

# Gumapac continues even after the season is over

Andy Frank  
Print

Tammy Hinds Gumapac is a volleyball player year round. When the season is over in the winter, Gumapac takes her hand up her shoes but continues playing in the United States Volleyball Association. Gumapac was born 20 years ago in Clackamas but spent most of her growing up in Redland. She spent her first high school years at Estacada High School. She transferred to Oregon High School and graduated in 1975 from there. Gumapac said that she first became interested in volleyball her sophomore year when she and friends decided that they wanted to go out for the volleyball team. She not only made the team but she started. Volleyball didn't like me as well as I thought it because I was very uncoordinated. It took a long time to learn how to play volleyball," Gumapac said. The USVBA is a league that teams are ranked by sponsors. The team is named and then determines the caliber of play. They register for either an A, B or AA division, depending on their determination. The teams play tournaments from September through April and there is a 1000 page limit. In the USVBA I saw my first competition because there were other teams in our division that were of a higher caliber and good enough to play in the Olympics," Gumapac said. She played the first time in the league during her junior year in high school.

Volleyball in the USVBA is extremely important to me because it allows me to play the sport I love year round. Besides its been a lot of fun," Gumapac said. In fact volleyball in the USVBA is so important that when I get a job I plan to work my schedule so that I can still play on the nights of the weekends."

Gumapac is a nursing student at the College. "I guess it all started in the seventh grade when I decided for some reason, that I wanted to be a nurse and an elementary school teacher," she said. "I figured that I would go to school for one year and become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and then work my way through four years and become a teacher," Gumapac said. "However, when I got to Clackamas and discovered how much I really liked nursing I decided not to go on for four more years to get my teaching degree," she said.

"Nursing has become so important and that if it wasn't for the fact that Clackamas didn't offer a nursing program I simply wouldn't be here," Gumapac said. The school's nursing program also brought Gumapac in contact with the Cougar volleyball team. "Besides coming for nursing, the volleyball coach, Connie Wilson, last year saw me play in the USVBA and offered me money to come to Clackamas to play volleyball," she said.

"When I came back this year I could immediately tell a difference. We had a new coach, but the biggest difference was that we had almost an entirely different team and all the problems were gone," Gumapac said. "Because we had so few players, we tended to bond together more and because of this bond we set a goal of reaching either the nationals or regionals," she said.

Teams generally play with 18 players. Rival Mt. Hood has 30 players on its team while Clackamas has only eight.

"The biggest problem is that Clackamas hasn't built up a name for themselves in volleyball and as a result a player with any skills at all won't come to Clackamas because of this lack of reputation," Gumapac said. Gumapac was shocked by the team's performance this year.

"I personally didn't think we were that good. I remember coming home from playing our matches and I'd say to my husband, 'I just don't understand it. We won again.'"



Tammy Hinds Gumapac

"I honestly didn't think we had a chance in the world to take regionals because I felt that we simply didn't have a national caliber team. However, we were better than all our competition and won regionals. It still came as a shock to me," Gumapac said. "The reason we won regionals is be-

cause we played better than we ever had before. In the finals against Ricks there was a real neat feeling. It was like we were supposed to be there and that there was no way in the world that we were going to lose. We won it and we had reached our goal," Gumapac said.

"I was very satisfied with the season," Gumapac said. "I reached my goals of learning how to serve a floater (a serve that acts like a knuckleball because it doesn't spin) and dive after balls.

"I have only one goal left and that is for the team to play well in nationals. For me, it is to get on the national all-star team. I feel my record will back me on that," Gumapac said.

"My only disappointment is all the injuries that I had and that the team had this season. Otherwise, I enjoyed it a lot more than I did last year."

Gumapac envisions herself as the leader and director of play on the court and as a player who responds best in in the toughest pressure situations.

"For some reason, people don't seem to bother me; they only inspire me to play better. I remember once that I was playing at Portland State for some USVBA tournament and there was a really good turnout. I had one of the best hitting nights because the crowd got me all fired-up."

"After each good hit I looked into the crowd to see if they thought it was as good a hit as I thought it was," Gumapac said.

Gumapac has received awards that include the Most Valuable JV Player at Estacada High School, All-State berths on Wilco League, Junior Region II USVBA, and state and regional northwest junior college teams.

In 1974 she played on the USVBA Region II State and Regional Championship. In 1976-77 she was a member of the Canadian-American team. Gumapac also had a chance to play for a pro volleyball team, the Seattle Smashers, but declined because it would void any chances to compete in the Olympics.

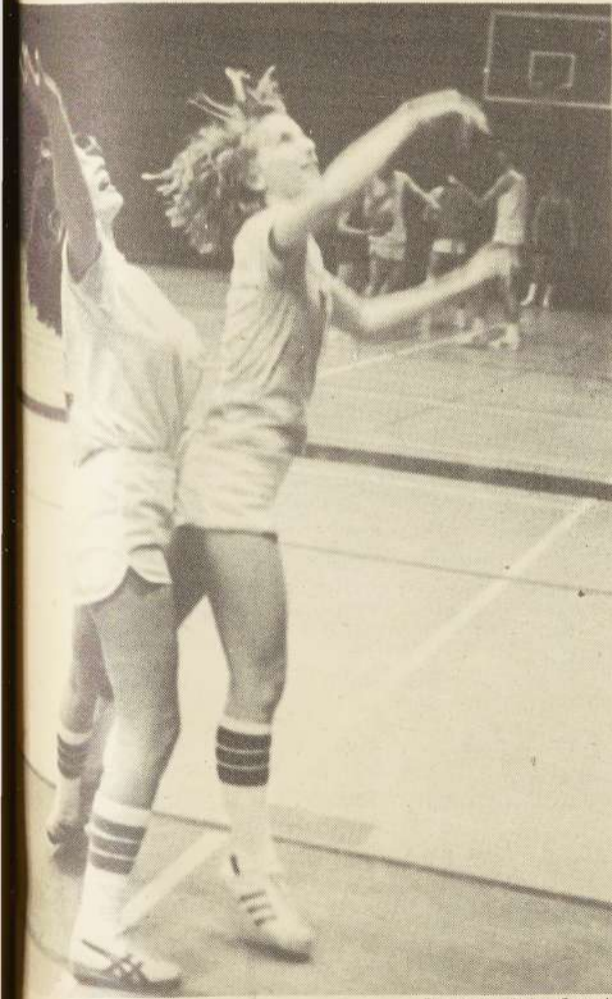


Photo by Brian Snook

Although it might look like some new modern dance, actually the women's basketball practice last Tuesday. First outing of the cagers is this Monday, Dec. 12 at Salem, taking on Willamette University.

## Women hoopsters full of optimism

Like its volleyball predecessors before it, Clackamas Community College women's basketball team faces a season full of doubts, but there is always optimism to be found.

"I'm very optimistic about our chances this season because this team has more depth, strength and ability than previous Clackamas teams and their eager winning attitude will make our team tough to beat," said second year head coach Nancy Mikleton.

The doubts spring from the fact that this year's squad has only one returning player from last year's 8-8 team. As a result, Mikleton has had to start from the beginning and rebuild with new players.

"Last year I had seven strong players that I could always count on, but the rest of the team I was afraid to put in any condition," Mikleton said.

"This year we have a lot more depth in the fact that the whole team is so balanced in their talents that it will be tough to pick a starting five," Mikleton said.

In addition to depth, Mikleton feels that this year's team will have more strength and ability. One of the reasons for this prediction is 5-10 freshman Tammy White.

Already one of the best volleyball players in the state, White's height plus her considerable

strength should give the Cougars one of the strongest center positions in the league. She is also a fine shooter.

A couple of added strengths appeared in the form of walk-ons Cindy Fitzpatrick and Aaron Gamby.

"Cindy and Aaron are really unexpected bonuses in the fact that we didn't recruit them and they just simply showed up for practice one day," Mikleton said.

"However, as it turns out, they are both fine players who have had basketball experience and should add a lot to our club," she said.

In addition, Mikleton is very hopeful about two former track stars who haven't quite decided yet whether they want to come out yet-Barb Young and Vicky Pad-dick.

"We are not quite sure if they are coming out, but they could add a lot to our team because, unlike many of the girls, both Barb and Vicky are in very good shape as a result of their track season and should be ready to play almost immediately," Mikleton said.

"The return of Carol Razio will also add a lot to the team both as a player and because of her playing experience from last year," she said.

Mikleton sees two other assets which will make this year's squad

tough to handle and that's scrappy and aggressive play and their fired-up attitude.

"This team is going to be pretty scrappy on defense and they will not be afraid to take chances, to be sometimes aggressive on occasions and to get into foul trouble, but that's the risk you take for playing this game to always win," Mikleton said.

"Their fired-up, eager-to-win attitude came as a result of the big successes of the womens volleyball and cross country teams doing so well and now this team figures that they can do the same thing," Mikleton said.

The teams first game is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12, when they take on Willamette University in a 7 p.m. game at Salem.

However, the team's first big competition takes place on Dec. 29 and 30 when the Cougars take part in the She-Devil Classic at Lower Columbia Community College in Longview, Wash.

Scheduled to participate are some Washington Community Colleges and some of the big name colleges from around the area.

"I look forward to that tournament for several reasons. One is the fact that tournament always has good caliber of basketball and should be a real test of our ability," Mikleton said.

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