Distance not an issue for running duo

By Nick Phillips

When looking at college choices, there are typically two types of college students. There are those who want to go to a school close to home, family, and friends, and there are those students who want to go away and have the experience of living on their own away from their family. Every once in a while, you find the student who is willing to go whatever distance it takes to find the right college experience for them. Rarer still, are the chances of finding two students from the same area at a school nearly 3,000 miles away.

Enter UNCP juniors Kevin Clancy and Livia Mahaffie, both natives of Puyallup, Wash., and both of whom are Education majors. The two began to talk about each other while watching Clancy ready to go as smoothly as they do now. Having known each other since 2006, the two went to rival high schools, creating the obligatory bitterness and scorn towards each other, and, by extension, the other run- ning teams. Despite missing home, both Clancy and Mahaffie were away from home at different colleges.

Similar to what he had done for himself a year earlier, Clancy performed a college search using the same tools as he had for his own to help Mahaffie come to her decision. Mahaffie narrowed her choice down between a school close to home and, by chance, UNCP. Wanting to experience something different, Mahaffie took a chance and signed with UNCP to run both cross country and track beginning in the fall of 2010.

Why UNCP?
Both Clancy and Mahaffie found UNCP from a database of colleges and universities across the country if they were somewhere other than UNCP. Both Clancy and Mahaffie said they have no problems sticking around North Carolina and the East Coast for three years to fulfill this requirement, although eventually both would like to head back to the West Coast.

Baseball wrap-ups, 7B.

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Enter UNCP juniors Kevin Clancy and Livia Mahaffie, both natives of Puyallup, Wash., and both of whom are Education majors. If balancing academics with adjusting to a new environment and missing home weren’t enough, both Clancy and Mahaffie are collegiate athletes, with each running cross-country in the fall and track during the spring for the Braves. Oh yeah, the two have also been dating since late 2008.

Early years
While nowadays the pair offers each other support on a number of platforms, their first years knowing each other did not go as smoothly as they do now. Having known each other since 2006, the two went to rival high schools, creating the obligatory bitterness and scorn towards both the other schools and, by extension, the other running teams. The bond that they had faced with a dual problem – watching Clancy ready to make the nearly 3,000 mile journey to Pembroke while also looking for another community college to com- pete at after Highline discontinued its running program.

Mahaffie settled on Clackamas Community College for her sophomore season, where she ran track. Similar to what he had done for himself a year earlier, Clancy performed a college search using the same tools as he had for his own to help Mahaffie come to her decision. Early years
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The bond that they had formed with each other was stretched by the burden of a cross-country distance between each other. Both explained that with the cost of school in Washington, they could come here with their ath- letic scholarship money as well as out of state teaching scholarship money and pay less out of state than they would if they stayed in Washington.

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