

By Randy Frank  
Of The Print

It was just another typical game for the world's best basketball team.

Down by 13 at halftime, the Portland Trailblazers, the defending NBA champions, were digging themselves even farther in-to the hole as the Boston Celtics have scored the first two buckets of the half and now own a 17 point lead, 65-48.

Then, suddenly the Blazers were right back in the game as the man they call the "Enforcer", Maurice Lucas finally began finding the bucket for 14 third quarter points. Coupled with some strong defense, the team from Portland found themselves in the lead as they went on to win in overtime, 107-103.

It is the ability to come from behind against impossible odds that has marked the Portland Trailblazers as the true champions of the NBA.

This factor really became apparent last summer during the NBA championship series when the Philadelphia 76ers grabbed a seemingly insurmountable two game to nothing advantage.

The fact was that only one other team had ever come from two games behind to win the title.

The Trailblazers did it and set a record as they won it in four straight games.

This season the Blazers would not be 33-6 and leading the Pacific Division by seven games without being able to come from behind.

In the past couple of weeks, this factor has really become apparent, as the Blazers have come from behind in six out of their last eight contests.

Wednesday, Dec. 28, the Blazers were playing the Detroit Pistons on the road and for the first time in the season, Bill Walton was missing from the lineup.

Trailing by as many as 10 points, the Blazers came from behind as starters Maurice Lucas and Lionel Hollins scored seven points each in the closing minutes to lead Portland to victory.

But perhaps the most famous game of the season was played on Jan. 3 when the Blazers were trailing the Chicago Bulls by four points. With only 13 seconds left, the Blazers scored six straight points to win 99-97.

Jan. 7 the Trailblazers were trailing the Detroit Pistons by eight points with about three minutes left in the ball game. The Blazers rattled off 11 straight points in the closing moments of the ball game to win 109-105.

On Friday, Jan. 13, the Washington Bullets proved to be simply too much for the Blazers as they won, 102-93.

However, the Bullets had at one time built up a 19-point lead and saw it slowly melt away as the charging Blazers closed the gap to within four points with 1:38 left to play in the game.

The Blazers could come no closer as it was at that point in the game that the sparkplug in the Blazers' comeback rally -- Hollins -- received his sixth foul and had to leave the game.

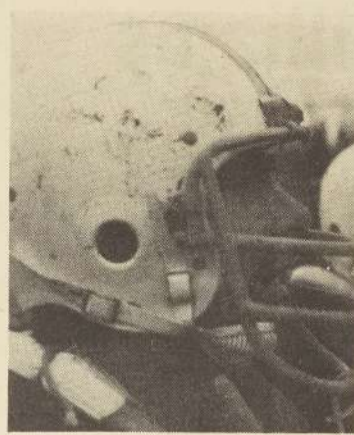
With the season nearing the halfway point, there is a lot of talk about the possibility of Portland setting an NBA record for the best win-loss record or even more likely, a Portland dynasty.

One has to remember that it never comes easy and that the mark of a true champion is that uncanny ability to win when winning is next to impossible.

Trailblazer  
enthusiasm  
and  
quick  
comebacks  
mean  
victory

## Mark Leroy signs with the Cornhuskers

Mark Leroy started out the new year right. On Jan. 1 Leroy, a CCC free safety, signed a letter of intent to the University of



Mark Leroy with Cornhuskers

Nebraska.

Leroy received a full scholarship to the Big Eight school and is presently enrolled there. While at Clackamas he earned All-League

honors and was an honorable mention All-American.

"Mt. Hood coaches originally talked to Nebraska about Mark Steve Maynard, a Clackamas team mate, said. "Then Paul Fiskum (the defensive coach for Clackamas) called and said they wanted to see him."

The Cornhuskers have a reputation for impressive national ranking along with excellent facilities, coaching staff and financial backing. They sent Leroy a ticket and he was impressed with what he saw. Together, with his family, he decided to sign with them.

"Mark wasn't even aware the University of Southern California and Washington State had contacted him though," Maynard said.

According to Maynard, Mark felt that Clackamas was a good stepping stone and that because he did well here he was able to go on to a major university.

## Wrestlers take meets

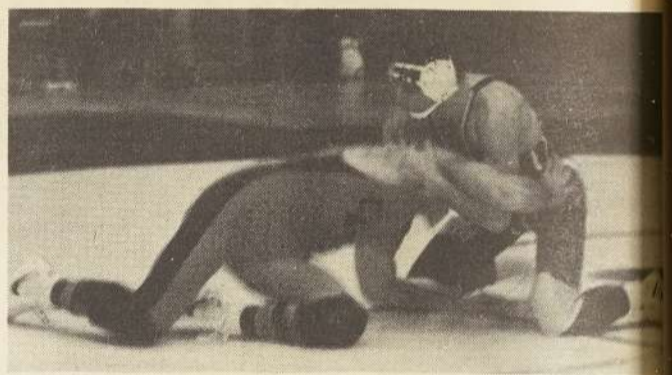
The Clackamas Community College wrestling team picked up their biggest win of the season as they defeated Central Oregon Community College 33-18 Friday night keeping their undefeated string against Oregon community colleges alive.

The Cougars, who have never lost to an Oregon community college, knew they faced a tough

opponent at 134 pounds who pulled rib cartilage. He was in control at the time.

This loss turned out to be very critical as Clackamas battled the California school even throughout the rest of the meet and lost 28-19.

Turning in good efforts were Ron Geister, with a 6-1 decision over Pete Barrazas at 150 pounds



Rocky Schneider, 167 pounder, breaks down Brian Johnson enroute to his victory last Friday.

battle against Central Oregon with former Cougar wrestler Joe Davis. They were rated as the team to beat in the race for the state title.

However, Clackamas was not to be denied as Bill Bowers won the first match of the evening and the Cougars never looked back. The fired up Cougars turned on the most impressive team effort of the season.

Putting the finishing touches on for the Cougars were 158-pounder Tim Jones, who pinned Kent Hill at 1:48 in the first round. Rocky Schneider also had a fall at the :50 second mark of the third period over Brian Johnson in the 167 pound weight class.

The most impressive effort was turned in by Craig Wallace who battled Joe Davis point for point before losing on a controversial decision, 11-9. The controversy occurred when Wallace apparently had a near fall over Davis but the referee was not in the position to see it.

The Cougars also turned in good efforts on Saturday but in vain, as Clackamas lost to four-year schools, Sacramento State and Oregon College of Education.

Against Sacramento State, the difference in the meet was in the very first match when Bill Bowers

Tim Jones, with a major decision at 158, and Craig Wallace pinned Tim Paulson at 190.

Jeff Burgsma battled last year's California Community College champion in the heavyweight class, Ken Harvuck. He lost 6-4. Harvuck went on and later beat a wrestler who was a three-time U.S. Olympian by the identical score.

Another former Cougar, Jeff Harmon, eliminated Clackamas as his victory over Craig Wallace gave OCE a 24-18 win.

The meet was close all the way, as victories by Geister and Jones kept the Cougars in contention until Harmon's victory in the next to last match.

According to Head Coach Rich Taylor, it was a very good experience for the team because it showed them just how good they could be.

Next competition is against the College of Idaho Friday night at the gym. On Saturday, CCC hosts the largest community college invitational tournament on the West Coast. All the community college teams from Washington and Oregon are invited, as are junior varsity teams from Oregon, Oregon State, Portland State, Pacific, Oregon College of Education and College of Idaho.

Clackamas Community College

## Hoopsters show improvement

Teamwork and high scoring made the difference as Clackamas' mens basketball team registered two wins last week.

Saturday night, Dan Slick sunk 31 points to lead the Cougars to an 85-62 home win over Judson Baptist. Jeff Nilsen, a consistent performer, threw in 16 for the non-league victory while Jim Coffman had 11.

"I didn't really feel that we played a strong game," said Coach Len Tirrill. "We lacked consistency but we got the job done."

"We played strong in some areas and in others we were weak. Part of the time we played well in the areas and part of the time we didn't," Tirrill said. "It's always nice to win but it just wasn't a sterling defeat."

Preston Martin tallied 21 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the win against Chemeketa 97-62 in Salem last Wednesday. Martin also held the Chiefs' 6'10" Keith Williams to eight points and nine rebounds.

Slick, CCC's leading scorer, tossed in 19 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Nilsen put in 24 points to carry the Clackamas offense.



Photo by Brian Snook

The Cougars literally smashed Judson Baptist here last Saturday, 85-62. Jeff Nilsen (40) uses another Judson Baptist player as a lounge chair as Dan Slick attempts to assist in securing the ball for Clackamas. Slick led the Cougars in the rout with 31 points along with several assists and rebounds.

