

ports notes

Football— Cougar stars of the week in the season ending game against Treasure Valley was center Wyatt Armstrong on offense and defensively was Mark Leroy. He was named for his consistency of play and for the leadership he recovered.

Quarterback—Buddy Patnode, the Cougar place kicker, punted for the first time this season in the game. However, he was named as the special teams player of the week.

Running Back—In the game against Mt. Hood, Lucky Richardson was named the offensive player of the week, Mark Leroy was named defensive and Gary Hagen was named as special teams player of the week.

Cougar All-Stars— Fullback Donny Fox, defensive tackle Keith Perkins, safety Mark Leroy and kickoff return specialist Stu Gassooin have all been named to the Northwest Junior Community College Athletic Association first team all-star team for the 1977 season.

Kelly Britz left last Friday for Los Angeles where he met the rest of the Canadian team and will journey with them to Australia. He will compete in the Australian-Canadian Games on Dec. 2.

While in Australia the team will train previous to the competition. Britz will compete in the 800 meters and has been preparing for the meet for nearly two months.

The women's track team will start their indoor season Jan. 28 at the Portland Invitational Indoor. Practices are held four days a week with distance runners also training on Saturday.

According to Coach Roger Smith the women lift weights on three days and run on two days with one day overlap.

The gym will be open this Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. All equipment will be checked out from the P.E. office. For details contact Paul Fiskum at Randall 291/237.

Basketball—Clackamas men's basketball team started out their season winning two games and dropping one.

The season opener was against Multnomah School of The Bible on Nov. 19. The Cougars won it 78-75.

Clackamas beat Columbia Basin 92-85 last Friday at home.

Their only loss was at the hands of Walla Walla on Saturday who outscored them 102-73.

The Cougars play Concordia Friday at 7:30 and Mt. Hood on Wednesday, also at 7:30. Both games will be played at home.

The wrestling team lineup has not been finalized but the team is practicing and meets its first competition on Dec. 3 at the Grays Harbor Invitational.

Depth on the team is good except in the lower weights. Coach Rich Taylor is hoping to build those weights by recruiting people specifically for those positions.

Coaches and players say season was better

The season started with both doubt and optimism for the College football team. They ended with a 3-5 record and the general feeling is that if the season were to start over they would improve their record considerably.

Major changes took place this year. Probably the biggest was a new head coach. Gery Gehrman replaced Dale McGriff who resigned last summer. The only person who remained from last year's coaching staff was Paul Fiskum.

Returning lettermen included running back Don Miller and Lucky Richardson, defensive back Rex Schade, defensive tackle Mark Dark, and defensive backs Steve Maynard and Mark Leroy.

Incoming freshmen included AAA Shrine players Don Fox and Marty Pinz at linebacker and AA All-Star Kevin Scheehear at quarterback.

At the outset of the season the problems of the school board really hurt us because we weren't able to recruit as well as we would have liked to," Gehrman said.

We lost perhaps 10 good football players and most were linemen."

The Cougars lost to last year's league champion Spokane Falls 21-0 and this year's runner up, Columbia Basin, 42-0 in their first two games.

At the first of the year we were small, but we were really quick and strong," Gehrman said. "We had high hopes and thought we could do well."

After our first two games, which we lost badly to Spokane Falls and Columbia Basin, we were really down and discouraged. I know the defense was getting on the offense because they had so many opportunities to get us into the ballgame but couldn't," he said.

The offense takes so long to get down at the first of the year," Maynard said. "Because they were a real young team and they weren't ready."

After the first two ballgames the team at Northwest Junior Community College

started playing with intensity and consistency and the breaks started going our way," he said. "We started winning ball games."

Indeed they did start to win. The following week the defense and the special teams came through with some big plays as they defeated Olympic 21-12.

Stu Gassooin returned 75 yards for a touchdown on the opening kickoff. Leroy and Pinz both had clutch interceptions after Olympic had battled back. Keith Perkins had 12 tackles and three quarterback sacks.

Against Yakima Valley the following Saturday the Cougars played in one of the many close games. They lost in two overtime periods 24-17.

The score was somewhat misleading. The Cougars had numerous chances to win, they were within Yakima's 10 yardline on three different occasions, but failed to score.

The Cougars trailed against Wenatchee Valley 29-7 the following week but came back to within 32-35. The game was not without its blessings as quarterback Brad Roberts and his offensive unit finally gained yardage. They totaled 251 yards passing on 22 of 42.

The Cougars got back on the winning side the following week as they rolled over Walla Walla 23-3. The defensive unit held their offense to just 41 yards on 35 carries and their passing game to 70 yards on 9 for 22.

This set the stage for the mini civil war game against Mt. Hood. The contest has been marked by competitiveness and fights.

"You play just a little harder when you know that you are going to be playing against one of your former high school teammates," Perkins said.

The Cougars front line with Perkins leading and free safety Leroy helping out turned over the ball to the Cougar offense for chances to score. Both players made 18 tackles with Perkins recovering three fumbles.

The Cougars ended the season with a hard fought victory over Treasure Valley 14-6. They had to play most of the game without Roberts and Richardson who were injured in the first half.

Defense was the key again as they repeat-

edly denied Treasure Valley any real scoring drives. In the final minute of play, the Cougars put on a last ditch goal line stand to ensure the victory and to finish the season with a 3-5 record.

The 1977 season also produced several record-breaking performances. Among the leading performers were wide receiver Gassooin and J Miller.

Miller gained 266 yards rushing this season (which led the team) and set a school career rushing record with 694 yards on 218 carries.

Gassooin set new records in just about every kick return department.

Gassooin, a freshman from Lake Oswego, recorded the longest kickoff return (95 yards), most kick off returns for a season (19), and the most yards returning kickoffs (519) and punts (124) for a season in Cougar history.

Sophomore Leroy set a school record for career interceptions with 13. He had six this season and seven last year.

"We began the season slowly because of the inexperienced offense, but I felt by the end of the year we could have beaten four of the five losses," Perkins said.

"We were 100 percent better by the end of the year," Schneider said. "I feel at the end of the year we had the best team in the league, definitely better than Mt. Hood. We would have given Columbia Basin a great game."

"Overall it was a good season because the team came together as a unit and played as a team. I felt everybody played just super, especially the frosh," said Wyatt Armstrong, Center.

"It was a good season considering the problems with the board. The coaches couldn't start recruiting until August. Also we had a lot of new coaches who weren't really able to help with the recruiting because they were new," Miller said.

"I'm just super proud of the effort of the kids we had and it was frustrating for the kids because of all those close losses," Fiskum said.

