

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Senate Floor Speech on WWU Women's Basketball

March 24th, 2022

[\[VIDEO\]](#) [\[AUDIO\]](#)

Cantwell: Thank you, Mr. President. I come to the floor to talk about supply chain issues, but before I do, I wanted to say a word about March Madness and I'm pretty sure that most of my colleagues who know me think the next words out of my mouth are going to be something about a small Jesuit school in the eastern part of our state, but it's not. What I'm going to talk about is congratulating the Western Washington University Vikings women's basketball team Division Two final championship game players. The Vikings will be playing in the NCAA Division two championship after defeating North Georgia last night and a score of 74 to 68 and it was an outstanding performance by Brooke Walling, Emma Duff, and the entire team that represents people from all over our state. Emerson, Tumwater, Monroe, Vancouver Arlington, Marysville, Napa, Ferndale and various other places. I also want to congratulate head coach Carmen Dolfo, and who's been in, I think, 31st Season leading the Vikings and the fact that this is such a great accomplishment for the women of Western Washington.

I hope that we will continue to figure out ways to promote women's basketball in the NCAA tournament. I watched this game last night and saw a few people from our state who had made it there to cheer on the Vikings, but the stadium, the actual pavilion looked pretty empty and yet, I guarantee you it was great basketball. So we need to continue to encourage the NCAA to figure out ways to promote women's NCAA March Madness. There are great players, they're great teams, and they deserve to have the same kind of attention. So we'll look forward to cheering them on in that final NCAA Tournament, division two game.