

Cougar soccer season; The tale of two teams

By Tracy M. Sumner
Of The Print

The Clackamas Community College Soccer Team.

In the past, that title has become synonymous with lopsided victories, league championships, and high finishes in national competition.

This season, however, the team has fallen on harder times. Not that the team's 2-2-1 won-loss-tie record is bad, it's just that the followers of Cougar soccer have been conditioned to expect so much more from the program.

How does a once-proud soccer program with a tradition of winning go from a season of double-digit victories to a team struggling to stay above the .500 mark in just one year? Could it be team defense or more likely lack of team defense?

Defense is no problem for the Cougar, says College soccer Coach Janos Szanto. The Cougar defense, in his eyes, is nearly above reproach.

"We have no problems

defensively," Szanto said recently. "The team's doing a great job."

"I think we have the best defensive line in the league," he continued. "I also think our goalie (Ricky Zyelinske) is the best goalie in the league."

Statistics certainly don't argue with the coach. Through the team's first five contests, the defense has allowed a paltry 12 goals for a stingy 2.4 goals-against average. Fine defensive soccer on any level.

The problem facing the young Cougar squad so far this season is that no matter how few goals you allow an opponent to score, victories are infinitely less likely when you don't score.

The Clackamas offense has managed a five-game total of eight goals. That works out to a pathetic 1.6 goals a game for the Cougars. If the team's defense had playing only average on the field, it would now have found itself in a 0-5 hole.

"We have to start scoring

goals", Szanto stated, to the surprise of no one. "We have very talented people on-

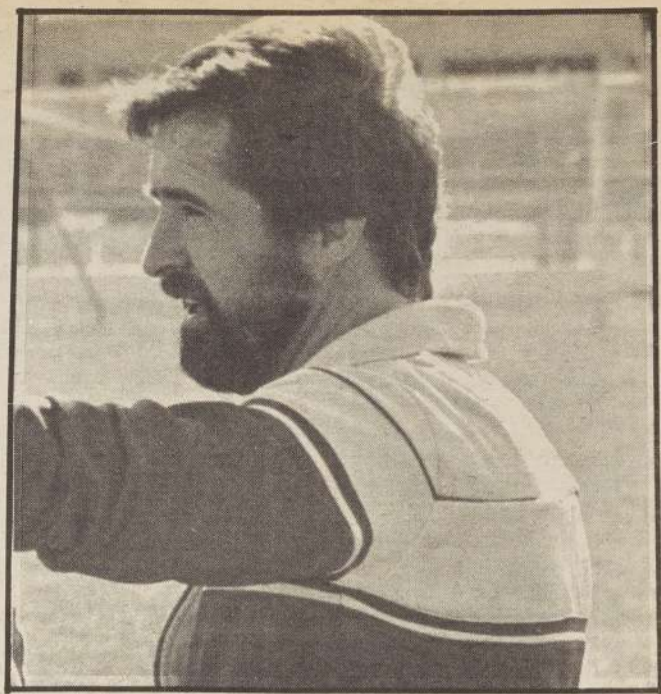
fense, they just need experience." Szanto said that the team had "six or eight" freshman and that most of the first year players were very talented soccer players, but sorely lacking in college experience.

"Our front line (the ones who should be scoring) is mainly freshmen," he explained. "They create a lot of scoring chances, but when they get close to the goal, they lose confidence."

"These guys have a lot of goals in their legs," Szanto said. "I believe in them. They're going to explode some day; it's coming."

Another problem that has haunted the Clackamas soccer team is that of transfer players returning to hurt the Cougars.

"This is my third year here and I keep running into players who have played for me," said Szanto.



Coach Janos Szanto

Former Cougar Jeff Johnson was a one-man wrecking crew against Clackamas. He scored three goals against the Cougars to carry Willamette University to a 5-2 win.

John Welle also was a force against the Oregon State Beavers to a 3-0 win with a fine defensive effort. "We couldn't

get by him," Szanto noted.

The Cougars, once they overcome past Clackamas players and self-destructive tendencies on offense, they should be an excellent soccer team. Maybe double-digit scoring efforts are a bit too much to ask of the young, inexperienced club, but if the Cougars continue their frugality on the defensive end, they may yet challenge for the state title.

Womens x-country showing improvement

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

Running with the most team members so far this year, the Clackamas Community College women's cross country team improved their showing on Oct. 9, at the Willamette Invitational at Busch Park in Salem.

Wynia stated that it was an

excellent day for running the flat 5000 meter course and as a result the Cougar's times were faster.

Leading the way for the Cougars was Sue Rodgers with a time of 20:18 following Rodgers was Vicki Anderson who finished the course in 21:19. Rounding out the scoring runners (the top five from each team) was Suzy Graham,

Michelle Fobert and Debbie Koffel with 21:33, 21:42 and 22:08 times respectively. Other individuals that ran but did not effect the team scores were Marie Freedman (24:11), Julie Pearson (25:06) and Tami Arhini (27:17).

The competition in the tournament was stiff according to Wynia. Included in the field with the Cougars were the

University of Oregon, Pacific Lutheran, University of Portland, Linn Benton Community College, Oregon State, Portland State, Linfield, Lewis and Clark, Eastern Oregon, Western Oregon, Lane Community College, Umpqua Community College, Mt Hood Community College, and several non-collegiate track clubs.

"We ran (in the Willamette Invitational) against some of the community colleges that we will face in regionals" Wynia said. "Lane is going to be tough to beat; but I think that Mt. Hood can be beat. If we bring our times up I think we can pull off at least second, based on the results of last week's meets. But it is all a matter of timing and being healthy," Wynia said.

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