

# sports

In a close one . . .

## Cougars fall to SWOCC

By Mark McNeary  
Of The Print

"We simply were not mentally ready for this game," were the words Coach Len Tirrill used to describe the Clackamas men's basketball loss to Southwestern Oregon Community College at Randall Gym Saturday night.

The Cougars, after slipping by a tough Linn-Benton ball club Friday by a score of 87-76, and upping their league record to 2-0, had a chance to take over sole possession of first place Saturday when they met SWOCC. But it just wasn't to be. Despite valiant efforts by Johnny Williams, Dan Slick, and Tom Tirrill, the Cougs fell victim to their own mental block in losing 81-79.

"We were not psyched up and not ready mentally," Tirrill. "Not only that, we failed to do the three things we had hoped to do before the game. We didn't go to our running game early, we didn't set the tempo of the game, and we just stood around on defense."

The Cougars were not without some bright spots, however, as Johnny Williams popped in a season high 20 points to lead the team in scoring. Dan Slick and Tom Tirrill also added 16 points in the losing cause. Slick was team high in rebounds with 14.

Friday night Clackamas looked like a completely different team, however. Using an aggressive type of game plan, the cougs completely outplayed host Linn-Benton in grabbing the victory.

"We played well in every department of the game," said Tirrill. "Not only did we play as a team, but we played a very intense game. We pressured them well and in the end they gave way to that pressure," he said.

Once again Dan Slick played a good all-around game as he scored a career high 34 points and also tallied 16 rebounds. Williams also played well in the game as he hit for 19 points and collected 14 rebounds.

Had not the Cougars lost Saturday, it would have been a perfect weekend for the team, but Tirrill offered no excuses.

"There just isn't any excuse for it," he said. "Sure, SWOCC is a good team but, as usual, we should have beaten them. We still don't have any one player who is playing good in every outing. We only play team ball in spurts and that's the only time we look like we should," said Tirrill.

Clackamas is still in the thick of things, though, and Tirrill thinks that with the right mental attitude, they might be able to pull it off.

"I'm not one to predict, but we are capable of winning if we can just play up to potential and keep our heads on straight. Our success right now depends on our mental attitude and how well we get ready for good competition," he said.

Earlier in the month the Cougars had gotten their league schedule off to a good start by

defeating Central Oregon Community College in Bend, 89-76.

This week Clackamas will play two league games as they will host Judson Baptist Community College at 8 p.m. before facing

## Hoopsters grab weekend wins

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Led by the all-around play of Tami White, the Clackamas women's basketball team upped their record to 3-0 this weekend, dumping Linn-Benton Friday in Albany, and Southwestern Oregon Community College Saturday at home.

On Friday, White scored 15 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to aid the Cougars in whalloping Linn-Benton 63-47. Saturday White scored another 15 points and grabbed an incredible 19 rebounds as SWOCC fell prey to the Cougs' offensive onslaught. Clackamas drilled the Southern Oregon team 63-42.

"Tami played real well this weekend," said Coach Nancy Mikleton. "She scored well and did an outstanding job on the boards. Her game has really picked up, especially offensively."

Against Linn-Benton, the Cougars started slow as they fell behind early, but they soon got on track and came back to lead 24-22 at the half. Clackamas then outscored the host team, 39-25, in the second half to clinch the victory.

"We started slow but we did a good job of coming back," said Mikleton. "In the second half we gained some momentum by making a few steals which led to some break-away baskets. That helped up a lot."

Dana Folmsbee collected eight of those steals which led to baskets. Cindy Kirkpatrick and Debbie Syring also had three each.

Besides White's 15 points, Debbie Syring pitched in with 12. Kirkpatrick, Nancy Perkins, and Folmsbee scored nine, eight, and seven points respectively.

"We had some pretty balanced scoring in this game and that is a promising sign. We're starting to play as a team more. We really played well," Mikleton said.

Saturday the Cougars started fast and then coasted as they jumped to a 36-11 time lead in beating SWOCC. Clackamas completely dominated the first half and was able to play some of its team members with extra playing time. SWOCC, however, outscored the Cougs 31-27 in the second half.

"We let up in that second half," said Mikleton. "We play some of the other teams who don't play much but still should have been able to keep the heat on."

Scoring was blanketed out by Kirkpatrick's 14 points and Perkins' nine. Mary Martin and Syring also hit for 12 each. Perkins bulled down the boards to add to her 12 rebounds on Friday while Lisa Folmsbee pulled down nine caroms.

Clackamas, who is leading the league in field goal percentage, shot over 40 percent from the floor in the two games. Mikleton, however, does not have room for improvement on her charity stripe.

"Our free throw percentage isn't as good as our field goal percentage," she said. "It could bring up our percentage in that area we could really be starting to gell."

In the Cougars' first league game a few weeks ago, Cindy Kirkpatrick scored a career high, 22 points, and fed off seven assists as Clackamas downed Central Oregon Community College, 78-58.

The Cougars next game will be this Saturday against Judson Baptist Community College in Roseburg.

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