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Bet CU hire Pointer knows a good chicken-fried steak

By [TOM KENSLE](#) |  1 Comment

Quick.

Where is Wayland Baptist University located?

Between which cities is Plainview, Texas situated?

It's going to be fun chatting with newly hired Colorado women's basketball assistant Johnna Pointer. Prior to working for the Hoop 10 Basketball – Serious Basketball Instruction program in Amarillo, Texas, Pointer was head coach at Wayland Baptist for seven seasons.

Wayland Baptist women's hoops (and other small colleges in the area) happened to be one of my first beats during a four-year stint at the Amarillo Globe-News beginning in the late 1970s. Plainview, home to Wayland Baptist, is located about midway between Amarillo and Lubbock.

It doesn't sound like a great gig now. But in those days covering Wayland Baptist was a plum assignment. Not only did Wayland Baptist compete in women's hoops in the highest classification (then AIAW, before the NCAA took over women's athletics), the Flying Queens were a national power.

At the end of the 1976-77 season, Wayland Baptist finished No. 7 in the women's basketball top 20 poll — the first-ever season of weekly polls for women's hoops. The Flying Queens topped that the following spring by finishing No. 2 behind Tennessee in the final poll for 1977-1978. Their amazing run ended with a No. 10 ranking following the 1978-79 season.

Long before Pointer arrived in Plainview, Wayland Baptist dropped down in classification and joined the NAIA. That was a sad day in Plainview.

The tradition of good women's basketball at Wayland Baptist apparently lives on because Pointer guided the Flying Queens to a record of 155-48 from 1996-2003. All seven of her teams finished the season among the NAIA top 25.

By the way, the women's basketball team at Wayland Baptist is called the Flying Queens because, compliments of a wealthy booster, it was one of the first women's hoops teams to fly to away games — on private aircraft.

One of the first questions I'll have for Pointer concerns whether there is still a K-Bob's Steakhouse in Plainview. I used to order the chicken-fried steak.

Hey, our travel budget at the Globe-News didn't allow for a KC Strip.

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