

## The Extra “C” Makes the Difference

By Dr. Vickie Denny, NCCAA President, Clearwater Christian College Volleyball Coach



How often have you been wearing the NCCAA logo, and someone will ask you, “What is the NCCAA?” They have heard of the NCAA, but wonder about that extra “C” in our name. What a great opportunity for us to share with them who we really are. We are so much more than just another national collegiate athletic association. In fact, it is that extra “C” that makes all the difference.

**First, the NCCAA is intentionally Christ-centered.** It is who we are. I was reminded of this important truth when a public school coach called and inquired about Clearwater’s summer volleyball camp program. Her question: “Well, how much of the ‘Christian stuff’ do you do during the day?” I thought for a moment and then responded, “Coach, it isn’t just what we do that makes us a Christian camp, it is who we are. We are Christian, *on purpose*”. I feel the same way about the NCCAA. We are a Christian athletic organization doing a lot of “Christian stuff”, but it is more than just what we do; it is who we are.

While it is true that we are involved in Christian Service Projects (CSPs), mission outreach trips, and bible studies, our Christ-likeness is probably more often seen when we least expect it or plan for it: like when you are checking out of a hotel and the manager thanks you for the team’s conduct; or when an unsaved referee wants to officiate your games because you treat him with respect and dignity; or when, after a hotly competitive national championship match, the two opposing teams come together and the senior captain of the losing team says “let’s pray”. The NCCAA is Christ-centered on purpose, and when we allow Christ His rightful place in our athletic programs, we begin to experience what that extra “C” is all

about. The NCCAA is intentionally Christ-centered, and that is the way we want to keep it.

**The NCCAA also exists to help support Christian higher education.** We are just an extension of what your individual institutions are trying to do in Christian education. As an athletic organization, the NCCAA supports your institutions and what you are striving to achieve through your faith-based mission statements. While our mission statements might differ, we would all agree on the importance of our students establishing a Christian world view and integrating faith in the various academic disciplines. The NCCAA wants to help our institutions in achieving these goals by using sports to help integrate faith and practice outside of the classroom, while still supporting the academic program. We do this specifically by monitoring intercollegiate athletics with academic standards. The NCCAA supports Christian, higher education, and that is the way we want to keep it.

**Finally, I want to share three top priorities for 2010:** First I want to challenge all of us to **pray** more for the NCCAA. In a recent bible study, I was reminded of the importance of individual prayer and supplication on the behalf of others. Also with prayer comes the spirit of gratitude. While I know how easy it is to find fault and complain about different aspects of life, I would challenge each of us to do **more praying and less complaining**. Will you commit to spending time every week praying specifically for our organization, member institutions, and especially for our leadership? Will you pray for Dan, Kelly, Jerry, and Jill? They often

carry heavy burdens and they need our prayers.

Second, I challenge all of us to **give** more to the NCCAA. Yes, financially we need to help support this organization, but also let’s give more of our time and talents. Historically, this organization has been sustained by a small paid staff, and the volunteers who serve on the regional and national levels. The work of the NCCAA cannot be done without the efforts of the many individuals who are willing to serve. I want to thank many of you who are already giving financially as well as your time and talents to the NCCAA. I also want to challenge others to get involved and give back to our organization.

The final priority for 2010 is for us to **live** our Christian faith. It goes back to **being that extra “C” for all to see**. We have an awesome opportunity and responsibility to shine brightly in a very dark world, and what better place to do just that, than through Christian athletics.

Let us make these our priorities in 2010. We are the NCCAA, each and every one of us praying for one another, giving to others, and living like Christ did, for others. This is what makes our organization so special, and that is the way we want to keep it.

As we begin another year together, remembering the NCCAA is so much more than just regional and national competition. As Dan Wood, our Executive Director often reminds us, “Only one team can carry home the championship banner, but we can all carry the banner of Christ”.

The Extra “C” Makes the Difference..... 1	Women’s Basketball II..... 7	Baseball I..... 13
Presidential Award Winners..... 2	Men’s Basketball I..... 8	Baseball II..... 13
Volunteers Honored..... 2	Region CSP Food Collection..... 8	Athletes Minister at Championships..... 14
Sports Ministries Award Presented..... 2	Member Institutions Sanctioned..... 8	Mission Possible Fundraisers..... 15
Hall of Fame Receives New Member..... 3	Men’s Basketball II..... 9	NCCAA Wins BMW oobe Challenge... 16
NCCAA is Here to Serve..... 3	Century Club Supports NCCAA..... 9	
Pro-Am is a Slam Dunk Event..... 4	Softball..... 10	
CSP Highlights Pro-Am..... 4	NCCAA Exceeds Goals..... 10	
Pro-Am Highlights..... 5	Outdoor Track & Field..... 11	
Pro-Am Tournament Results..... 5	Tennis..... 12	
Indoor Track & Field..... 6	Convention Holds CSP..... 12	
Women’s Basketball I..... 7	Pro-Am CSP Touches Lives..... 12	

