

# Coach receives assists after transplant

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Tim Bellmon, assistant basketball coach, underwent a kidney transplant during the Rams season, giving them an emotional boost and reminding them of the importance of basketball and life.

Bellmon returned to the court for the RRAC season final for the Rams on Feb. 27 to show his dedication to the team. It was the last home game for the Rams, and Bellmon was sure not to miss it.

The Rams won their third consecutive RRAC Championship after defeating Our Lady of the Lake University 87-85 with Bellmon on the sideline. Bellmon said he made every effort to attend the match, focusing on getting well in order to be there.

"The day after my surgery, I was already asking my doctor to let me go to the game because I wanted to be there for the men," Bellmon said.

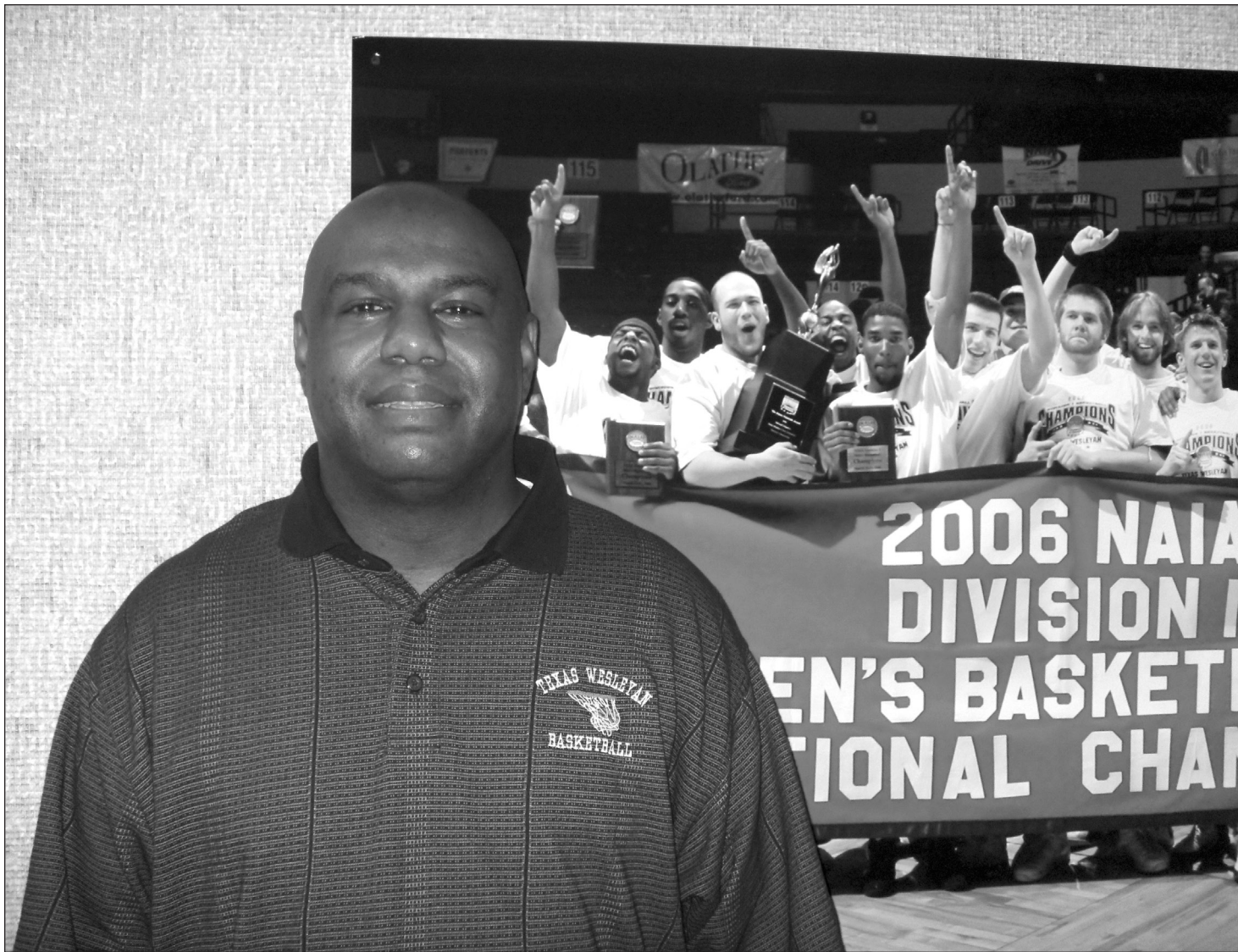
After the win, the Rams gave Bellmon an autographed game ball to show their support of what he endured.

Bellmon experienced kidney failure in July 2007 and began dialysis in December. He was diagnosed with Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis, a common form of kidney disease. He was able to receive a transplant, thanks to an expanded criteria donor organ: a kidney from a donor older than 55 years old.

With an ECD kidney, patients get a transplant quicker than waiting for a standard kidney. In March 2008 Bellmon was put on the list in need of a kidney donor.

Bellmon underwent a kidney transplant on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, at UT Southwestern hospital in Dallas.

The only information Bellmon received about the donor was that the individual was



Assistant Basketball Coach Tim Bellmon is recovering from a kidney transplant.

Jacqueline Wittman | Rambler Staff

from Corpus Christi.

Bellmon said he is doing better now, seven weeks after the transplant. It will take an additional three to six months to heal and he sees the doctor three times a week. He takes 20 pills a day and will have to take eight pills everyday to fight infections and kidney rejection down the road.

For now, Bellmon is following the doctor's orders and taking it one step at a time. Bellmon said he is looking forward to getting back on campus on a regular basis in June or July, and the men are thrilled.

"Our practices weren't the same without him," said se-

nior forward Hector Mukweyi. "He brought fun to the court and kept us positive."

When Bellmon became a part of the Wesleyan staff last summer, he told the men that he was going through dialysis at the time and would be missing periodically.

"We didn't expect the transplant to happen during the season, so it affected us a lot because he is big part of our team," Mukweyi said.

Bellmon said the team has been very supportive.

"Basketball and my son, Tyson, have helped me through all of this," he said.

According to Bellmon, after a kidney transplant there

is a 60 percent chance that his disease may return and cause kidney failure.

"I'm doing a lot better, but I am a long way from being in the clear," he said.

Bellmon has to wear a face mask until his immune system builds up. He is hoping to stop wearing it soon depending on what the doctor says.

"It's how you survive," he said. "You feel like you can do other stuff, but I have to go by the book so I can do everything possible to avoid rejection."

Since the start of dialysis and still today, Bellmon said the coaches have made an extra effort to keep him involved

with what is going on with the team.

"I couldn't have done it without the team and coaches," he said. "From day one, they have been very supportive, especially Coach Terry Waldrop and Brennen Singleton. They keep me going and involved. I look forward to hearing from them every day."



Video at  
therambler.org

## The Weekly Sports Quote

"Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing - but none of them serious."

Alan Minter

former middleweight world champion boxer



Photo courtesy of Oliviu Vasilca  
Sara Hazinski led Wesleyan to three national titles.

## TITLES *continued from page 1*

event, the coed team event. "She played back-to-back and just kept delivering," teammate William Rather said.

In the final, the Wesleyan team, consisting of Mark Hazinski, Ines Perhoc, Chance Friend and Sara Hazinski, was down 2-1 in matches against Lindenwood. Sara Hazinski kept the Rams alive with a win and paired up with Mark Hazinski to secure the national championship in a decisive double's game.

"I definitely rank the team win highest," she said.

Wesleyan also made it to the finals in three other events. Wesleyan fell 3-2 to Lindenwood in the women's team event. Sara Hazinski and Tina Chen were defeated 3-1 by Lindenwood's Livia Mizobuchi/Karin Fukushima in the

women's doubles final, and Mark Hazinski lost 11-9 to LaGuardia Community College's YanJun Gao in a seven-game battle.

"I am very satisfied," Mark Hazinski said. "I had my chances, but it was tough in the end."

Despite a majority of the core returning next year, Rather is not taking anything for granted.

"More schools offer scholarships now," she said. "Earlier, the trend was that many good players quit playing when going to college, but now when the competition is getting stronger, they tend to want to keep playing. I really did not expect us to win the team event, and I am very excited that we managed to win despite the tough competition."

"Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing - but none of them serious."

Alan Minter

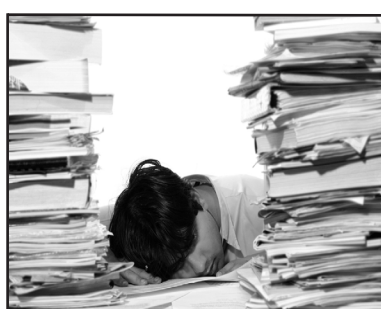
former middleweight world champion boxer

## Upcoming Sports:

|                 | Game   | Time/Place  |
|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>Friday</b>   | Baseball vs. Northwood University  | 3 p.m.<br>LaGrave Field   |
| <b>Saturday</b> | Baseball vs. Northwood University<br>Softball vs. Bacone College   | 1 p.m.<br>Cedar Hill<br>2 p.m.<br>Sycamore Park                                 |
| <b>Monday</b>   | Golf at NAIA National Qualifier  | Iron Horse GC,<br>N. Richland Hills   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | Golf at NAIA National Qualifier<br>Softball vs. Northwood University<br>JV Baseball vs. Richland College | Iron Horse GC,<br>N. Richland Hills<br>2 p.m.<br>Cedar Hill<br>3 p.m.<br>Dallas |

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