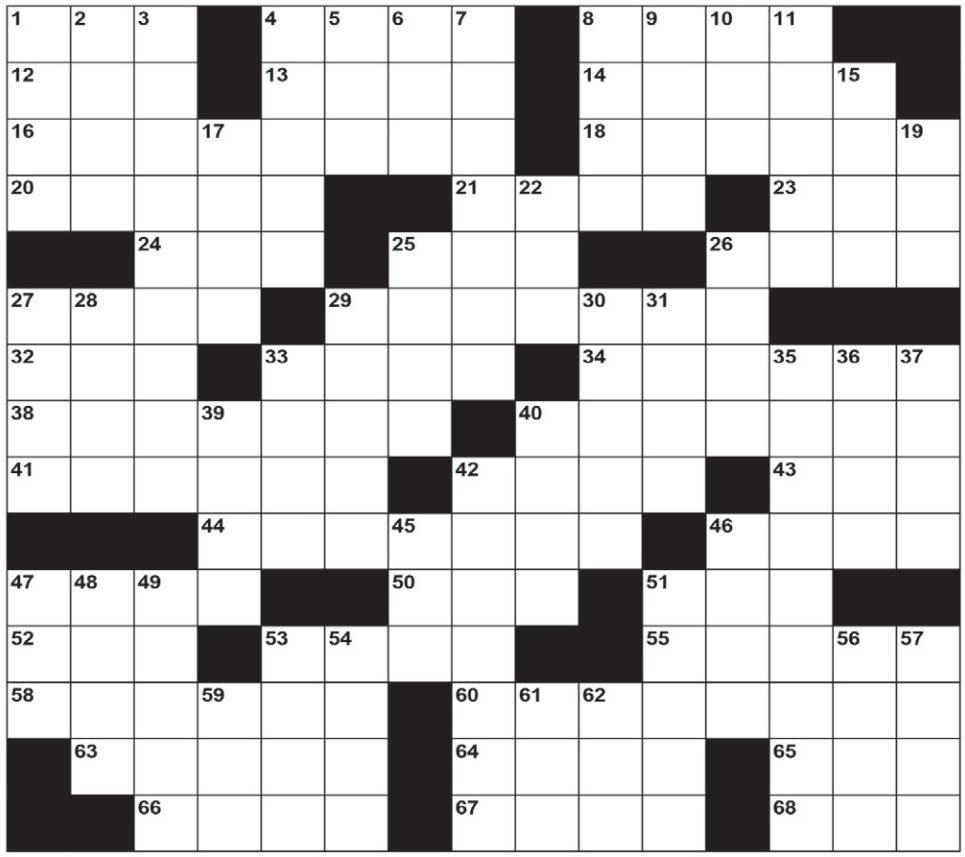

Across

1 Chatter
4 Small particle
8 Afloat
12 Kimono sash
13 Animal's end part
14 Lord
16 French police officer
18 Small tube
20 Binary star
21 Howl
23 Fall back
24 Cagy
25 Shirt protector
26 Zest
27 Coffeehouse
29 Revive again
32 Card game
33 Measuring instrument
34 Noxious vapor
38 Stripes
40 Freud's ___ complex
41 Offer for sale
42 Ok
43 Revolutions per minute
44 Dip
46 Disadvantage
47 Alcoholic
50 Gall
51 Note of debt
52 Body of water
53 Hit
55 Known
58 Popular Japanese drama
60 Lunacy
63 Suggest
64 Cat
65 North northeast
66 Tub
67 Otherwise
68 Car fuel

Down

1 Meditation
2 Cain's brother
3 Charcoal brand
4 Rome's country
5 Canoe propeller
6 Dickens'Tiny __
7 Female tavern owner
8 Negative (prefix)
9 Spirit
10 Move away
11 Birds "thumb"
15 Dash
17 Hand outs
19 Chick holder
22 Abridged (abbr.)
25 Prays
26 Citizen
27 Tip
28 Stake
29 Leaf gathering tools
30 Make corrections to
31 Flank
33 Strong high wind
35 To,send forth
36 Charts
37 Charity
39 Whirl
40 Pit noise
42 Able to produce abundant growth
45 Central Intelligence Agency
46 Diver
47 Request
48 Spring
49 Barbecued stick
51 Stupid
53 Show
54 Together
56 Gas burner
57 Colors
59 North American country
61 Goose egg
62 Distress call

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

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		9	4		6			
8		5			7	1		
	7			5	3			8
3	6		8			4		5
5		2			4		9	3
7			6	1			8	
		4	2			3		1
			3		5	6		

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Editor:
Charles Montgomery
ccm0019@mix.wvu.edu

SPORTS

Assistant Editor:
Nick Kremer
nrk0009@mix.wvu.edu

Bob Huggins 'not caught up on that other stuff' as veteran coach nears 900 victories

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

With two games remaining in the regular season for the West Virginia men's basketball team, head coach Bob Huggins has an opportunity to become just the sixth head coach in men's college basketball history to reach 900 career wins.

In order to accomplish this historic feat before the regular season is over, the Mountaineers will have to defeat TCU on Thursday and Oklahoma State on Saturday for Huggins to reach the 900-win mark.

Huggins would join Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, Jim Calhoun, Bob Knight and the most recent coach to accomplish the feat, North Carolina's Roy Williams. Williams won his 900th game on Feb. 27 when the Tar Heels upset No. 11 Florida State in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Huggins has been a head coach since he began his tenure at Walsh College in 1980. Since then, Huggins has been the head coach at Akron, Cincinnati, Kansas State and since 2007, at West Virginia.

No matter how historic the milestone is, Huggins says he doesn't think about it that much.

"I don't think about it, I don't really pay attention to it," Huggins said. "You turn on TV and Roy (Williams) is going for his 900th, well Roy and I are friends. I'm happy for him. I also have the utmost respect for coach (Bob) Knight."

Even though Huggins has already passed Kentucky coaching legend Adolph Rupp in career wins and he may soon join Knight, he doesn't want to be compared to them because he appreciates them so much.

"I admire those guys, and I appreciate those guys," Huggins said. "I would hope that people would not look at guys like Roy and I in that same light because those guys are icons. They are the Jerry West of coaching."

PHOTO BY IOWA STATE ATHLETICS

West Virginia head coach Bob Huggins directs the Mountaineers during the game against Iowa State on Feb. 2.

In his tenure as a Division I head coach, Huggins has earned 24 NCAA Tournament bids, 11 regular season conference titles, 10 conference tournament championships and two NCAA Final Fours. In 13 years at West Virginia, Huggins has reached the NCAA Tournament nine times, gone to the 2010 NCAA Final Four, has reached five NCAA Sweet 16s and has won the 2010 Big East Conference Tournament Championship.

Huggins appreciates the respect he has gotten as a head coach, but he would rather be a mentor to young coaches to further the game of basketball.

"Hopefully, they learn some things from us and take some things that we've done over 40 years and continue to make this game the greatest game that there is," Huggins said. "To me, that's what's important. I'm not all caught up on that other stuff and I never have been."

Huggins says he has been blessed to have the opportunity to coach college basketball, but to also be around legendary coaches during his time.

"I've been blessed," Huggins said. "I've spent a lot of time with Mike Krzyzewski. I've spent time with the greatest coaches. I've been blessed to have the greatest minds in basketball and I've been able to spend time with them. I treasure it."

Despite the multitude of his accomplishments, Huggins has yet to be inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. That wait might come to an end in 2021, as Huggins has been listed as a nominee for the class of 2021.

Osabuohien adding defensive expertise to WVU roster

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

During the 2020-21 West Virginia basketball season, senior forward Gabe Osabuohien has not petrified teams with his offensive ability, but he has done it with his defensive prowess.

Osabuohien — a Toronto, Ontario, Canada, native — has been polarizing on the defensive end for the Mountaineers and has brought a defensive effort that has characterized head coach Bob Huggins' teams in the past.

For the year, Osabuohien averages just 1.6 points per game in 18 minutes of action per game. Osabuohien's advantage is in the defensive categories with 4.3 rebounds per game, 32 steals for the season and 10 total blocks.

Against Kansas State on Feb. 27, Osabuohien didn't score a point against the Wildcats, but his impact cannot go unnoticed with seven rebounds, three assists, two blocks and three steals.

"He's terrific, particularly when we switch defenses and we try to gap everything a little bit more," Huggins said following the KSU game. "He stops penetration from all directions."

Prior to his move to Morgantown before last season, Osabuohien spent two seasons in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at the University of Arkansas.

With the Razorbacks, Osabuohien appeared in 54 games and averaged 2.4 points per game, 2.5 rebounds and one steal per game. The most impactful stats that Osabuohien has tallied at WVU and Arkansas aren't normally shown on stat sheets.

In two years at Arkansas, Osabuohien had 105 deflections and took 24 charges. For West Virginia last season, Osabuohien recorded 148 deflections and had 23 charges taken.

Osabuohien's role has never been one of a scorer. His job when he is on the floor is to make as many defensive plays as possible for West Virginia in critical times against opponents.

In 24 appearances this season, Osabuohien has finished with zero points 14 times. Osabuohien's season-high came against Gonzaga on Dec. 2 when he scored 10 points. His performance against the Bulldogs is the only time this season that he has scored in double-digits.

PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS

West Virginia forward Gabe Osabuohien blocks a shot attempt by Baylor's Davion Mitchell on March 2.

Over the past four games, Osabuohien has been playing his best basketball while not scoring. Osabuohien is averaging five rebounds, 2.5 steals, one block, 2.3 assists and 0.8 points over the last four games for the Mountaineers. In that span, Osabuohien has finished with a total of three points, which all came against Texas on Feb. 20.

Osabuohien contributes to a WVU team that has tremendous depth on its roster. Huggins sees that has a major benefit when he can look to his bench for support.

"We have at least eight starters too," Huggins said. "When you bring Taz Sherman off the bench and Gabe (Osabuohien) off the bench, that's pretty good."

Flynn on Big 12 Championships: 'I think last year showed us tomorrow is not guaranteed'

BY NICK KREMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

West Virginia wrestler Killian Cardinale works out during a WVU wrestling practice.

As the NCAA wrestling season winds down, West Virginia will head to Oklahoma to compete in the Big 12 Championships. The championships will start Saturday at noon and end Sunday evening.

Although it seems unlikely for the Mountaineers to win the Big 12 championships as a team, high placing from wrestlers can help send more wrestlers to the national tournament on March 18.

In early March, the Big 12 announced pre-seeds for the top six wrestlers in each weight class, and four Mountaineers were included in those rankings. Ryan Sullivan and Peyton Hall hold the highest rankings with both wrestlers sitting at No. 2 in their classes.

They are followed by Noah Adams, who is the highest-ranked wrestler nationally for the Mountaineers but is stuck in a loaded 197-pound class.

Adams started the year ranked as the top wrestler in the 197-pound weight class, but due to losses against Wyoming's Stephen Buchanan, Adams has dropped to No. 6 in the nation and No. 3 in the Big 12.

The redshirt junior sits behind Tanner Sloan of South Dakota State and Buchanan in the Big 12 rankings. Sloan is undefeated this year but has not wrestled Adams or Buchanan this season. Last season, Adams defeated Buchanan and Sloan back-to-back in the Big 12 championships to earn a first-place finish.

"It's really competitive, I have a lot of respect for all the kids in the 197-pound class," head coach Tim Flynn said. "We have had some wars with Buchanan and Woodley, and the Ferrari kid is solid, so it is a really deep weight class."

Killian Cardinale checks in with a No. 4 seed in the 125-pound weight class. The last Mountaineer to earn a top-6 pre-seed ranking is Anthony Carman, who will take the No. 6 seed in the 184-pound weight class.

In February, the NCAA announced that the Big 12 would be awarded 45 pre-allocations. That means 45 Big 12 wrestlers will be given automatic bids to the NCAA Tournament based on finishes in the Big 12 championships. Each weight class varies on the number of wrestlers, but the majority of the 10 weight classes will have the top five finishers.

Of the four West Virginia wrestlers pre-seeded in the top five, all four wrestle in a weight class that has five pre-allocations. Carman will have to improve on his seeding and finish in the top four to be given an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

West Virginia has just three wrestlers this season that competed in the Big 12 championships last year, with Alex Hornfeck placing eighth, Scott Joll not placing and Noah Adams finishing first. Carman did not compete last year, Sullivan and Hall are freshmen this season and Cardinale transferred to WVU in the offseason.

Cardinale finished second in the Mid-American Conference championships and was a qualifier for the NCAA Tournament before it was canceled.

Some teams wrestle to make the NCAA Tournament and will be happy with just placing within the pre-allocations at the Big 12 Championships. Flynn hopes to see his wrestlers take advantage of the opportunity and win in their respective weight classes.

"Ultimately to be the kind of contender you want to be, you want to win now," Flynn said. "I think last year showed us tomorrow is not guaranteed. Noah won a Big 12 Championship and we did not go to the NCAA Tournament."

Goalkeeper Tekesky bringing leadership, veteran presence to WVU in senior year

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS WRITER

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

Goalkeeper Steven Tekesky saves a Marshall shot from hitting the back of the net on Nov. 24, 2019.

Ever since the age of four, senior goalkeeper Steven Tekesky has been playing soccer. Tekesky now finds himself leading WVU's defense in an attempt to reach its second straight MAC Championship and second NCAA Tournament berth.

Tekesky hails from Raymore, Missouri, and played at Raymore-Peculiar High School and won two state championships.

As a four year member of WVU's team, Tekesky is coming off another very successful season, where he received MAC Tournament MVP, as well as becoming a member of the MAC All-Tournament Team. Last season, the goalkeeper recorded 60 saves, a save percentage of 65%, six shutouts and a 1.44 goals-against average.

Tekesky also has a place in many of WVU's record books including being third in West Virginia's history in single season starts, fifth in career minutes played and fourth in program history with 27 wins.

Being a two-time member of the Academic All-MAC teams, Tekesky has a good presence in the classroom.

"Sometimes it definitely can be difficult to balance school and athletics, especially when we travel," Tekesky said. "I think the hardest part is when we go away for a while, but I think I do a pretty good job of balancing it, I could probably do a little bit better. Sometimes I like to wait to do my assignments, when I should just do them before we travel."

Tekesky is optimistic for this season and has big goals for this year's team, and where it may go in the postseason.

"Personally, my goals are to get as many shutouts as possible and do what I can to help the team win," Tekesky said. "Some team goals that I have are to do everything we can to win, and also be able to get to the tournament by winning our conference, and going as far as we can in the tournament."

Coming fresh off of a tournament bid, WVU wasn't given a chance to have a season this fall due to COVID-19 and that was a challenge leading into the spring season for Tekesky and the team.

"I really think the biggest challenge for us was we didn't get a season in the fall, and unlike other teams we don't get those games to gain experience," Tekesky said. "We're not a newer team, but we don't have as many returners as we did last year, so it's been different and difficult dealing with that."

For Tekesky, the postponement of the fall season was more frustrating for him and his teammates than difficult.

"I think it was more frustrating than it was difficult for our guys, as in the point that we all wanted to play," Tekesky said. "I also think it was a good advantage for us as it gave us time to get together and develop more."

Although on the field, Tekesky has proven his skills to his team, he believes his best traits come from communication and his positivity in matches.

"Some qualities that make me special are that I communicate a lot, and I try to be as positive as I can as well, but I definitely think the big one is that I communicate a lot," Tekesky said.

Ejiofor playing vital minutes off the bench for injury-ridden WVU

BY ETHAN BOCK
SPORTS WRITER

As the West Virginia women's basketball team is dealing with a shortened roster at a crucial time of the season, WVU center Blessing Ejiofor has stepped up to give the team some depth off the bench.

The Mountaineers, over the last couple of weeks, have had to play at some point without Kirsten Deans, Madisen Smith and Kysre Gondrezick due to injuries. WVU has had to play with only seven to eight players during a critical time of the season.

Ejiofor has stepped up off the bench for the Mountaineers over the past two games against Iowa State and Kansas. WVU head coach Mike Carey likes to have competitive players, and Ejiofor fits his system perfectly.

"Blessing is a great, young lady and a great person," Carey said. "She wants to play more, I guarantee she's not happy playing in minutes that she's playing but when she gets in there, she doesn't pout about it. She gets in there and she works hard and tries to do the right thing. So, you got to give her a lot of credit."

PHOTO BY DALE SPARKS/WVU ATHLETICS

Blessing Ejiofor, a senior center on the WVU basketball team, plays during a game against Iowa State.

Ejiofor has spent two seasons on the women's basketball team, appearing in 49 games for WVU. Once a Vanderbilt Commodore, Ejiofor transferred to West Virginia after one season playing at a community college. Ejiofor has recorded five games of double-digit rebounding numbers so far in her career playing for the Mountaineers.

Ejiofor earned her minutes as she checked into the game for 21 minutes against both Kansas and Iowa State. The 6-foot-5 senior gave the Mountaineers quality minutes on both sides of the floor.

Against Iowa State, Ejiofor — an Ebonyi, Nigeria, native — scored two points off of one shot and grabbed three rebounds. Ejiofor also recorded a steal and a block against the Cyclones.

Against Kansas, Ejiofor posted her career-high with an eight-point performance on 4-of-7 shooting. The senior center also had four rebounds, one steal and one block. Forward Kari Niblack got into foul trouble early on, so that's when Carey called Ejiofor's name.

"That was big. Those eight points we needed from her, we needed that because Kari like I said was in foul trouble. Blessing came in and did a great job."

Ejiofor will look to continue to contribute to an NCAA Tournament team for the rest of the season, as she has climbed up the ladder for quality minutes.

The Mountaineers are on the verge of the Big 12 Conference Tournament as they march along towards an NCAA Tournament bid.

Mike Carey named semifinalist for 2021 Naismith Coach of the Year

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

West Virginia head women's basketball coach Mike Carey has been named a semifinalist for the Werner Ladder Naismith Women's Coach of the Year award as announced on Wednesday.

The Mountaineers currently rank No. 20 in the AP Poll and are in second place in the Big 12 conference behind the Baylor Bears. As of Wednesday, West Virginia has amassed 18 victories after only winning 17 games last year before the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the season.

The Mountaineers nearly broke the school record for the longest winning streak as they won 11-straight games from Dec. 21 to Feb. 13. That streak included an upset of then-No. 17 Texas, 92-58, on Jan. 9 in Morgantown.

WVU is on the verge of its first NCAA Tournament berth since the 2016-17 season when it made it as far as the second round. West Virginia has won 12 conference games so far this season, which is its most since the 2015-16 season. This is only the fourth time since the Mountaineers have joined the Big 12 that they have reached double-digits in conference victories.

In Carey's tenure as head coach — hired in 2001 — West Virginia has reached the NCAA Tournament 11 times but has never made it beyond the second round. Carey has 428 wins as the head coach for WVU and 716 overall career wins as a Division I head coach, as he coached at Salem University prior to taking over in Morgantown.

Carey has been named Coach of the Year three times

PHOTO BY TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS

West Virginia head basketball coach Mike Carey looks on as the Mountaineers face Texas Tech on Jan. 27.

— 2004 and 2010 in the Big East and 2014 in the Big 12.

Carey is one of 10 coaches named as a semifinalist for the prestigious trophy and he is the only coach from the Big 12. Other coaches on the list include: UConn's Geno Auriemma, Adia Barnes from Arizona, Gary Blair from Texas A&M, South Florida's Jose Fernandez, Maryland's Brenda Frese, NC State's Wes Moore, Joni Taylor from Georgia, Stanford's Tara VanDerveer and Louisville's Jeff Walz.

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Bachelor, Jakob Janoski
Jakob is a Sophomore Journalism student from Columbus, OH. Jakob is a part of U92 The Moose and runs his own podcast.

Bachelorette, Ashton Hollen
Ashton is a Freshman Psychology major with a minor in Fashion Merchandising from Buckhannon, WV. In her spare time, Ashton loves to be with her friends and do anything outdoors.

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