

sports

Kickers await next year

Kelly Laughlin
The Print

After upsets to the likes of Judson Baptist and Lane Community College, the college soccer team will head to Lewis and Clark College for the final game of regular season play Friday. The two teams pulled back their current season record to 2-6-1.

The recent defeats have shaken the squad's overall confidence. Coach Richard Taylor says this year has "been a good building year."

"They're a young team. When we started this year, very few of them had any actual experience in soccer. At the team had to overcome individuals outdoing team. Then we had too much teamwork, passing and such, not enough actual scoring attempts," he said.

In the last week of play, though, the coach saw "communication" as the team's most evident difficulty.

"We had some good teamwork at times, but the other teams just seemed to want the ball more," he said.

A letdown in confidence came after 15 minutes of control early in the game against Judson Baptist. "As soon as the other team scored, our team got the impression that they had lost the game. It became even more difficult to shake off the anxiety, when they scored three more goals in as little as three minutes," Taylor said.

Communication is crucial, especially in soccer, according to Taylor.

"They have to keep talking out there in order to keep the ball moving up the field, and,



Cougar soccer players take the ball downfield in a practice session.
Photo by John Bosserman

as a result, know when people are open," he said. Taylor also cited that with a young team like his, a loss comes harder. "It does a lot to their desire for a win," he said.

Injuries, though not a major factor in letdown of the team's performance, has been part of it. Ken Froescher, with six stitches from the recent P.C.C. game, was only able to play the first half against Lane. Randy Dorin, coping with 16 stitches in his head was unable to move the ball with it. Sirous Salem, was in no condition to perform on the field, with stitches in his arm and leg. "We couldn't use him for more than 10 minutes in either game," he said.

The coach said that for Friday's game, the team will work to "stop hanging their heads and generate the offense for an early score. If we can do this, it will be more difficult for the other team to get anything going against us."

With five solid freshmen--Eric Baker, Gary Regier, Doug Hostetler, Froescher and Randy Dorse, Taylor is optimistic for next year.

"These guys will make up the heart of next year's team," he said. "They're some excellent players."

Male Cougar runners peaking

Mark McNeary
Sports Editor

Momentum has anything to do with a team's success, the Clackamas Men's cross-country team certainly has an edge going into this weekend's state regionals in Coos Bay.

The Cougars ran away with Saturday's meet winning easily 56 over Portland Community College, the second place team. Three other teams entered in the meet but none of them could not record a win because of a lack of runners.

Doug Oberst and Dave Johnson finished one and two, respectively for Clackamas, while Mark Allen came in four-

th.

"These kids ran real well, as they always do," coach Buck Monroe said. "Mark had a real strong day and Doug and Dave, well they did too."

Kieth Self finished a strong eighth for the Cougars and Monroe felt his effort was a marked one.

"Keith had his best run ever," Monroe said. "He was our number four team finisher. His improvement over the season has been fantastic."

Sickness and injury had been a worry for Monroe before the meet with Joe Rubrecht and Dan Cobine ailing, but afterwards Monroe was re-assured.

"Dan and Joe ran in this

meet just for the work-out," Monroe said. "But they looked pretty good anyway, and they should be up to par for next week."

Saturday's first place effort, coming this close to state and regional competition and at a time when the team was not at full strength, is sure to give the Cougars momentum, but confidence is a key attainment here, too.

"I'm confident we can do well, and, after Saturday the team has to be, too," Monroe said.

The Cougars have a lot going for them going into this weekend's big meet. Momentum, confidence and health are three of the major attributes a

cross-country team strives for. And if the old tried and true characteristics of a winner are still worth anything, the Clackamas men's cross-country team could be on its way to the nationals.

Cougar women work out

The Clackamas Women's cross-country team ran in a meet against Chemeketa last Saturday, but because only one runner was entered for Chemeketa, no scores were kept.

Meg Cooke, last year's second place finisher in the national 3,000 meter run, finished third, for Chemeketa.

For the Cougars, Lisa Nickel and Sally Arthur finished one and two, respectively, and were followed closely by the rest of the Clackamas team. A total time difference of only 1:41 was recorded between the first and last place finishers.

"We were just running against ourselves really," Coach Roger Smith said. "It was kind of like practice."

The Cougars must now get ready for this weekend's state and regional meet in Coos Bay.

"Our whole season is right

now. Everything we've worked for is either going to pay off or not pay off this weekend," Smith said.

The health of the team is good overall, but the condition of Julie Larkin, who has been sidelined with a sore neck, remains doubtful.

"Julie has been hurting and we should know before Friday if she'll be able to run," Smith said.

Asked about his outlook on the team's chances, Monroe replied positively but realistically.

"We're optimistic, with some reservations," Smith said. "I feel confident but we are going to have to work on our pack running to win."

"There's really not much you can say about a meet like this, it is all or nothing, but, hopefully, we'll have a lot to say next week," Smith said.

Hopefully indeed.

V-Ballers win tourney

The Colleges women's volleyball team prepped for this weekend's big league match at Central Oregon Community College in a big way by winning the COCC round-robin tournament last Saturday.

On Saturday's first match, the Cougars gained revenge for a loss earlier in the season by beating host team COCC 15-

10. The College then went on to defeat Umpqua Community College 15-0, 15-1; Linn-Benton 15-5, 15-10; and Oregon Institute of Technology 15-13, 15-4.

"We played real good volleyball," said coach Mary Rubright. "It takes quite a bit to win through a tourney like that into the finals, but we did it."

In the semi-finals the Cougars again faced OIT and after

losing the first game, their only loss of the day, went on to win handily, 15-4, 15-3.

"Karren came in when Monica (Reed) fell into some chairs," Rubright said. "She did a great job of setting and staying aggressive. She hasn't played that much this year and so I was real pleased."

In the finals, the Cougars faced COCC, and once again the Cougars had little trouble in disposing of them in two games, 15-7, 15-12.

The play of Lisa Laurent was a major factor in the Cougs first place finish.

"Lisa had the best all-around tournament of anyone," Rubright said. "She played very intelligently and varied her attack real well. I was happy to see her come on."

Monica Reed also had an especially good day.

"In two of the games Monica

served our first nine points and in the Umpqua match she served the first ten. So she did real well too," Rubright said. "It was just an overall good effort by the whole team."

The Cougars also split a pair of matches last Wednesday, beating Clark Community College and falling to Mt. Hood in two non-league encounters.

This weekend the Cougars finished out their league schedule at home with matches on Friday versus COCC and Umpqua beginning at 3 p.m. and Saturday versus Linn-Benton also at 3 p.m.

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