

sports

Basketball team steamrolls over Canadians

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

The Clackamas Community College men's basketball team is on a roll, winning nine of their last 12 games. Last weekend the number one team in Canada, Vancouver City College, played into the hands of the Cougars as they became victims twice-over, 69-59 and 76-63.

The fireproof this week came from a variety of the Cougs. Saturday, Jim Imper

came hot out of the blocks to hit 20 first half points with a 10-13 shooting spree before severely twisting his ankle at the beginning of the second half. That sent him to the showers early and sidelining him for Sunday's game.

"His shooting was exceptional from outside," Coach Royce Kiser said of Imper. "He is a player we need healthy--at a 6'7" off-guard he has been playing good for us."

The front court also had

their stars for the weekend as Tom Welle and Bob Nippert controlled the inside game for the Cougars. Welle took a 14 point, 12 rebound game Saturday and added on a very impressive 22 points and 16 rebounds the following night. Nippert combined the two game to produce 28 points and collect 19 rebounds.

Kelly Burke and Mark McLaughlin produced the playmaking for Clackamas as the pair combined for 11 assists Saturday and 13 Sunday.

"They did an excellent job running the show," Kiser said. "They both had good games both nights."

Kiser also complimented the play of 6'6" Jim Hill. Sunday night Hill filled in to score 12 points on a 6 for 9 shooting performance, while he grabbed seven boards. Kiser also commended him on his overall hustle and ability to get back on defense.

One obstacle that Vancouver produced was a 7'2" center who had previously been averaging over 30 points a game. But the Cougar defense put the stop to the one-man offense holding him to 14 points and 10 rebounds Saturday while giving up only 10 points and nine rebounds the following game.

"The good thing about this was that there were scouts from a lot of the major colleges along with some of the smaller colleges to watch him (the 7'2" center)," Kiser said. "We shut him down, and some of the scouts came out liking some of our players."

The key of the Cougar sweep was in the domination of the boards, Kiser felt. After edging the Canadian team out

by only two rebounds Saturday night, the Cougs turned it around Sunday with a 47-32 margin. Kiser feels more often than not if you don't control the rebounds you will lose.

Kiser's teams also got a boost out of Mike Imper in Sunday's contest as he came off the bench to hit on five of six shots for a ten point performance.

The Cougars were also in action Wednesday Feb. 2 against a very tough Centralia team, that Kiser classifies as the "Cadillac of Washington's teams." The Cougs came up short against Centralia, 70-69.

"I was very pleased. I hate to say I am pleased when we lose, but we should have and could have won," Kiser said.

In an earlier meeting between the two teams the Washington school carried a clinic for the Cougars as they blew them off the court. Kiser said that the Cougs did not even look like they belonged on the same court.

But last Wednesday, the Cougar grudge was present as they led the highly regarded team most the way through the game before they came upon a dry spell that enabled Centralia to make a come back and close the gap. Kiser said the game was decided on who made the last mistake.

Adding to the bright spot of the drastic turnaround was that the Cougs controlled the rebounds again by a 50-30 advantage after being out-rebounded in their last game with Centralia.

"We have won about 90 percent of our games lately and appears we are playing good basketball," Kiser said. "We have been playing a lot better defense and our shot selection has improved considerably."

The Cougars continue play tonight at Clark Com-

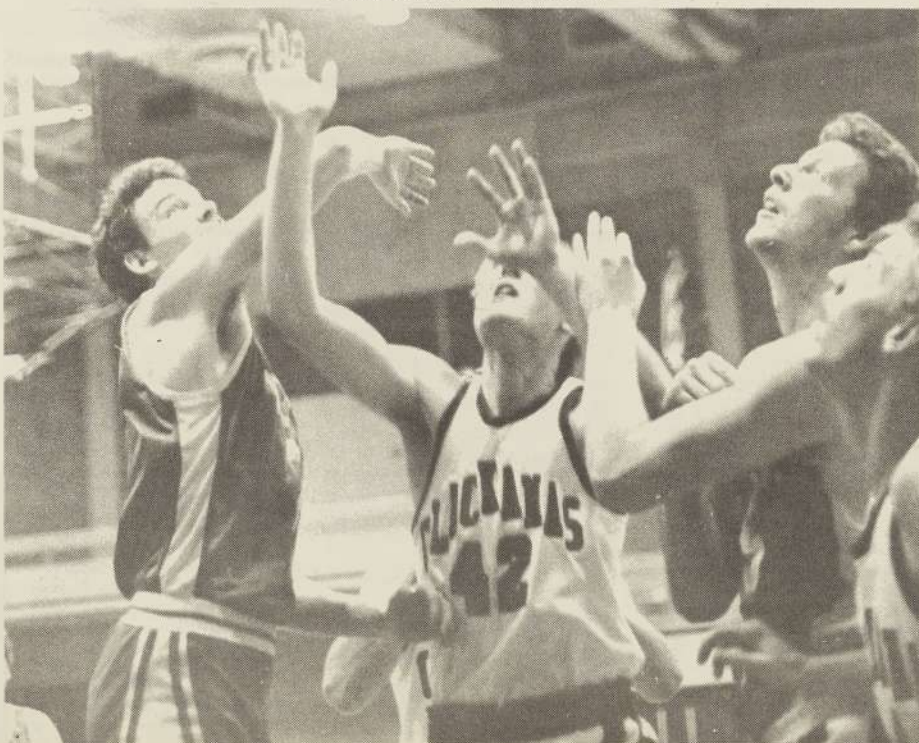


Jim Imper



WITH LITTLE OPPOSITION, Cougar Guard, Mark McLoughlin passes off the ball to a teammate during their victory over Vancouver 69 to 59.

Staff photos by Russ McMillen



UP FOR GRABS, a Cougar player fights for the ball amongst several opponents.

Wednesday February 9, 1983



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