

Cougars end winning season with O.T. loss

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

Achieving the best record in the school's history, 21-10, the Clackamas Community College men's basketball team got knocked out of the playoffs for a regional berth as they lost to a "very talented" Chemeketa Community College team, Coach Royce Kiser said.

Before the loss to Chemeketa, Feb. 26, the Cougars stormed past Blue Mountain Community College, 92-77 the night before. The Cougars needed to beat three teams consecutively in order to gain a regional spot.

In Friday night's victory the Cougs got a stream of fire-power from the trio of Jim Imper, Bob Nippert and Tom Welle. The three combined for 65 of the Cougar's points.

Welle, who led the way for Clackamas, threw in 25 points and grabbed a team high 17 rebounds.

Nippert and Imper each tallied for 20 points for the Cougars. Welle's board work was supported by 15 from Nippert, while Imper dished out a team high of seven assists.

"The last ten minutes of the ball game we took over and played outstanding basketball," Kiser said. "At half-time, the game was tied at 40, but the second half we just ate them up."

Kiser also pointed out the exceptional play of the Cougar guards. Kelly Burke distributed six assists, while Mark McLaughlin came off the bench to add six. The Cougar backcourt committed only 10 turnovers.

"They (Blue Mountain) had a very talented team," Kiser said. "They shot exceptionally well and had good size."

The deadlock at halftime was broken when Kiser's squad closed down the Blue Mountain passing lanes and got a few easy break-aways, Kiser said.

Another asset for the Cougars was that they forced their opponents into a man-to-man defense which Kiser felt enabled the Cougars to get "back doors" all the time.

The next night did not go as well as the second half of the Blue Mountain game as the Cougars had a hard time finding the basket and fell to Chemeketa in overtime, 61-57.

Kiser's team had a very poor shooting night, 23 for 74, due to several reasons.

"They played fairly good defense. They had a 6'10" guy who blocked a few of our shots early in the game, Kiser said. "Also, I think we might have been getting fouled on a lot of our inside shots."

Putting in another solid performance for the Cougars at point guard was Burke who was the only Cougar to hit 50 percent of his shots with a 5 for 10 mark. Along with his 10 points the backcourter pulled down seven boards for the Cougars.

Leading the team in scoring despite a 4 for 16 shooting performance was 6'6" forward Jim Hill. He also added eleven rebounds.

Having an off-game for the Cougars, but still a factor in their performance, Kiser said, was Welle. He pulled down a team-high 12 rebounds, but failed to hit a shot from the field in 10 attempts.

One reason for his frustration was foul trouble. Welle picked up three before halftime, and a fourth early in the second half. Kiser took him out of the line-up until nine minutes left when Chemeketa started to pull away from the Cougs. Welle ended up fouling out with six minutes left.

"Even though he (Welle) did not have an exceptional game his presence out there helped," Kiser said. "They

were really concentrating on stopping him so it helped out our other guys."

Kiser feels that not everything was lost in the overtime loss to Chemeketa as the future looks very bright for his team.

"This is by far the best team I have coached here," Kiser said. "They have more talent and are very intelligent people."

"The two leading scorers will be back next year along with several others," Kiser said. "The ones we want back, we will probably get."

Assistant coach, Paul Fiskum feels the same way towards this year's team and the future of basketball at Clackamas.

"They are the best basketball team I have seen at Clackamas, and on top of that they are the best quality group of guys that I have been around," Fiskum said.



A FLYING COUGAR-Guard Kelly Burke soars through the key. Burke dished out six assists in the playoff victory over Blue Mountain.

File Photo

Lane Women down Cougs

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

The Clackamas Community College women's basketball season came to an abrupt halt Friday night. A loss at the hands of Lane Community College, 67-57, put an end to any hopes of further post season play.

Clackamas would have had to beat Lane, the fourth place team in the league from which the college defected from this year, then defeat the third and second place teams in succession to gain a regional berth.

The one statistic which was Clackamas' big weakness throughout the year did them in, in the long run; foul shooting. Most all team statistics were even or in the Cougars' favor. The bottom line was Clackamas' inability to convert from the charity stripe. Lane hit 20 of 24 while the

Cougars could manage only 7 of 20.

In fact, Clackamas outbounded Lane 37-27, and even got off one shot more than their opponents. The turnovers were also dead even at 27 apiece.

Clackamas trailed the entire game but did make a run in the closing minutes. With 2:40 left in the second half Denise Wheatley hit two long range jumpers to pull to within three points. On Lane's next possession Clackamas fouled Debbie Bredeson. Bredeson, who was a perfect ten of ten from the line, calmly sank both shots to put the game out of reach.

"We got into foul trouble early," Coach Nancy Mikleton stated. "We had a couple girls on the bench in the first half and Mary (Christenson) and Terri (Kelly) played most of the second half with four fouls."

A stand out performance was turned in by Sophomore forward Mary Christenson. "Mary probably played her best game ever at Clackamas. She did lots of good things," Mikleton said. Good would have to be an understatement. Christenson kept Clackamas close with a 20 point effort.

Kathy Strickler, who took over a large portion of the scoring burden down the stretch, went down with a leg injury early in the game. "She's going to be out for six to eight weeks," Mikleton said of the high scoring sophomore guard.

Jamie Hill and Denise Wheatley scored 10 and nine respectively. Terri Jo Kelly also grabbed a team high of nine rebounds.

Clackamas ended with a final season record of 21 and 8, including 16 of their last 19 games.

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Basketball tourney slated for college

A tournament for local city league Basketball teams will be held at Clackamas Community College March 4-6. The tournament will be single elimination and will feature A and B divisions.

"We haven't gotten the response that I have wanted (in the past)," tournament coordinator Paul Fiskum said. "In the past we have had a mix of

A and B division teams, so the B teams had to combine with the A teams. The competition wasn't balanced."

The College is offering an "over 35" category if enough interest is shown. Fiskum said that four teams would be enough interest to hold the event, but in past tournament's very little interest was shown.

The A and B division is

determined by the city leagues on the team's ability.

An \$85 registration fee is required to participate in the tournament. The fee covers the cost of referees, trophies, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Team registration must be met by March 2. For further information, contact the Community Recreation Office at the College, ext. 211.

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