



Staff photo by Duane Hlersche

**COUGAR BOOTER JUGGLES ball away from opponent Saturday during the OISA final game of the season in which Clackamas lost their state title falling to Portland Community College.**

## Cougars beam optimism

By Tracy Sumner  
For the Print

While the Clackamas Community College men's basketball team is beaming with optimism for an improved win-loss record during the 1981-82 season, assistant coach Dan Slick's outlook for the season is one of cautious optimism.

"We're better than last year, but so is everyone else in the league," Slick said. "Any team in our league could beat any other team on any night. Our playing together and playing hard is the real key."

The Cougars are coming off a disappointing 1980-81 season in which they finished 7-7 in league play and 12-16 overall, but Slick still believes this year's team, with only four returning players, has the talent to be a factor in league play.

"We're going to be tough," Slick said. "It's just a matter of getting the guys to play together which is tough in a community college because there's a new batch of guys every year."

Slick declined talk of specifics such as shooting or defense, but gave a more general description of the team's improvements.

"As a team, we're just an all-around better team," Slick stated. "You have to play this game as a team. Last year we had a bunch of individuals out there, but this year our guys are playing really well as a team. They don't care who does the scoring."

Slick wouldn't comment

on this year's projected starting line-up or names of key players.

"I really can't say because everyone's been working really hard and we don't want to discourage anyone," Slick said. "We aren't totally sure of every position yet. Any of the guys could start for us."

Slick sees last year's league champions, Chemeketa CC and Mt. Hood CC, to be two very formidable opponents for the Cougars with both teams returning most of their players from last year. Despite this, Slick believes that Clackamas has the personnel to beat out both teams for the league title.

"On paper, they've got a better team with all-staters and all-leaguers playing, but that doesn't mean a lot," Slick pointed out. "What makes the difference is who plays the best as a team."

In any level of basketball, defense and rebounding plays as big a part of a team's success as actually putting the ball in the basket. Slick sees the Cougars as no exception and says that they are physically able to defend and rebound well enough to be winners.

"We've got a lot of good jumpers," Slick said. "We've just got to get them to position better. On defense, it's just a matter of getting out there and working hard and going for it."

Slick said that if the Cougars continue to play well as a team and can avoid serious injuries to key people, the outlook for a much improved season is excellent.

## Mikleton predicts '81-82 season successful

With the onset of the women's basketball season only a week away, coach Nancy Mikleton is optimistic about having a successful 1981-82 season.

"We're further ahead than we were at this time last year," Mikleton said. "Since this year's volleyball season didn't run as long as last year's, those athletes who play on both teams were able to start practices earlier in the year, allowing for full team practices sooner."

"Linn Benton will be the team to beat," Mikleton said. "Every year our caliber of play improves, but so do the other teams."

Last year Linn Benton had a record of 27-1, and have only lost two people from that team. Mikleton said Linn Benton did a good job recruiting, and that some of the players she had talked to about playing for the Cougars were lost to the Road Runners.

Other teams Mikleton feels will be top competitors this

year, include Umpqua, which went to nationals last year, and Chemeketa.

Returning hoopster Cindi Johnston appears to be taking on the burdens in the Cougar assault. Johnston was among the top 10 in the league in rebounding and assists and was 12th in shooting last year.

Another floor leader for this year's squad is Denise Wheatley who, according to Mikleton, is "a really good scrambler." Wheatley's high school attributes include honorable mention while playing at Oregon City.

"Strong on the inside" for the Cougars is Mary Christensen, who earned the distinction of second All-District while at Canby High. Another person who shows potential, but hasn't had the opportunity to get in too much practice time so far this year is Terri Kelly, who was All-State in volleyball and basketball while attending Yoncalla High.

There are about three women with equally strong

abilities, adding power to the Cougar women, according to Mikleton.

The main thing the hoopsters are lacking is college game experience, but Mikleton is looking to pre-season action to iron out this problem.

"Our key to success is learning to play together and jelling as a unit," Mikleton said. "You need to have an understanding of how others play, when they'll pass the ball, where people can shoot and just knowing what people will do in different situations."

Mikleton said there are also some bugs in the offense and defense that need to be worked out, "but as a whole we are well ahead of where we were this time last year," she said.

The Cougars have begun scrimmages and Mikleton feels the College women "played pretty good" in their first competition against Mt. Hood last Wednesday. "This looks to be a great season and I'm extremely optimistic about our team's success," Mikleton said.

## Clackamas grapplers enter season, young/aggressive

By Wanda Percival  
Of the Print

Finishing third in the Region and second in the Conference last year, Cougar grappler coach Norm Berney feels good about coaching and anticipates a good season for his young squad if they "work hard when they compete."

Berney has eight returning grapplers and was able to recruit 13 men from area high schools.

On the returning list of grapplers, Clackamas has Troy Wentworth wrestling at 118 lbs and Nathan Winner at 134 lbs, both of whom placed fourth in the Region in their weight classes last year.

Other returnees for the Cougar squad include Terry Massey at 126, Craig Jensen at 134 lbs, Tim Tilander at 142 lbs, Mike Martin at 167 lbs, who was third in the Region last year and competed at nationals, Scott Marks at 177 lbs, and Wayne Jones at 190 lbs.

Recruiting of high school seniors wasn't at its prime this year, and Berney said, "A lot of top people were juniors. The ones that were seniors ended-up on scholarships for four-year colleges."

Despite this misfortune Berney was able to recruit 13 new men, four of whom were state and national competitors in high school.

Among newcomers grapplers for the Cougar squad is Mike Bulf at 126 lbs. Bulf is a graduate of Eagle Point who won the state championship three years ago. Craig Siekman of Clackamas at 118 lbs, who was third in state AAA competition will join the Cougar squad, along with John Brewer a West Linn graduate at 142 lbs, Mark Winner of Eagle Point at 158 lbs, Doug Gunnels of Hillsboro at 177 lbs, who was third in state, John Fuhrer of Sheridan at 142 lbs, who

placed third in state for two years, Brian Patterson of

Tigard at 142 lbs, Shawn Kelly of Molalla at 158 lbs, Kevin Paquet also of Molalla wrestling heavy weight, Dan Tuck of Colton at 158 lbs, John Shaeffer of Colton at heavy weight, Al Valentine from Alaska at 190 lbs and Tim Englet of Gladstone also at 190 lbs.

Last year the Cougar squad started their season with 44 men, so this year with a shortage of men, it's important to Berney that his team doesn't suffer any injuries.

"We're short on numbers this year," he said, "and any injuries are key injuries for this team."

"I feel good about coaching and I think we should have a competitive group," Berney said. "We have some good talent and a good team."

Berney said his team's goal this season is to place as high as they can in any tournament they go into.

"We're a young team and we'll have to tackle it match by match, and work hard when we compete," he said.

