

# Grapplers open confidently

By Kelly Laughlin  
Of The Print

With a 4-0-1 record compiled as of presstime, the CCC men's wrestling team is gearing up for "the toughest schedule of matches in the team's history," said Coach Norm Berney.

Tonight they face defending Washington conference champion, Columbia Basin College. On Saturday they host one of the largest tournaments in the West Coast, including 15 Oregon and Washington squads. Grappling begins at 10 a.m. On Jan. 27, Berney's matmen will go against what he considers "probably our toughest match of the season against Idaho at North Idaho. North Idaho is currently the defending national champion. It will be really the supreme test of our wrestling ability," said Berney.

The CCC grapplers' previous four matches have been dandies. Pitted against Portland State, who had on hand seven varsity wrestlers, the Clackamas squad edged them 26-19.

By presstime, the CCC team will have gone against PSU again and Kevin Benson, National Greco Champ, who at their previous encounter was out due to an injury. The match with PSU, according to the CCC coach, was really a comeback effort. The squad was desperately behind 19-3 going into the 158-pound division. "But with three falls and a major decision, we won it. Our upper weights have really been doing excellent," Berney said. But that is not to discredit the lower weights. They have been doing well, too, but have been faced with tougher matches.

The other three matches resulted in more clean-sweep victories. The Clackamas grapplers doused Columbia Christian, 42-9, Umpqua, 39-5, and Southwestern Oregon Community College, 35-6. The Mt. Hood match scheduled to take place last Tuesday was cancelled due to bad weather.

Berney sees a definite advantage in the post-vacation start of season workouts.

"Where most teams may begin to slow down who have been wrestling three and four months, we'll reach our peak later, and possibly be more hungry towards the end," he said.

Two weekends ago the Cougars opened their season with a fairly hearty appetite, pouncing the likes of Lane Community College 32 to 6, and tying 18-18 to Gray's Harbor in Aberdeen, Wash. Berney describes the Grays Harbor squad as "always giving us a good match."

Though purely more competition is needed for the team to find its relativity with other competitors, "better execution of our offense, team spirit, and

going out there as a winner" are the key ingredients in Berney's wrestling plan this season.

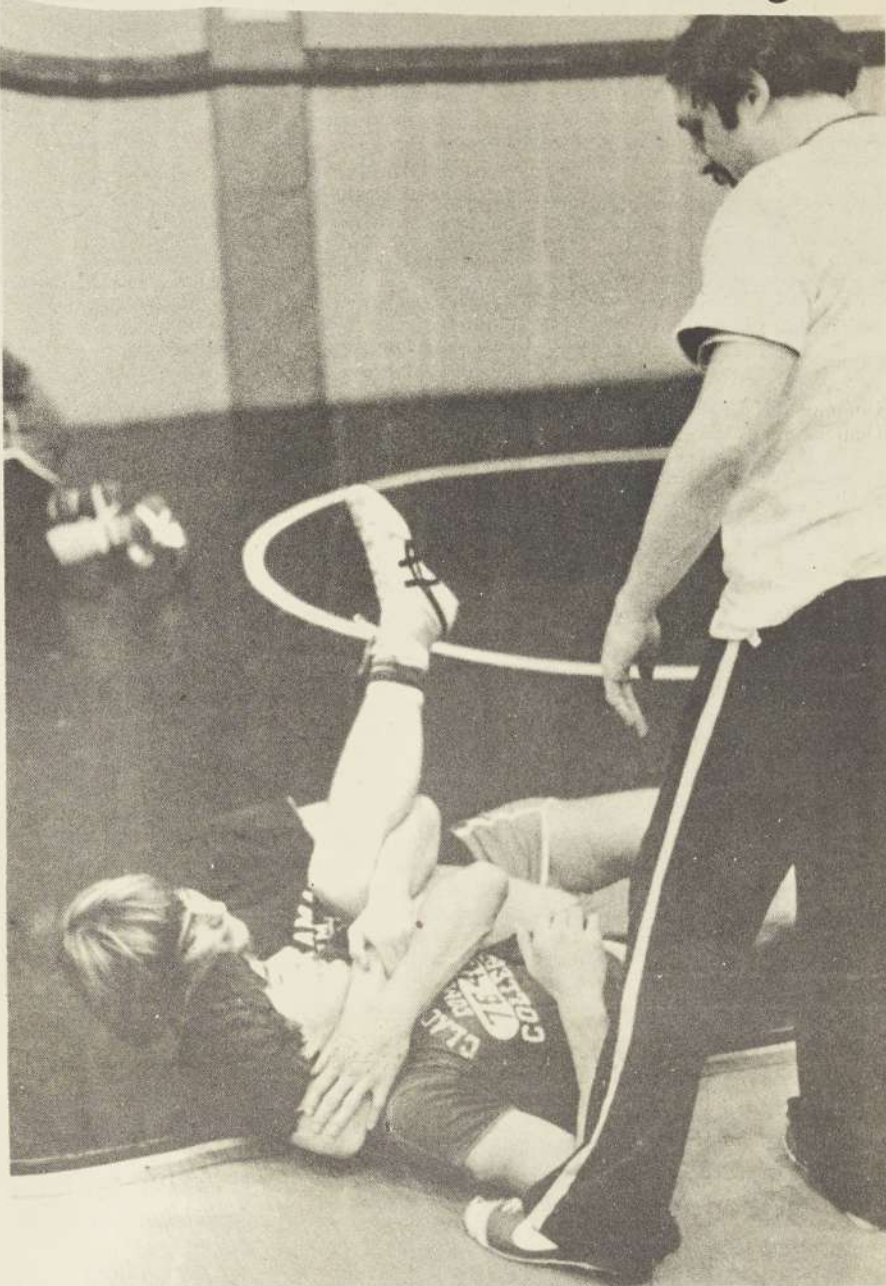
"I think at the dual meets it woke a few guys up to the fact that they can win," Berney said. While only three or four wrestlers have returned from last season in a squad of 16-20, the coach has already taken notice of some new faces and old ones as well.

Returning all-American, and team captain, Jim Jones, who ended up fourth in state competition last season, should help provide the team with the much needed motivation essential to a winning brand of wrestling. Perry Miles from Canby and Oregon State, who is currently getting his weight down to 126 from 134 a week ago "upset some individuals who made it to state last year," Berney said.

Miles took third in the University of Washington Invitational last season. Gary Groner, another of the team captains, and 134 pounder is originally from Oregon City High and "should do a really fine job for us this year," said Berney. Groner went to nationals in previous season activity. Berney also mentioned Gary Regier from Forest Grove and Dana Dunn from Estacada as individuals to keep an eye on in upcoming grappler action.

Wayne Snoderly, a 177 pounder, only qualified for one term of wrestling this year due to a bone and ligament graft which came as a result of a football mishap in high school football action.

As of present time, the squad will have faced off with Mt. Hood, whom Berney cited as "not very good team. Last season Grays Harbor beat them 52-3. One of the team's against Roseburg's Umpqua this Friday."



Craig Groner makes Rick Smith feel uncomfortable as Coach Berney looks on.

photo by Kelly Laughlin



The team watches Berney display the proper technique on human guinea pig Perry Miles.

photo by Kelly Laughlin

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Clackamas Community college

Golden Thread  
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10 (M)	11	12	13	14	15	16 (B)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
49.25	38.62	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.48	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87	30.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-25.48	11.81
-0.16	-0.18	0.54	-0.25	-0.81	-0.23	20.95	24.45	15.82	13.06	-38.91	52.00	3.45	59.95	-27.17	17.81	11.29	12.72	-25.48	11.81	11.81
0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	55.93	68.80	-45.49	35.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-25.48	11.81	11.29	12.72	-25.48	11.81	11.81