

Peterson feels pitching key to success

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

April showers have brought less beautiful things than May flowers to the Clackamas Community College baseball program as the rainy season has caused the Cougars to get off to a slow start, losing six of their first 11 games.

"We are just starting to get in shape. With all the rain-outs it is hard to keep everything up," Coach Gene Peterson said.

The rain is gone for the moment and just in time for the Cougar club to heat up their quest for a Regional tournament berth. To qualify the Cougs, Treasure Valley Community College of Ontario, Oregon, and North Idaho of Cour d'Alene will play a total of 12 games throughout the season, and the two teams with the best records will advance to the tournament.

Peterson has not seen enough of either team to make a prediction of the Cougars' chances for a playoff spot.

To be a success this year Peterson is looking for consistency in his pitching staff. So far he feels they have had bright spots along with bad moments.

"We are improved over last year. We did more very much pitching last year," Peterson said. "This year we have had some pretty good freshman come in, so we've got some depth (in our staff)."

The ace of the starting rotation is Eric Bower, who has only allowed six runs in three appearances. Bower is followed by Jeff Sheer and Jim Altringer, both considered "hard throwers" by Peterson.



Safe or out? A Cougar pitcher covers home plate after a wild pitch in a recent game against Lewis and Clark.

Photo by Duane Hiersche

Bower is also the leading hitter for the Cougars hitting .416 early in the season. The main source of power for the Cougs comes from outfielder

Clay Baggerly, who's .450 average and two home runs in the Yakima Community College Invitational earned him a spot on the all-tournament team.

Inconsistency has also plagued the Cougars. "We need to be a little more aggressive. We have to pop that ball when we have guys on

base. We haven't been doing that. You are not going to win if you can't hit the ball with guys on base," Peterson said.

Clackamas is coming off a 16-18 record last year, and are trying to build a name for themselves. One area that Peterson feels will help them win some games is their speed on the bases.

"We run quite a bit—we are quick," Peterson said. "When we run well it only helps us. It allows us to steal and hit and run a lot more."

Peterson said that most of the games this year have been determined by a couple of runs. With the Cougs' base running style and their consistent play from his team, Peterson is looking to put more marks in the win column.

The most recent road trip for the Cougars was not so productive as they came back with three losses in a three game weekend at North Idaho. Even though they lost all three games, Peterson was still impressed with his team's performance.

"We played quite well. I don't know how we could have played better those two games," Peterson said.

The two games the coach referred to were the first and

third games, which they lost 3-0 and 7-6, respectively. The second game was a 11-3 triumph for North Idaho.

"We got a couple bad calls the first game and were only beat 3-0," Peterson said. "The third game we went into the ninth (inning) with a 6-1 lead and had two double play balls bounce over our infielders' heads."

The Cougs received excellent performances from Chris Mayfield and Tony Mueller as each contributed heavily to the Cougar scoring rallies as well as putting in strong defensive efforts.

The team will continue play today at the College in a seven inning game against Lewis and Clark.

Buckley eyes Regionals

Men win 8-0 over "top comp"

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

"It was a good one for us," said Dave Buckley, men's tennis coach, of his team's impressive 8-0 win over North Idaho College of Couer d'Alene last Sunday.

"It gave us an idea of where we stand," Buckley said. The day before North Idaho won a tournament which included Mt. Hood, Blue Mountain, and Skagit Valley. By determining common opponents, Buckley feels the Cougars will be in good shape for the Regionals.

"John (Storm) and Tom (Hercamp) should be number one seeds because they each beat guys who won in the tournament on Saturday," Buckley stated. "We have a good chance at getting everyone in a

number one seed. I don't see how they (the other coaches) could stop it, because we must go by common opponents," the coach added.

Number one Cougar John Storm won straight sets of 7-6 and 6-4. "He won but he can play better," Buckley said.

In the thriller of the day, Sophomore Byron Sullivan fought back from a 4-1 deficit in the third set to win the match 6-4, 5-7, and 6-4. "Byron was battling allergies all day and it was good that he was able to come from behind like he did," Buckley said.

Oregon City's own Tom Hercamp started the day slow, dropping his first set 3-6 but finishing strong at 6-4 and 6-2.

Fourth and fifth men Bob Martin and Steve Gorman each collected straight set victories 6-1 and 6-1. "Martin and Gor-

man played well, but not great," Buckley stated.

In doubles action Storm and Sullivan played their "usual" first set, losing 4-6 but rallied to win in an impressive fashion with 6-1 and 6-2. "That's the way they should play all the time," Buckley said, pointing to the two set scores on the stat sheet.

Clackamas' second doubles team of Mike Wofford and Bob Martin posted straight sets victory at 6-3 and 6-3. "He (Wofford) is a big asset to our team. He doesn't play singles and people don't realize what he means to us," Buckley said.

"I was happy with the way we played, but we can even play better," Buckley said. "I'm

looking forward to the Regionals," the coach added with a grin.

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