

FINISHING STRONG Carr hopes to conclude his Saints career with another title



Oliver Carr plans to become a dentist when he's done play for the Carroll College men's basketball team.

ERIK C. ANDERSON 406mtsports.com

The season started slower than Oliver Carr liked. The fact it started at all, and ahead of schedule, is almost an afterthought now.

Nearly a year ago, Carr crumbled on the court 24 games into the Carroll College men's basketball season at the PE Center with his right ACL torn.

This September, two or three months faster than expected, trainers medically cleared Carr to return to the court. Eight months of not playing hoops and longingly watching his teammates play in pickup games, Carr stayed motivated to complete his task at hand. "Every day I wished I could play in the it," Carr said. Carr did the

He doesn't know precisely why his body recovered faster than others, but he imagines lifting ahead of his surgery last winter and diligently rehabbing gave him an advantage.

"I had a good work ethic, so I was able to rehab diligently and try to enjoy BMGPhotos.com

Carr did the work and slowly started to task his knee with basketball-related movement. He'd jump for layup, slide side-to-side or cut at sharp angles. The first time he tested his knee, he admits

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MEN'S SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION 1	TIME/RESULT
10/21/2017	Yellowstone Christian College	Helena, Mont.	W 103-53
10/22/2017	Salish Kootenai College	Pablo, Mont.	W 125-53
11/1/2017	Purdue (Exhib.)	West Lafayette, Ind.	L 71-98
11/4/2017	Saint Francis (III.)	Joliet, IL	W 67-57
11/17/2017	Our Lady of the Lake University (Texas)	Helena, Mont.	W 78-71
11/18/2017	Southwestern Christian University	Helena, Mont.	W 85-63
11/26/2017	Montana (Exhib.)	Missoula, Mont.	L 75-86
12/2/2017	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	W 99-90 OT
12/3/2017	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	W 86-76
12/8/2017	Salish Kootenai College	Helena, Mont.	W 116-57
12/19/2017	Bethesda College	Costa Mesa, Calif.	W 85-55
12/20/2017	Vanguard University (Calif.)	Costa Mesa, Calif.	W 82-73
12/21/2017	Westcliff Universty	Irvine, Calif.	W 96-53
12/28/2017	University of Calgary	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
12/29/2017	University of Calgary	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m
1/4/2018	University of Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/6/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/11/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/18/2018	University of Montana Western	Dillon, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/20/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Lewiston, Idaho	7:30 p.m.
1/25/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
1/27/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/1/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/3/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/7/2018	Montana Tech	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Billings, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/16/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	8 p.m.
2/17/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/22/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.
2/24/2018	University of Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	7:30 p.m.

MEN'S ROSTER

No.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL
2	Dane Warp	G	6-4	190	So.	Havre, MT / Havre HS
3	Emilio Mancol	PG	5-9	160	Fr.	Renton, WA / John F. Kennedy Catholic
10	Chase Burnham	G	6-3	200	Fr.	Spangle, WA / Liberty HS
12	Match Burnham	F	6-8	210	Jr.	Spangle, WA / Liberty HS
13	Kyle Nickol	G	6-0	165	Jr.	Helena, Mont. / Capital HS
20	Patrick Colberg	F	6-8	215	Sr.	Missoula, Mont. / Hellgate HS
21	Brad King	F	6-8	210	Fr.	Dromana, Australia / Padua
22	Lorel Johnson	G	6-1	165	Sr.	Downey, Calif. / Cathedral HS
23	Ryan Imhoff	G	6-6	220	Sr.	Napa, Calif. / Napa HS
24	Matt Wyman	G	6-7	180	Jr.	Great Falls, Mont. / Great Falls HS
31	lfe Kalejaiye	G	6-2	168	Jr.	Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. / Cathedral HS
32	Alejandro Santos Piqueras	s F	6-8	195	R-Jr.	Madrid, Spain / Club: Estudiantes
43	Oliver Carr	F	6-6	205	Sr.	Bozeman, Mont. / Bozeman HS

Coaching Staff

Dr. Carson Cunningham: Head Coach
Jesse Repay: Lead Assistant Coach
Scott Menzies: Assistant Coach
Hasani Simmons: Assistant Coach



Saints coach Carson Cunningham has led the program to a Frontier Conference title.

Purdue Athletics

Insight into coach Carson Cunningham

ERIK C. ANDERSON 406mtsports.com

If a bachelor's degree in basketball existed, what course would you teach? Why?

History of U.S. Olympic hoops. I've spent a good minute looking at this topic and it's chockfull of fascinating characters and includes some fun battles. Through Olympics hoops you can get into a lot of other stuff, too – the global sports business, social issues, international relations, and more.

What's an item left on your basketball bucket list?

I have many. Discovering more about the game is one. Some day I'd get a kick out of seeing our five kids run a game a pick up perhaps (my wife) Christy and I could come in off the bench. Who is your biggest mentor?

Several. My late Grandpa, Jim "Popeye" Kirk, for one. When it comes to hoops, John Wooden, Gene Keady, and Brad Stevens are guys I've looked to draw from.

Which other coaches do you study?

Shaka Smart seems to have a great approach — Steve Kerr and Gregg Popovich, too.

What is the proudest moment as a coach?

That's hard to say. Working with the fellas is a joy. Any time you feel like you've impacted a student-athlete positively is sweet.

It's really fun when you see and feel and get to be a part of your squad fully engaged in a battle on the hardwood — ready, courageous, connected. It raises everyone up and can be drawn upon to help carry you through life.

What is your favorite basketball memory?

I have a lot of these, too. Battling through and winning big tourney games and road games as a player or coach is thrilling. Watching a team you coach make big plays and stretch its game is awesome. Growing up in Indiana and playing day after day with my buddies was a great way to spend summers. And, growing up, my parents let us have hoops all over the house – Nerf hoop in the bedroom, hoop in the basement, hoop in the garage, hoop on the side yard. It was fun. So there are a lot of fantastic hoops memories.

Insight into coach Rachelle Sayers

ERIK C. ANDERSON 406mtsports.com

If a bachelor's degree in basketball existed, what course would you teach? Why?

I would teach a leadership course. I think that especially for our female athletes it is imperative that they "find their voice". Being confident and having the ability to communicate under distress and in uncomfortable situations is so important to success on the basketball court, but even more important to their success off the court. Sports teaches us so many life lessons and if we can pass those lessons on and help our athletes become strong leaders, examples and mentors on the floor, they will continue to do that in their daily lives,

What's an item left on your basketball bucket list?

Winning a conference championship and winning a national championship are always the ultimate goals. I have had the privilege to coach some great players. I have been on a staff that has won conference titles, I coached in an NCAA and NAIA national tourney and it's an amazing experience. Not all coaches have had those experiences, so I am truly blessed to have been a part of those, but with that being said, I would love to win it all. I would love for our players to cut down nets and experience that: few have. We have a couple that have won a high school championship but winning at this level, with the grind that they go through daily, would be special.

Who are your biggest mentors?:

As a coach, I have quite a few, but personally, I probably have even more. I am not sure I could narrow my list to one. Obviously, professionally, my former Weber State head coach and boss, Carla Taylor is a huge part of the person I am today and I owe her a lot. She believed in me as a Class C point guard and helped me become an all-conference Division I player, and



which to me, is most important. Carroll women's coach Rachelle Sayers enjoys watching her players mature over the years.

then she believed in me again and gave me the opportunity to become a Division I college coach. So, I owe her a tremendous amount. I look up to so many people in this profession. Coach Turcott definitely is on that list. He has done so much here at Carroll and has done so much for me to help me grow in my first head coaching job. My best friend, Shannon Schweyen is definitely someone who I look up to and am always looking for advice and suggestions on how I can be better. Coach (Mike) Van Diest has been a huge mentor for me since I arrived at Carroll and obviously, my family is at the top of that list. They are the biggest factor in what I have been able to do and continue to do.

Which other coaches do you study?:

I study many. I love watching basketball, I love picking the brain of my college ages. I am very fortunate for the years I have spent around college basketball and the network I have been able to establish. Probably daily I am calling an old D-I friend for a drill, a play or just to talk through a strategy that I know they more knowledge on that I do. I watch a ton of film. Of course, I watch us, I watch our opponents but I also watch a lot of what other people are doing and why they are successful and can sustain success with what they do. I never want to stop learning; I never want to feel like this game or the athletes in general have passed me by.

Proudest moment as a coach?:

That is a tough one. There are so many. I mean every time one of my players crosses that stage and receives their diploma or walks out to me on senior night, or comes in my office to tell me about getting into grad school or the big moments in their life that have nothing to do with their successes on the court... it's those moments when I am the proudest. I am always proud of our players. They do so much in the community, they are rock stars in the classroom, they work their tails off on the court, but it's the other things that are the most memorable to me. Watching them from 17-18 year old in high school come here,

PLEASE SEE SAYERS, Page 7

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
10/30/2017	University of Montana (Exhib.)	Missoula, Mont.	L 48-55
11/2/2017	University of Utah (Exhib.)	Salt Lake City, Utah	L 46-70
11/4/2017	The College of Idaho	Caldwell, Idaho	W 48-37
11/5/2017	Boise State (Exhib.)	Boise, Idaho	W 62-61
11/8/2017	Saint Thomas University	Helena, Mont.	W 67-53
11/9/2017	Northwest University	Helena, Mont.	W 74-33
11/18/2017	Westmont College (Calif.)	Santa Barbara, Calif.	W 39-34
11/20/2017	The Master's College (Calif.)	Santa Clarita, Calif.	L 64-74
12/2/2017	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	L 42-53
12/3/2017	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	W 78-65
12/8/2017	Whitman College	Spokane, Wash.	L 55-59
12/9/2017	Whitworth University	Spokane, Wash.	W 78-56
12/19/2017	Menlo College	Waikiki, Hawaii	W 75-65
12/20/2017	Saint Xavier University (III.)	Waikiki, Hawaii	L 52-55
12/29/2017	University of Calgary	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
12/30/2017	University of Lethbridge	Helena, Mont.	7:00 pm
1/4/2018	University of Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/6/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/11/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/18/2018	University of Montana	Western Dillon, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/20/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Lewiston, Idaho	5:30 p.m.
1/25/2018	Montana Tech	Butte, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
1/27/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/1/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/3/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/7/2018	Montana Tech	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/9/2018	Rocky Mountain College (Mont.)	Billings, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/16/2018	Montana State University-Northern	Havre, Mont.	6:00 p.m.
2/17/2018	University of Providence (Mont.)	Great Falls, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/22/2018	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.
2/24/2018	Montana Western	Helena, Mont.	5:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S ROSTER

No. NAME	POS.	HT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGHSCHOOL
1 Bailey Pasta	PG	5-6	Sr.	Nampa, Idaho / Skyview HS
3 Jaidyn Lyman	PG	5-3	Fr.	Spokane, Wash. / Mount Spokane HS
4 Danielle Wagner	G	5-9	R-Fr.	Havre, Mont. / Havre HS
5 Michaela Dowdy	С	6-1	Sr.	Helena, Mont. / Capital HS
10 Christine Denny	PG	5-9	Fr.	Fairfield, Wash. / Liberty HS
11 Sara Chalich	G	5-6	Jr.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho / Coeur d'Alene HS
12 Taylor Salonen	F	6-1	So.	Kalispell, Mont. / Glacier HS
20 Mikaela Olson	G	5-8	Jr.	Lewistown, Mont. / Fergus HS
21 Cassidy Hashley	F	6-2	Sr.	Kalispell, Mont. / Glacier HS
24 Hannah Dean	С	6-1	Jr.	Gardiner, Mont. / Gardiner HS
25 Brittney Johnson	SG	5-7	Jr.	Spokane, Wash. / Ferris HS
30 Nikki Krueger	С	6-1	Fr.	Kalispell, Mont. / Glacier HS
33 Oona Harrington	F	5-11	So.	Spokane, Wash. / Gonzaga Prep HS
35 Molly McDermott	SG/F	6-2	Fr.	Spokane, Wash. / Gonzaga Prep HS
42 Mikaela Robinson	SG	5-9	Jr.	Billings, Mont. / Billings West HS

Coaching Staff

Rachelle Sayers: Head Coach	
Gary Turcott: Assistant Coach	
J.D. Solomon: Assistant Coach	
Joey O'Neill: Assistant Coach	

Men's power rankings

ERIK ANDERSON 406mtsports.com

Here's a look at how the Frontier Conference team are doing each week:

1. No. 4 Carroll College Saints

Carroll remains undefeated and has challenged itself this season. Even when the Saints haven't been at their best, they've been good enough to grind out wins. That will go a long ways in the Frontier Conference with that approach.

2. No. 11 Lewis-Clark State College Warriors

The Warriors hold their place as No. 2 in the conference. A pair of wins over Salish Kootenai College doesn't do much to their stock this week.

3. No. 17 Montana Western Bulldogs

The Bulldogs, like Carroll, played three games in three days during the nonconference slate. At the tail end of it, however, the Bulldogs took a loss to a strong The Master's squad at a neutral site. It keeps Western clearly in the three-spot until the Bulldogs can string some wins together.

4. Montana State-Northern Lights

The Lights don't move this week. Until conference restarts, the Lights will be in the middle of our power rankings.

5. University of Providence Argonauts

Normally we don't reward a team that hasn't played a game in weeks and is currently on a losing streak. The Argonauts though benefit with a onespot bump thanks to Rocky Mountain College dropping a pair.

6. Rocky Mountain Battlin' Bears

Rocky faced some troubles at the Cactus Classic, going 1-2 and losing to two very good teams. The neutral-site losses aren't terrible, but just when RMC looked like it may have turned the corner this season, two losses are a reason for pause.

Women's power rankings

ERIK ANDERSON 406mtsports.com

Here's a look at how the Frontier Conference team are doing each week:

1. No. 6 Lewis-Clark State College Warriors

The Warriors handled their business



7. Montana Tech Orediggers

Tech still needs some big-time wins to climb the power rankings. Perhaps Christmas will give the Orediggers what they need to rise in the New Year. against Salish Kootenai and are still the prohibitive favorite in the Frontier this season. Don't expect the Warriors to be dethroned before conference play resumes.

2. Rocky Mountain Battlin' Bears

The Battlin' Bears have played only one home game this season and have found a way to post a 9-1 record, giving them a rare two-spot jump in this week's rankings. Rocky played three games in three days on the road and came back to Billings with a 3-0 record, which puts their lone loss of the season in way back the rearview mirror.

3. No. 12 Montana Western Bulldogs

Western went 1-1 on a recent road trip, losing to La Sierra, which currently owns a losing record. The slipup drops the Bulldogs down a notch this week. Western did defeat No. 11 Westmont, which defeated La Sierra by 49 points. The head-scratcher of a week keeps the Bulldogs in the upper echelon this week.

4. No. 21 Carroll College Saints

The Saints are showing they can hang with deeply talented teams, but a 2-2 record since our last rankings means Carroll takes a hit this week. The Saints could gain some ground ahead of the conference season with a pair of Canadian schools coming to town.

5. University of Providence Argonauts

No exploits from the Argonauts this week. Nothing to see here. Moving on.

6. No. 22 Montana State-Northern Skylights

The Skylights defeated Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish twice in convincing fashion, but nobody expected them to do anything else. It will take some quality wins before the Skylights can work back up the power rankings.

7. Montana Tech Orediggers

Currently sitting in the bottom of the Frontier standings, and likewise filling out the bottom here. The Orediggers haven't played a game since Dec. 2 and won't play another until Dec. 28 (in Helena). You have to play to climb the rankings.

Carr

From 2

anxiety got the best of him. After that though, his confidence allowed him to move on.

"Once I had done it once I felt strong and felt confident," he said. "It was pretty easy to pick back up."

When his teammates scheduled times to be play basketball, Carr was there to rehab, isolated, but motivated to return.

"It's an individual sport," he said of rehabilitation. "You have to do it on your own."

That work ethic doesn't end on the physical side of the scale. The biology major – who coach Carson Cunningham affectionately dubbed The Dentist - will make a decision of where to attend dental school in the coming month.

In September and October if you checked out box scores, you noticed Carr's name absent in at least one game. Carr traveled to five schools, interviewing for dental programs. He traveled to Louisville, Washington, A.T. Still University in Arizona, Roseman University and UNLV.

"If you look how hard it is," Cunningham said of dental school acceptance, "it's harder than medical school right now. The fact he's got his choice of dental schools is really remarkable."

The feel of the school, cost, proximity to Montana and reputation of the school will factor into his decision. At least this



RMGPhotos.com Carroll College's Oliver Carr has been a strong inside force of the years.

much is certain, Carr's classroom performance have set him up for continued education after his career at Carroll comes to a close. Though the Saints still have

much to do this season.

Carr's career at Carroll has

changed each season. His freshman year, the first recruit Carson Cunningham brought to Carroll College, Carr became the freshman of the year in the conference with a career - best 15.1 points per game. His low-post scoring on his 6-foot-6 frame has been a steady part of his game.

How he's used – whether as a starter, a second-unit scoring leader or any other role - Carr has embraced each change with a positive attitude. He thinks he's started this year slower by his standards because of the injury and feeling out his role.

"It's figuring out where you fit into the team dynamic," he said.

He scored his 1,000th point this season, and helped the Saints get off to their best start in program history. He's been a part of a group that's won the Frontier Conference and now looks to defend repeat as champions.

Whatever role is thrown his way, he's accepted and contributed in a meaningful way. Now, he's playing in his final season hoping to see the Saints continue to make history.

"For some reason, I feel like we're better (than last season)," Carr said. "Not because we don't have Zach (Taylor), but having our seniors and have played for four years now and we know each other really well. Ryan (Imhoff) is playing unreal. We're meshing really well. We have each other figured out. That four years of playing together, has allowed us to be us this great team we are now. Hopefully we can continue our streak for the rest of the season."

Sayers

From 5

work through everything that life throws at them and to see them struggle, to watch them fail and then keep getting up time after time until they reach the end of their careers, those are the moments that make me the proudest and why I love what I do. I love watching kids believe in something, as much as I do,

and fight so hard to reach their goals and then when they get to the end, to know that in some small way I helped them see in themselves what maybe at times they couldn't.

Favorite basketball memory?:

Boy there have been a lot. I have spent the last like 30 years falling in love with this sport over and over, from playing high school alongside my sister, to being able to compete against and with some of the best basketball players in the country in college, then coaching... it's a long

list. I think your first big wins are always the best. I remember a police escort back for our bus from Pocatello when we won our first Big Sky Championship, to our first NCAA game versus Stanford. Our first NAIA win vs The Masters in Kentucky was a ton of fun; I'd have to say we really enjoyed our first Division I win vs Boise State this year. There are so many good memories, I hope that they just keep coming, I think it's a good thing if you can't name just one. I hope that continues.

Getting to know...

Ryan Imhoff Favorite food: Steak Music: The O'Henry Band

Show: SportsCenter Sport besides basketball: Soccer Basketball player: Kawhi Leonard

Place to go in Helena: Mt. Helena

Favorite outdoor activity: Golf

Major: Chemistry

Random talent that not a lot of people know about: "I'm a man of few talents." If you didn't play basketball how would you spend your time: Traveling and hanging out with friends Hardest thing you've ever done: Grandma's House (conditioning drill)



Carroll's Ryan Imhoff drives to the hoop for two points during Friday's game against Salish Kootenai College in Helena. Imhoff nearly recorded a triple-double, finishing with 17 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

Getting to know... Bailey Pasta

Favorite food: Pasta Music: R&B Show: Grey's Anatomy Sport besides basketball: Soccer Game to play besides a sport: NBA2K Basketball player: Michael Jordan Place to go in Helena: Staggering Ox Outdoor activity: Bike and swim Major: Psychology

Random talent: I can juggle basketballs.

One thing people don't know about you: I can write poems. I can rhyme pretty well.

If you didn't play basketball how would you spend your free time: Study and hang out with friends



BMGphotos.com

Carroll College's Bailey Pasta drives past St. Thomas' Marla Iglesias during Wednesday's game in Helena. The Saints downed the Bobcats 67-53.

Hardest thing you've ever done: Coming back from meningitis in 7th grade.

Independent Record helena n.com

Thursday, December 28, 2017



12 | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

SAINTS GAME DAY

