

Stoffer's blast ignites big inning, Cougs win 2 of 3

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

It was do or die time for the Clackamas Community College baseball team last weekend, and die they did not, as the Cougars took away the best part of a three-game stint with visiting Treasure Valley of Ontario.

The two teams went at it twice on Saturday and then returned Sunday to complete the slugfest. The two Saturday games began with a close 2-1 victory for the home team Cougars. The Cougars were led by left-handed pitching act, Eric Bower, who threw his way to a four-hit, seven strikeout victory.

"Bower went the whole way and really pitched a good game. They (Treasure Valley) threatened a few times but he worked his way out of it," Coach Gene Peterson said.

A second inning rally was all that the Cougars needed to support Bower's display of pitching. The second inning spurt was capped by a sharply hit double by Clay Baggerly, which drove in the first of the Cougar runs. Ken Stoffer then sent Baggerly home with a single, giving them their last score of the game.

The second game looked like it was going to be a repeat of the first, with the Cougars going into the last inning with a 3-1 lead. Jeff Sheer, on the mound for Clackamas, started to tire, and the visitors rally began.

The leadoff hitter for the inning got a "cheap hit," and the following batter earned his way on base via base-on-balls. Then the men from the Valley came alive, Peterson said, slaughtering the Cougar attack for six runs before the rain came and delayed the game 40 minutes. When the rain let down so did the Cougs, as they were only able to replenish one of the runs, dropping the game 7-4.

Neither team held back Sunday, as a 12-hit, 14-run showing was barely enough for the Cougars to overcome Treasure Valley's early six-run lead. Valley took a quick 10-4 lead in the top of the fourth inning and the hopes for the Cougs were dimmer than the overcast skies. But a fifth inning rally and expert relief work by

Rick Tonole enabled the team to overcome the earlier deficit.

The fifth inning was highlighted by a three-run homerun by Stoffer, the first part of a seven-run rally. Tonole, who came in relief in the fourth inning, finished the final six innings without giving up a run, earning a victory for the Cougars.

Even with feelings that his team should have left the weekend with three victories, Peterson was impressed by the team's performance. The two wins put the Cougars in a spot that would enable them a playoff berth if the season ended today. But it is not, and next weekend the schedule gets tougher as North Idaho visits Clackamas for a three-game weekend.

"They (North Idaho) are a fundamentally good ballclub," Peterson said of the team that beat them three times in Couer d'Alene earlier in the season. "We are going to have to play doggone well to beat them. We should have won two of the games up there but we didn't."

Clackamas is in a battle with both Treasure Valley and North Idaho for the two regional playoff spots, with

each team playing each other six times. The two teams with the best records from the twelve games will advance to the playoffs. As it stands now North Idaho (3-0) is followed by the Cougars (2-4) and Treasure Valley (1-2). The Cougars will play each of the teams three more times, while North Idaho and Treasure Valley have six games remaining to play versus each other.

"The kids are starting to play very well, especially this weekend," Peterson said. "This is the best defensive team that I have ever coached here, and our pitching has been strong all year. And now our bats are finally starting to shape up."

Peterson feels the whole team is starting to hit the ball a lot better, but only three members are currently above the .250 mark. Leading the team at the plate is Baggerly and Bower with batting averages of .354 and .318, respectively. The pace then drops off to Chris Mayfield at .255, and Tony Mueller at .247.

"They (Treasure Valley and North Idaho) have both played around 40 games, which is considerably more than us. If we play up to our capabilities we will be in the playoffs," Peterson said.



TAKING CAREFUL AIM, a member of the Wheelblazers attempts a shot, during last Tuesday's wheelchair basketball game against Clackamas Community College. The game was part of the Handicapped Awareness Week sponsored by ASG.

Photo by Duanne Luckow

Netters win third straight despite loss of Bob Martin

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

The Clackamas men's tennis team upped their season record to 9-6, by thrashing Clark Community College of Vancouver, Washington, 9-0. The win was the Cougar's third straight.

Injuries have plagued Dave Buckley's squad as of late but replacements have filled in admirably. "They've all responded great," Buckley said of his numbers five, six, seven, and eight men.

With number one man John Storm injured last week and third man Bobby Martin on the shelf until the regionals, Buckley could have been in trouble. But no. Steve Gorman, Kenny Hedden, and Ben Campbell all move up a man and all win.

Storm, still nursing a very sore tendon in his foot, managed to limp to a respectable 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 win over Clark's top player.

Byron Sullivan won in straight sets 6-4 and 6-1. "Byron's game is really coming along," Buckley said. "The

same with Gorman and Hercamp," he added.

Hercamp won 6-2 and 6-4, while Gorman was also victorious with a 6-0, 2-6 and 6-2.

Ken Hedden, who moved up to fill the fifth spot also took three sets to do away with his opponent 7-5, 2-6 and 6-0. "Gentle" Ben Campbell recorded a two-set victory in fine fashion, 6-0 and 6-0.

In doubles action Storm and Sullivan got a scare in their second set. The Cougar duo won the first set 6-1, but were then stunned 5-7 in the second. The Clark doubles team was held at bay when Sullivan unleashed his "mass cheese" serve in the third set; the result was a 6-2 victory.

In other doubles action Mike Wofford and Steve Gorman, filling in for the injured Lake Oswegan, Bob Martin, won handily 6-3 and 6-4. Ben Campbell and Tom Hercamp also won 6-3 and 6-2.

Earlier in the week the Cougs also recorded a 5-0 rainout win over Multnomah School of Bible.

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