

Hoopsters place second at Redwoods Invite



Staff photo by Duane Hiersche

UP FOR TWO, Terri Kelly attempts to make a basket during a recent practice while Cyd McCormick tries to block it.

**By J. Dana Haynes
Of the Print**

The Women's basketball squad started the season on the right foot last weekend, taking second out of eight teams participating in the College of the Redwoods Women's Invitational Basketball Tournament.

"I'm very excited," head coach Nancy Mikleton said, "They showed a lot of poise and really 'jelled'. Everybody showed a great desire to win; the starters and those coming off the bench as well."

The Cougars won their first two games in a row at the tournament, which was played in Eureka, California. The first win was against the Raiders, a Eureka city league school with 78-62. The next match-up was against Central Oregon Community College, where the Cougars pulled ahead to win 79-77 in overtime. Finally, fatigue and foul-trouble brought the Clackamas team down in the third game, giving the victory to Umpqua 72-67.

Denice Wheatley was the Cougar high scorer in the first two games, with 17 and 22 points, respectively. In the Raiders game, Terri Kelly came next with 15 points, followed by Cindy Johnston with 13 and Susan Parker with 12.

Against COCC; Kelly again followed Wheatley with 16 and Johnston netting 12.

Denice Wheatley's superior play earned her a position on the All-Tournament team. The other stand-out performance was from Kelly; besides the accumulated 31 points in the first two games, she also scored 16 against Umpqua and pulled 15 rebounds off the board.

The Umpqua game was a disappointing one. With three minutes of play left, the Cougars were down by two points. "Then we had a player foul out, and Umpqua was hot from the free-throw line," Mikleton said.

The news wasn't all bad, however. "That game showed us that we're going to be right in there with the best teams around," Mikleton predicted, "We played well against Umpqua and they went to nationals last year."

The Cougars are a young team, with only one returning player, Cindy Johnston. Also, the earliness of the year makes it hard to tell the strengths and weaknesses of a team. "We've got pretty good height, but you wouldn't call us 'tall' in comparison to some teams. We average about 5'10".

Even the Cougar's defense is undecided as of now. "We've been using a lot of things, including a man-to-man and a couple of zones. Against Umpqua we ran a 1-3-1, and it seemed to work well. It just depends on who we're playing and what they use."

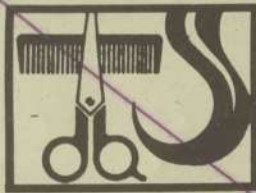
Mikleton is predicting a good year for her team. "We can be pretty fast," she explained, "Or, we can give up a little speed and have some strong jumpers in the game. Fortunately, we've got 6 or 7 players who are good enough to start."

Clackamas is not the only team expecting a good season, however. Linn Benton went undefeated last year and, according to Mikleton, Chemeketa should be good.

The prospect of facing good teams doesn't seem to bother Coach Mikleton, however. "I think we have the potential to be awesome this year," she said.

Correction

In last week's issue of **The Print** it was stated that the Cougar hoopsters lost to the Lewis and Clark JV 104-94 when in fact they were victorious over them by that same score. Sorry guys.



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