

sports

B-ball to improve with experience

It looked like the Cougar women cagers had the game in the bag. Suddenly in the second half, after a Cougar nine-point half-time lead, the Linn-Benton Roadrunners started gaining on Clackamas until the lead had diminished to a three-point deficit, to give the Cougars a 68-65 loss.

Referring to the second half, "There was so much body contact," said Coach Nancy Mikleton, "the officials weren't calling them well." There were only four fouls called on each team in the second half.

You can't blame everything on the officials. There were other reasons for the loss.

It was in the second half that the game was lost. "Critical shots were missed," said

Mikleton, "plus Linn-Benton had three to six inches on us all the way around."

Late in the game came the problem of Cougar substitutions to give the starters a chance to rest. The main problem was being able to give 5'10" center Jamie Hill a rest. It would mean losing an inch by putting in Donna Boatman. She would be going up against a 6'0" LB center.

With only three returning players, it will take a while for the team members to get used to playing with one another.

If it weren't for the final score, Mikleton would have been totally pleased with the game. "We played our brand of ball during the entire game."

Just as the score can be deceiving, so can the league

record of 1-2. In the league game that the women did win, they blew out Central Oregon by a 64-39 score, last Friday.

As it is still doing now, the team was getting used to each other's playing habits and style. Blue Mountain took the Cougars' first league game by two points in the 66-64 game.

"We're still trying to work out the bugs," said Mikleton, "with our main weaknesses being depth on the inside."

According to Mikleton, the teams to beat this year are Linn-Benton and Umpqua, two of the tallest teams in the league. With such a close game with Linn-Benton, by Jan. 23 the Cougar squad should have enough experience playing with each other to be able to take Umpqua. The Cougars



Staff photo by Sue Hanneman

GRAB IT--Jamie Hill goes for the rebound in a recent Cougar b-ball game.

will also have the homecourt advantage.

Games in the coming week include: Southwestern Oregon CC, on Friday in Coos Bay, and Saturday against Lane, in Eugene. Both games begin at 6

p.m.

The women also will play an exhibition game against an Australian high school team on Monday at Oregon City High School. The game will also start at 6 p.m.

Men needed teamwork

By Rick Obritschkewitsch

Maybe it would have been better if the Cougars hadn't come out of the lockerroom last Saturday night when the men's basketball team went against the Roadrunners of Linn-Benton to take a 107-79 defeat.

"I don't think we were ready to play, and didn't play well. There's no excuse for that," said Coach Royce Kiser about the Clackamas disaster.

Tom Jones played decently. He was the only player who played hard and consistently for the entire game. Avery Penney, at times, played well,"

Kiser said. Jones' most impressive stats were shooting 50 percent from the field for 10 points, six rebounds, and four assists. Penney's most impressive statistic is his nine assists.

As a team, the Cougar stats look terrible. They only shot about 43 percent from the field, turned the ball over 17 times, and committed 25 personal fouls.

The Cougars used "no patience or intelligence the whole game." Go down court, pass the ball around, and shoot it when you've got the open shot--right? Well, it wasn't hap-

pening for Clackamas that night. Nobody was taking his time. They'd drive quickly down court and take the shot right away, many times getting the shot blocked or just watching it bounce off the rim. Rich Zornado had three shots checked in a row. Amazingly, he scored the team high 25 points, shooting 50 percent from the field.

At one point, early in the fourth quarter, the Cougars finally looked like they were getting their act together. But it was too late.

"The players have to learn patience, and learn to pass the ball around take the ball, and work hard on defense," Kiser said. They better be quick learners. They've already lost two of their first three league games, and are 7-9 for the year.

It was a bad weekend for the Cougar men's b-ball team. They also lost on Friday night visiting Central Oregon, 67-65.

The score looks much closer than what it was. The Cougars made an attempt at 71 shots from the field, but only 29 went through, leaving Clackamas on the short end of the scoring. In this game, Mark Miller was the only Cougar able to hit even 50 percent of his shots from the field.

It's only Blue Mountain that the Cougars have been able to beat in league action. The 77-73 victory was also the only game in which Clackamas put in over 50 percent of the shots attempted from the field. They hit 31 of 60. Still, only two Cougar players shot over 50 percent from the field. Miller and Zornado each contributed seven of ten.

Grapplers show wrestling power

By Rick Obritschkewitsch
Of The Print

Not everybody can win all of the time, but the Cougar wrestling team has been able to win all of its dual meets as a squad, to establish a 6-0 team record after one week's action.

The squad took on Lane Friday to come up with a 36-16 victory. Linn-Benton was the victim on the previous night, taking a 34-17 defeat from the Cougars.

The College grapplers' first league encounter was its closest. They edged Willamette University by two points in the 22-20 Cougar victory last Tuesday.

While everybody else was celebrating Christmas and New Year's, the dedicated Clackamas wrestlers were in California competing in a tournament. In the tourney the Cougars took out Santa Rosa by a whopping 33-9, edged East Bay Wrestler's Club 23-20, and took care of Central Redwood 29-14.

In other pre-season action, Clackamas grapplers took a defeat from Southwestern Oregon College by 1 and one-fourth points in the Lane Invitational. The invitational was an 11-team competition.

As individuals, the grapplers have some very impressive

records. Just mentioning a few: Bill Blackford is 5-1, Lance Wilson is 4-0, Nathan Winner is 5-3, Troy Wentworth is 8-2, Steve Peters is 3-1, and Mike Martin is 7-3.

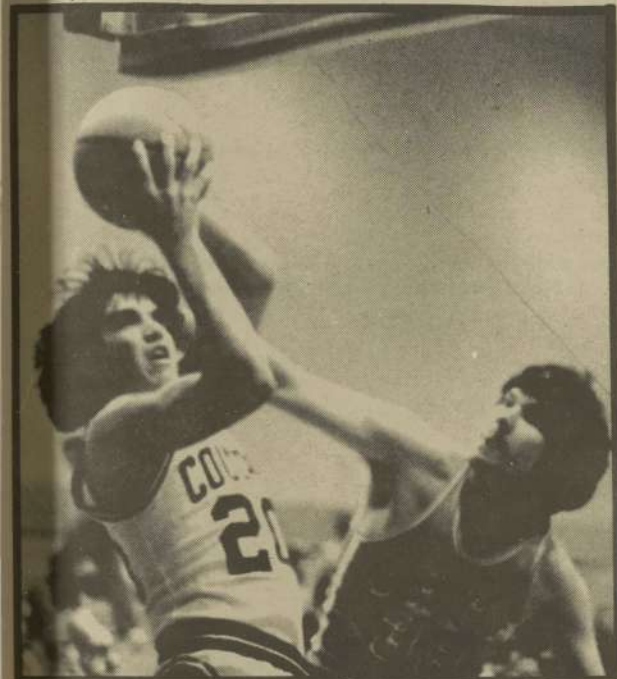
Not indicated by the outstanding record, the team has had some problems with injuries and eligibility. Most of the grapplers who have been out are sophomores. Wilson, OCCAA Champion from last season, and Clackamas outstanding wrestler, is just coming back after some eligibility problems.

In injuries, Bruce Sweet has been out for seven weeks with a rib separation. Other injured wrestlers include Craig Joplin, another OCCAA Champion, and Tom Overbay.

Because of injuries, and a shortage of sophomores on the squad, nine out of the ten starting wrestlers are freshmen.

"We have a tough weekend coming up," said Coach Norm Berney. "We compete well, but we have work to do." The competition includes undefeated Mt. Hood and Southwestern Oregon Community College. Coach Berney expects SWOCC to be a competitor for the state title.

The toughest opponent, who the grapplers face this weekend, is North Idaho, fifth-ranked in the country.



Staff photo by Sue Hanneman

OVER THE TOP--Tom Jones takes the shot against a Blue Mountain opponent.

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Page 7

