

WALAX PRE-SEASON RANKINGS

PRE-CAPS

DIVISION II PREVIEW

Conference	Team	In-Conference	Overall
Olympic	Tacoma	1	1
Evergreen	Overlake	1	2
Skagit	Snohomish	1	3
Olympic	Puyallup	2	4
Skagit	North County	2	5
Evergreen	Lake Tapps	2	6
Olympic	Klahowya	3	7
Evergreen	Franklin	3	9
Skagit	Mukilteo	3	8
Olympic	Port Angeles	4	10
Skagit	Whatcom	4	11
Skagit	Stanwood	5	12
Evergreen	Blanchet	4	13
Evergreen	Nathan Hale	5	14
Skagit	Northshore	6	15
Olympic	S. Kitsap	5	16
Evergreen	Sammammish	6	17
Evergreen	Mt. Ranier	7	18
Skagit	San Juan	7	19
Olympic	N. Kitsap	6	20
Olympic	Stadium	7	21

Tacoma The Dragons have a full compliment of talent returning this year, and take the number one pre-season spot. Tacoma returns Gilson, all the Wigboldys, Hilger and Holcombe. Tacoma has almost the entire team returning capable of picking up where they left off last year. All of these middies and attack were aggressive defensive as well as offensive players, though they will have some of their biggest competition in their own division, Puyallup.

Overlake (10-6) Overlake looks to better their finish of a year ago, though losing Parpia will hurt. Look for senior Attackman Nick Guren and Sophomore George Dolack to drive the Owls offense with support from a younger, but dedicated Owls line-up. A new goalie, but the same defense, Chang will lead a rounded group of athletes, who may do better than stealing a semi-game from T-town this year.

Snohomish (9-4) will return a host of players, including captain and the league's third highest scorer in Jake Bos. Senior Jesse wolf will give Snohomish the strength it needs to help veteran captain Eric Stensland run a solid unit against some of the better divisional teams in what may be the toughest conference top to bottom this year.

Puyallup (8-5) Returning last year's frosh phenom midfielder Nick Moser will help Puntel steer the ship between the stripes. The potent midfield weapon will compliment Tungsvik at Attack, Puyallup's leading scorer and emotional leader, with a balanced offensive threat. Look for these players to be up on the divisional leader board backed by one of the most tenacious teams in the league.

North County (8-5) Losing Morrison will sting, but senior Attack Captain Tupper will recast the offense backed by a solid defense with both size and speed. North County's defense, led by captain Ocheltree is filled with impact players, and one of the best goalies in the division pre-season, Gunnar Groothuis. A stat leader last year in his Division, Groothuis should be a deciding factor in close games.

Lake Tapps (1-11) Entering their second year, Tapps brings one of the most impressive sophomore line-ups of any team in the division. Returners Skyler Cichy and Bolton Lancaster will continue to score heavy numbers, while Hagerty shows potential to step up for the midfield. Snyder and Anderson will be the midfield leaders as captains, and Amis will keep the defense in check. This team of freshman and sophomores should have improved dramatically, and have depth in the bench.

Klahowya (8-5) Losing offensive powerhouse Jim Rapasz may sting a bit, but Klahowya will have several younger contributors who may add the needed balance to better the team. Look for Hertenstein at midfield to bolster the team as well as a returning defense backed by Chad Reeder between the pipes. On a team becoming notorious for twins and brothers, this year's Klahowya has three pairs of brothers playing together. Look for a strong late season run from Klahowya.

Franklin (6-6) Losing J.R.DeRoulx, Hiep Do will have to step up to continue their winning ways. Jon Dao and Ryan Travis will help the cause, adding more balance in the offense. Strong at attack, Franklin will have a lot of speed to go to the cage. Though their top scorer left, a core group from the team that lost only to three of the toughest teams in the league two of which moved up to Division I. Divisional changes bode well for Franklin if they can regain their mid-season form of last year.

Mukilteo (1-11) The Knights will see captain Chris Schroeder lead from Midfield as a dominating face-off man who can shoot and score. Anderson will lead his attack again, looking for more output this year. Look for Linari to contribute, and a solid defense framed by goalie Keibler and defensive stalwart Danny Torres. Mukilteo has a big group of talented freshmen who will be key to continuing their ride to the top of the conference.

Port Angeles (1-11) returning a cadre of players, most of which are sophomores captained by Dustin Walsh, look for scoring threats from the attack. Rose's senior leadership should help his wingmen to increase the P.A arsenal of shooters. A youngster line of middies will be the difference in a mediocre season or a positive chart climber.

Look for other major contributors, Swanson, Brown, and Witherow to help control the scoring element.

Whatcom (5-8). Curry Boyd returns to captain a team with strength and speed at attack. He is one of three veteran attack, including team captain Smith and Kirkpatrick as offensive threats. Kjel Funston returns to captain the midfield, one of the top performers last year. Veteran starters are bolstered by a great class of freshmen. Whatcom should be an imposing threat.

Stanwood (4-9) Stanwood returns contributing starters in Brandt, Toepfer, Geisler and Goalie captain Justin Jackson. Scott Tracewell takes the reigns from Coach Scott, and aims to develop his team into a capable unit with mental toughness and discipline as well as skills. Look for Stanwood to move up in the leader board throughout the season.

Blanchet (0-0) Another new school, but not empty of talent, Blanchet has players from all over, including Queen Anne grads and Roosevelt as well. Many of the athletes may become potent players give a little time to mature into the season. Coach Warf will make the necessary adjustments. Look for young guns Montgomery, Kruse and Beede to get it done for Blanchet.

Nathan Hale (0-0) After leaving division I and losing Benitez, Hale is kind of an enigma. Shiplett is still there, but he will have to up his game considerably to make a difference, but look for Harkey, Cook and Brenowitz to all step up. Brenowitz on defense will have his job cut out for him, but another change in coaching should start to settle the program down. Laudig will help get the program going in the right direction.

Northshore (0-0) New program led by Stalwart coach Steve Wisman, has talent in Bowen Hadley, a big strong attackman, Taylor Wisman who can play any position, nad a myriad of freshmen who can play ball. Dossett, Walker, and Barclay will add more talent on a team that will be playing together for the next four years. Northshore also stole keeper Stuart Dransfield from Eastside, and all-purpose offense/defense player Chris Lee. Northshore will have the talent, but will lack the maturity. Look for a late season swell.

S. Kitsap (3-9) Another relative unknown potential, Kitsap will return Bohannon, Hulet ad O'Neill as captains and utility players as well as a core of other returners. The challenge will be competing with the top teams in the division, as two of them are in their conference.

Sammamish (0-0) A team composed almost entirely of freshmen in their inaugural season under new coach Blake Mitchell, the playing quantity is completely unknown. Several players come over from Bellevue's program, and they have been practicing since January, so time will tell what Sammamish can do in their first year.

Mt. Rainier (2-10) Rainier brings back their top performer in Daniel Merrill to lead a team comprised of mostly sophomores and seniors. Matt Nugent will compliment the midfield, but the struggle will be in the defensive arena. Moving last year's attackman

Keith Jones between the pipes may or may not be what Mt. Rainier needs. New teams in the Evergreen conference will really present the opportunity to make their divisional mark, and the playoffs are wide open.

San Juan is back this year in DII, and looking to regain its competitive form after paying four games in 2006. Bonoff returns almost the entire roster, especially excited about his captain and defensive anchor Ben White. White is supported by two other upper classmen on defense, and should add a balancing force to the youth at Midfield. Though big producer Townsen provides leadership at attack, most of San Juan's abilities lie at midfield, so matching up in division will be challenging, but could be a long-term strength.

N. Kitsap (2-10) Stemmler, captains the Wolves and returns as the leader on a team of brand new players. Morey will return in goal and Scott will return at attack, but most of the team is new. Defensively, Gluscko will lead the defensive unit, but look for experienced starters and a maturing second line all over. North Kitsap will need to shore up their youth on defense and put together an offense backing up Stemmler to achieve success.

Stadium (0-0) Stadium borne of the Tacoma team, and bred from the TYLA program, brings weapons to the attack arsenal. Rueter, Lineweaver, and Stanley produce. Stadium will have tenacity from the midfield on ground balls, but their potential is a mystery. Stadium may be the dark horse in the Olympic division.