



AN UNFORGETTABLE SEASON

JOEL COURSEY



CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pilots women's basketball team has taken a leap outside of the traditional box of basketball philosophy. In the summer of 2022, coach Joel Coursey made the decision to “take the road less travelled” and implement what is called “System Basketball.” This is a unique approach to the game that maximizes players effort, enthusiasm and overall participation of players on the team. The Pilots play 15 players every game, rotating three different lines of five every minute or two. The team, full court presses their opponent from start to finish and shoots nearly 50 three-point shots each game.

“Being a part of this team has been an incredible journey and a remarkable highlight in my collegiate experience. As I look ahead to our next season, I’m reminded of the spirit of teamwork, perseverance, and the familial bonds that are the true measures of our success.”

AMVER NAVARRO

2nd-Year Guard // Calgary, Alberta

In their first season, the team quickly caught on to the tactical concepts but didn't fully understand the psychological aspect which plays a large part in the overall success of their philosophy. In order to experience the full benefits of the style of play, you need to believe in what you are doing before seeing the fruit of your labour. Entering their second season, the coaching staff made a shift to focus on the mental aspects of the game and the importance of an unwavering belief in self and team. This past season began with its own set of challenges, but the team was able to come together down the stretch and embrace a strong positive mentality, leading to their historic success.

"The strong community and unwavering support from my coaches and teammates were a key factor in the success we had last season. I'm excited to welcome our new additions to the team, hoping to build on what we accomplished, and carrying it forward into the coming year."

ADRIAN ALLEY

1st-Year Guard // Wasilla, Alaska

The team started the second semester with a four-game winning streak, followed by a devastating loss to Canadian Mennonite University on the road. That moment fueled the team to completely "buy in." Instead of crumbling, the team went on a nine-game winning streak, capturing both the NIAC and MCAC championships. They finished the season with 23 wins and only six losses. After that loss to the Blazers, the Pilots went on to win the following three meetings.







In the NIAC championship game, the Pilots entered the fourth quarter with a 17-point deficit against the CMU Blazers. After a motivational speech from coach Coursey, the Pilots went on a 21-0 run, taking the lead and ultimately winning the championship 59-54. “This game was a perfect example of how we play. We stayed true to our game plan, pressuring our opponent the entire game, wearing them down. At the end of the game, we showed the strength and endurance of 15 players as we dominated the final 10 minutes of the game” (Joel Coursey). The following weekend the Pilots once again met the Blazers in the championship game, but this time for the MCAC title. In their seventh meeting of the season, the Pilots beat the Blazers 72-69.

The Pilots approach to the game has placed positivity, participation and encouragement at the top of its priorities: “I have many reasons for choosing this path for my program, one of which is that I do believe it can be very successful.

We are showing success in many more ways than you would think. I thought it would take one or two more years before we really experienced this type of success, but the team we had this season proved how talented and together they are,” said Coursey.

The Pilots received many individual awards from each of their conferences. Along with the two championship banners, the Pilots were finalists at the ACCA National Tournament. Coach Coursey received an unprecedented four Coach of the Year awards, one from each of the NCCAA, MCAC and NIAC conferences. Joel also received the Basketball Manitoba Open Category Coach of the Year Award.



JOEL COURSEY

Head Coach

Women's Basketball