**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 an indoor race on a velodrome track.

**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. 28 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.

Coming off Boise State’s first Western Athletic Conference title and a trip to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1994, the 2008-09 Bronco men’s basketball team has its sights set on a repeat run at postseason play. But a number of players are having to give up to blossom in order to replace four seniors who were instrumental in the title run that finished with a school-record 25 wins.

The Broncos return nine lettermen, but just one starter. Despite that lack of starting experience, Boise State should be more athletic and excel in coach Greg Graham’s up-tempo offense. Boise State has been picked to finish fifth in the WAC preseason polls — just like last year.

Anthony Thomas returns to lead the Broncos attack. The returning starter at point guard heads into his junior season as the unquestioned leader of the team after handing out 141 assists, the third most in school history, last season.

Joining Thomas is a group of veterans who were critical in the Broncos charge to a WAC title last season. Paul Noonan, Jamar Greene, Aaron Garner, Mark Sanchez and Kurt Cunningham all had an important hand in the most successful season in school history. They should all be key contributors to the Broncos effort this year.

Five new faces will join the roster with four of those expected to play this season. Centerike Okoye spent last season battling Matt Nelson and Reggie Larry in practice while redshirting after transferring from Wyoming. He should improve the Broncos athleticism in the low post.

Five new faces will join the roster with four of those expected to play this season. Centerike Okoye spent last season battling Matt Nelson and Reggie Larry in practice while redshirting after transferring from Wyoming. He should improve the Broncos athleticism in the low post. Junior college transfers Robert Arnold and Sean Iamadiyi were both high scoring junior college players and should add to the Broncos explosive offense. Le’Shard Anderson gives the Broncos a true point guard who can back up Thomas or play alongside the veteran, allowing him to move to the off guard position.

With the blend of veterans and new faces, the Broncos once again plan to play deep into March, making a run at another WAC title.

The Boise State women’s basketball team is gunning for a third consecutive Western Athletic Conference crown and postseason bid in 2009. The Broncos are coming off one of the most successful campaigns in history in which they captured their second league title in two years, tied the record for wins with 24, and advanced to the postseason in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history. They reached the second round of the WNIT with a 77-54 defeat of Idaho State to claim the first postseason victory in program history.

With the bulk of last year’s league championship squad back, the Broncos were dealt a blow before holding their first practice. Jessica Thompson, the 2007 WAC tourney MVP who averaged 13.4 points a game last year, was declared out for the season with a knee injury. The expected return of redshirt Rebecca Kepilino also has been postponed as she continues to recover from knee surgery.

“Every season you are hit with adversity and we’re having ours early this season,” says head coach Gordy Presnell.

The WAC preseason polls still picked Boise State as No. 1 behind returning starters Tasha Harris and Jenna Galassi. The Broncos will rely on true freshmen Heath Pilcher and Courtney Van Brocklin to fill Thompson’s shoes. Seasoned veterans and senior guards Jamia Malone and Brittany Moore, junior center 1’2”Lara Walker, and sophomore posts Melissa Rima and Sierra Moeller will be key performers. Three redshirt players — Janie Bos, Marisa Stotler and Ainsleigh Sanders — will be asked to contribute.

**March Madness Back in Boise**

Boise State University and Taco Bell Arena are hosting the 2009 NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Tournament first and second round games on March 20 and 22. The tournament, which features 65 schools in a single-elimination format to determine the national champion, begins March 17 and concludes with the championship game April 6 at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich. It will mark the first time a Final Four will have a minimum seating capacity of 75,000.

**RETURNING STARTER ANTHONY THOMAS**

Returning starter Anthony Thomas leads the Broncos’ attempt for a repeat WAC title, and we’re having ours early this season,” says head coach Gordy Presnell.

The WAC preseason polls still picked Boise State as No. 1 behind returning starters Tasha Harris and Jenna Galassi. The Broncos will rely on true freshmen Heath Pilcher and Courtney Van Brocklin to fill Thompson’s shoes. Seasoned veterans and senior guards Jamia Malone and Brittany Moore, junior center 1’2”Lara Walker, and sophomore posts Melissa Rima and Sierra Moeller will be key performers. Three redshirt players — Janie Bos, Marisa Stotler and Ainsleigh Sanders — will be asked to contribute.

**ALL EYES ON MARCH FOR BASKETBALL POSTSEASON**