

## sports

# GRADUATE WINS PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

A gold medal at the 2008 Paralympic Games capped a remarkable comeback for a woman who has lived without a quarter of her left-temporal brain since an accident in 1982. Barbara Buchan, a 1978 Boise State graduate in physical education, broke the world record en route to winning her disability class in the individual 3,000-meter cycling pursuit — an indoor race on a velodrome track.

Buchan was Idaho's state champion in the mile run for



Mountain Home High School in 1972. She ran the 5,000- and 10,000-meter races as a student-athlete at Boise State. She currently lives and trains in Bend, Ore., where she is director for Team USabled, a nonprofit organization for disabled children.

She was considered a top American cyclist with Olympic

aspirations. But in July 1982, during a qualifying race for the world championships, she was caught in a 20-bike pileup on a steep descent. The near-fatal crash left her in a coma with severe brain damage and paralysis.

After five surgeries and a painful rehabilitation, Buchan started competing again in events for disabled athletes in track and field and cycling. The Beijing Games marked her fifth Paralympic appearance, and at age 52, she was the oldest member of Team USA. "I can't believe I did it," Buchan says. "My accident was so long ago, but I am pleased I finally got my gold." ♦



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

### Grace or brawn? Tumbling or takedowns?

You won't have to choose as Boise State's gymnastics and wrestling teams come together once again this year for "Beauty and the Beast," a two-sport tournament on one floor. With both teams coming off of conference championship seasons and Top-25 finishes, their Jan. 18 date at Taco Bell Arena will put a season of high expectations on full display.

Led by last year's Pac-10 Freshman of the Year and Boise native Kirk Smith, the wrestling team will take on Cal State-Bakersfield on its way to a hoped-for repeat as Pac-10 champions. Wrestling is Boise State's only non-Western Athletic Conference sport.

Hannah Redmon, a sophomore from Sparks, Nev., was named gymnastics Athlete of the Year in the WAC last year and will lead her team in an early season intersquad scrimmage as they prepare to win their second consecutive WAC championship.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children at the gate.

## Softball Team Takes Field

For the first time in university history, Boise State will field a softball team in conference play this spring. After a successful fall schedule, the start-up team's first official game will take place in Palm Springs, Calif., on Feb. 6.



Catcher Tazz Weatherly swings the bat as the Boise State softball team takes the field for the first time in September in a double header against the College of Idaho and Eastern Oregon University.