

Women cagers looking for upbeat season

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

Six strong returnees, a transfer guard and a co-coaching system are the ingredients that will make the Clackamas Community College women's Basketball team a stronger club than their 16-9 performance of last year, according to the Cougar coaches.

The biggest addition to this year's team is the coaching staff. For two years head coach Nancy Mikleton has been aided by Phil Garver, Physical Education Aide at the College. This year the two have combined forces to lead the Cougars as co-coaches. The reason for the change is to utilize the strengths of both coaches. In the past Garver has worked

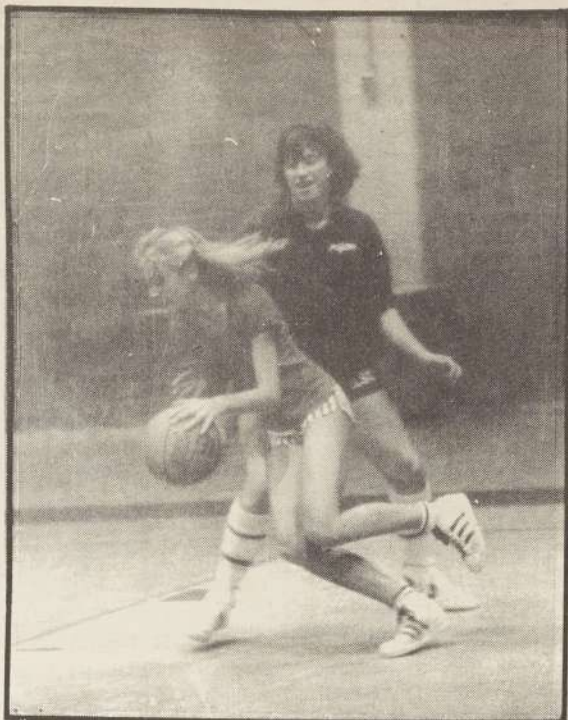
with individual development and game strategy while Mikleton took the rest of the load. This year Mikleton is only responsible for scheduling, budgeting, recruiting, and will aid in the floor duties. Mikleton felt that she was burdened by the duties of coaching and teaching, therefore, more responsibilities were given to her counter-part.

Both coaches have high expectations on this year's team because they have so many strong returnees and obtained a transfer from Chemeketa Community College who is talented.

At the guard position the Cougars will be lead by returnee Denise Wheatley. The 5-foot-5-inch Oregon City prospect was the team's off-guard last year but will be looked at to provide a consistent point guard with outside shooting ability. Most of all they are looking at Wheatley to provide a leadership both on and off the court.

Kathy Strickler is the transfer that the Cougar coaches are so enthused about. Strickler was over-shadowed by an All-American at Chemeketa, but was a highly rated recruit out of high school two years ago. The coaches are overwhelmed that she has joined their program as they too were involved in the recruiting efforts of Strickler out of high school.

Sherry Bull is a 5-foot-7-inch freshman guard from



Sherry Bull (foreground) attempts to drive past Cyd McCormick in a recent practice.

Clackamas High School. She lends an aggressive, quick atmosphere to the Cougars, as well as a definite positive aspect for the Cougar's defense and fast break.

Another newcomer to the backcourt is Sue Frank, a 5-foot-6 prospect from Yoncalla High School. Frank is a well-rounded athlete who took her high school team to the State tournament and received a second team all tournament honor.

Another aggressive backcourter is Tami Arbini, out of whom coaches expect a lot of maturity as the year rolls on. Both coaches feel that Arbini is as talented as anyone on the Cougar's roster.

Mary Christensen, a sophomore from Canby, will provide strength underneath the boards for the Cougars. Christensen is also an excellent defensive weapon for the team, according to the coaches.

Helping out Christensen will be another sophomore, Sharon Larson. The 5-foot-10-inch North Marion standout has a variety of offensive moves along with an excellent attitude Garver said.

Also giving the Cougars help underneath will be second year forward Cyd McCormick, a 5-foot-9-inch Neah-Kah-Nie graduate. Garver feels that McCormick has gained a lot of confidence from last year and as a result will be more aggressive. She has always been a dominant force underneath, but has developed a mid-range shot that will open up her whole game, according to the coaches.

The only newcomer to the front court is Lynn Kershaw, a 5-foot-7-inch forward from Lake Oswego. According to the coaches she is strong inside and extremely aggressive on offense, but she has her work cut out for her since she is the only freshman forward.

In the pivot the squad has only two forces, but both are returnees from the Cougar program. Terry Kelly, a 5-foot-10-inch Yoncalla graduate, is a strong offensive threat for the Cougars. Garver feels that she has good mobility going to the basket.

Kelly's counter-act is Jamie Hill, a 5-foot-11-inch center from Colton. Hill was a member of the Cougar's team two years ago, and has returned to finish up her second year.

While a member of the Cougars in the 1980-81 season she was third in the league in scoring and led in rebounding over half the year before settling with second. Both coaches feel she will help the team considerably.

The first opponents the team will face will be in the tournament at the College of Redwoods in Eureka, Ca., Dec. 2-4. The women placed second in the eight team field last year, but according to the coaches they are the team to beat this year. Prior to the opening tournament the Cougars will have a scrimmage Nov. 12 here at the College.

"With the six returning players we will be really tough," Garver said. "And now that we have an individual status, we will be competing with four-year colleges so we have a hard schedule. But I feel that we can compete with them."

One difference in the above-average 16-9 team of last year and this year's team is the added depth, according to the coaches. Garver feels that they have 12 players that are strong, whereas last year they lacked depth. Mikleton cited the example that last year the Cougars were hurt when they got in foul trouble because of lack of players.

Depth will definitely play a

factor as the team is planning to run an up-tempo, fastbreak offense this year. Garver feels that the Cougars only had two guards last year who could control the ball. This year with the added depth, especially at guard, they will try to get the ball out and run a faster game. Mikleton also added that the Cougars have the rebounding strength to run that kind of an offense. She said that the depth will play a definite factor because they will be able to keep fresh bodies in to keep the tempo up.

The long-range goal for the team is to reach the National playoffs. The outcome of this goal will rest on the punishing week of regionals according to the coaches. Because of the individual status of the Cougars, the coaches feel that the NJCAA is not giving the College any breaks. Mikleton feels that it will come down to that week to see if the team reaches their goal.

Ever since Mikleton has coached at the College, the support of the team has increased, and she sees the same for the upcoming year. Garver feels that students are getting behind both basketball teams this year, and that the Student Activities Department is also pushing attendance. Mikleton feels that both teams need support, and expects both teams to generate excitement this year.

Women's Basketball Roster 1982 - 83

No.	Name	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	High School
10	Sherry Bull	5'7"	F	G	Tigard
11	Tami Arbini	5'7"	F	G	Clackamas
13	Sharon Larson	5'10"	So	F	North Marion
14	Jamie Hill	5'11"	So	C	Colton
15	Terri Jo Kelly	5'11"	So	C	Yoncalla
20	Suzy Graham	5'7"	F	G	LaGrande
21	Sue Frank	5'6"	F	G	Yoncalla
22	Denise Wheatley	5'5"	So	G	Oregon City
25	Kathy Strickler	5'7"	So	G	Lake Oswego
30	Lynn Kershaw	5'7"	F	F	Lake Oswego
32	Mary Christensen	5'9"	So	F	Canby
42	Cyd McCormick	5'9"	So	F	Neah-Kah-Nie

Co-Coaches: Nancy Mikleton - Phil Garver

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