

sports

But no cigar

Women come close to title

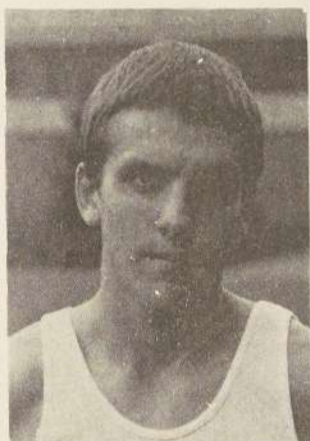
Close, but no cigar... or cigar yet, close, but no championship. Such was the case for the women's cross country team Saturday in Champagne, site of the 1978 National Junior College Athletic Association's cross country championships. The Cougars, defending NJCAA national champions, had their hearts out but came short, finishing second to Dodge City, Kan., 48-51. Golden Valley Lutheran, Minn., finished a distant third with 77 points. Lisa Nickel, sophomore sensation from LaSalle High School, led the Cougar girls with a third place finish, repeating her performance at last year's NJCAA finals. Leandra Barinaga, freshman from Ontario, was next as she finished in the 11th spot. Freshman Rhonda Weidman from Lake Oswego was the next Cougar runner, placing 16th, and Mary Hanson of Reedsport followed, coming in a tight 18th place. Sally Arthur, sophomore from Beaverton and eighth place finisher last year, ran to 21st place while freshman Julie Moreheart, a sprinter from Tacoma, Wash., finished 24th. Rounding out the Cougar runners was sophomore Barb Rost from West Linn with a strong 41st place finish. Disappointed at first, the Cougars realized that finishing second is still an excellent performance. "At first, we were a bit let down," said Barinaga. "But we did finish second and that's pretty good." "We were very disappoint-

ted," said head coach Roger Smith. "That was the Clackamas girls' first defeat in cross country or track since the inception of the program." Though disappointed not to repeat as champions, Smith was pleased with the performance of some of his girls. "Lisa Nickel ran extremely well. She has a lot of potential," said the women's coach. "I learned a great deal about Lisa at nationals. I wish I could coach her for two more years. "Rhonda and Mary came through for us, too," offered Smith. "They ran really well." Although Clackamas finished second, they didn't run at full strength. Injuries to Vickey Paddock and Julie Larkins, plus the loss of Angella Cotton very early in the year, greatly hampered the Cougars' chances of a repeat

performance. Paddock of Klamath Falls and Larkins of Forest Grove ran consistently in the top six all year, while Cotton, a 14th place finisher at last year's nationals, quit the team for personal reasons. "We went in with some injuries," said Smith. "Had we been 100 percent healthy, nobody in the country would have touched us." Smith is looking forward to track season, where his team must face the challenge of defending another national championship, which the Cougars won last year. "These girls are the finest group of athletes I've ever been associated with," commented Smith. "That includes football, anything. They're coachable. It's a pleasure to work with them." Those are big words of praise from a man who has

worked with athletes like Fred Lynn, all-star centerfielder for the Boston Red Sox. Smith's standards are high, as evident at disappointment in being the second best team in the country. The challenge of

defending last year's track championship will be met in the same way that defending the cross country title was met, with confidence. Chances are that CCC will be somewhere near the top.



Dave Ellison



Doug Oberst

Oberst, Ellison race in nationals

In the men's national meet, Clackamas' own Dave Ellison and Doug Oberst finished 79 and 113, respectively, out of the field of 300. Otis Sanders of Hagerstown Community College won the race but had to use his best kick to win at the wire over Southern Idaho's Jario Correa. "Those two dueled the whole race and nobody else was really close to them," Clackamas men's coach Buck Monroe said. "Sanders just outkicked him at the end." While Sanders and Correa

dominated the race, the team champ was Southwest Michigan while Lane Community College, the Northwest regional champ, tied for fourth. "Lane did a tremendous job," said Monroe. "I was really surprised." Dave Magnes, Lanes' top runner, finished 16 overall, but Monroe had only the best to say for his runners. "Dave and Doug did a fine job of representing our team," Monroe said. "But I just hope that next year the whole team will be there."



Photo by Greg Klenzle

Basketball team prepares for season opener Nov. 29.

Netters come up too short

By Mark McNeary
Print Sports Editor
Last weekend in Ontario the Clackamas Women's Volleyball team found out what "experienced" means. The Cougars traveled to Treasure Valley Community College for the regional championships and, against a team with five returners from last year's second place regional team, very nearly won a second straight national berth. In the regional finale versus Clackamas Community College, Clackamas showed their "green" in losing straight games 10-15, 8-15. "We played well but we were awed by the whole situation," Coach Mary Rubright said. "We were just drawn to ourselves a little too much. We didn't seem fired up throughout and I think we were

just a little uptight," she said. The Cougars really didn't play that bad, however, as Rubright explains. "We played pretty well really," Rubright said, "but we had a long wait before the final and we just came out on the short end of too many long rallies." In getting to the finals, the Cougs had to knock off some pretty distinguished teams, one of them being league arch-rival Lane Community College. On Friday, Clackamas split a match with Treasure Valley, losing the first game 14-16 and coming back to win the second 15-5. In the nights' second match the Cougs intimidated

co-champion Lane 15-6, 15-12. Clackamas then lost to Ricks 13-15, 6-15 but due to a complicated pattern of wins and losses in the rest of the tourney, Clackamas was able to reach the semi-finals opposite Treasure Valley. "We played very well," said Rubright of the 15-5, 15-6 victory. "It was a good sign to play that well in the semis, but in the lay-off before the finals, we just tightened up." Monica Reed, Nancy Perkins, and Kelly Kosik all made the regional first team and Rubright had good things to say about the trio. "Monica, Nancy and Kelly

played fantastic," Rubright said. "They played up to potential and deserved to make the first all-region team." "Sue (Shirley) and Lisa (Laurent) also had a good tourney," Rubright said. "Sue played well in the back court and Lisa performed well all around." The future is a bright one for the young Cougs and Rubright, as well as the rest of the team, is looking forward to

it. "Next year we won't be so new to the whole experience of the regionals," Rubright said, "and everybody on the team is confident we'll be back in it again." Even though the season is virtually over for the Cougars, they do play a re-scheduled match tonight at Linfield. "It ought to be fun," Rubright said, "and we can start looking at next year's team."

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