

## Three straight

# Execution key as netters prep for tourney

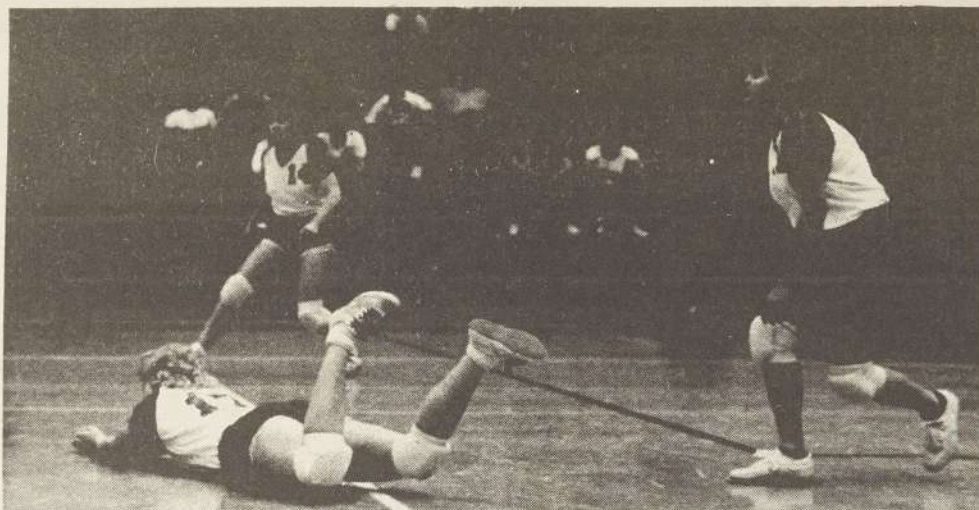
By Rob Conner  
Of The Print

The women's volleyball team appears to be sitting pretty well going into next week's regional seeding tournament in Rexburg, Idaho. Kathi Woods' squad has bolstered its record to 10-6 overall, which includes three straight wins.

Friday, the Cougars dropped Lower Columbia College 10-15, 15-12, 15-9 and 15-13. On Saturday they traveled to Pasco, Wa., and bested Columbia Basin Community College in four games 7-15, 15-3, 15-12, and 16-14. The team's most recent victory came Monday against the Pacific University Junior varsity 10-15, 15-12, 15-12 and 15-5.

Coach Woods is very optimistic. "We are coming together as a team. But we still have a week and a half until our next regional seeding tournament in Rexburg (at Rick's College)."

The fact that all the team's six losses have come in tournament play doesn't worry the first-year coach.



**DIVING SAVE**—Lyn Smyth (17) makes diving save while Pam Weber (14) and Shari

Kamrath (11) look on.

Photo by Duane Hiersche

"The mental part of the game is what we need to work on the most," Woods said.

Woods knows that when it comes down to the end of the season her team is not going to be able to spot the other school a one-game lead and get away with it. "The Pacific JV's played tough in that first game, but there really wasn't

any excuse for the other two (first game losses)."

Brenda Merkley had perhaps her finest game of the season Monday against the Pacific JV's. "She's had problems serving," the coach noted. Merkley showed no signs of her recent slump as she connected on 18 of 19 servings and was credited with six aces.

Woods was also pleased with her team's execution of the offense. "We are becoming better at setting up our plays and running our offense," she said.

The stat sheet revealed the story. Setters Lori Chisholm and Pam Weber combined for 44 of the team's 45 assists. "Lori (Chisholm) had one of her best games as a setter. She

was fast and able to vary her sets, which keeps the other team off guard," Woods said.

Woods was pleased with the fact that her team combined for 49 kills, 14 of which were scored by Kelly Flanagan.

It was a fine all-around performance by Flanagan which guided the Cougars to victory on Saturday. Flanagan posted 10 kills, was 22-24 attacking, 5-9 on blocks, 23-24 in service receiving, and was 15-15 serving. "It was good, consistent all-around play, which makes her such a good volleyball player," the coach said.

Les Kingsbury also had a good all-around game. She was 7-14 blocking, 16-17 service reception and 16-16 serving with two aces. Lori Chisholm led the team with five services aces.

"I don't think the four and half hour drive helped any," Woods said in defense of her team dropping the first game of the match. "Maybe it was van-lag or something," Woods joked.

## Soccer team ties 'one of nations finest' 1-1

By Doug Vaughan  
Of The Print

Oct. 12 Seattle Pacific University brought an undefeated, number one-ranked team nationally to Clackamas Community College. Oct. 13 they felt lucky to remain unmarked, as they escaped a nearthrashing by the Cougars, settling for 1-1 tie.

"Their coach told me he felt lucky at the end of the game," Cougar Coach Janos Szantos said. "When we were scheduling the game he asked how to spell Clackamas—I hope he remembers it now."

The Cougars let the visitors cross the midfield line on very few occasions as their control of the ball was exceptional.

"We had shots on goal left and right and unfortunately only one made it in," Szantos said. "They only had two shots on goal and unluckily one went in."

The game was a confidence builder for the Cougs as they came within reaching distance of turning the lights off on the top-ranked team in the nation.

"It was a big game for us. There is no one better than Seattle Pacific," Szantos said.



**LOOKING AHEAD**—Cougar LeRoy Neal (16) dribbles up field against Seattle Pacific.

Photo by Russ McMillen

"There wasn't anyone who was disappointed in the way we played."

A change in emotions came a few minutes into the game, as Szantos said his squad went from a little intimidated to ready for the challenge.

The Cougars will get their rematch Nov. 2 as they travel north to meet Seattle Pacific in the Kingdome.

As far as league is considered, Clackamas is on top of the list followed by Portland Community College, Oregon State, and the Univer-

*"When we were scheduling the game (the Seattle Pacific coach) asked me how to spell Clackamas—I hope he remembers it now."*

sity of Oregon, respectively.

With only two games left for the Cougars, a playoff spot is secured and a first place finish is very possible. Once league play is over it is playoff time.

"The four best teams play off and it is do or die time," Szantos said. "We have got to the finals the last

two years, but only won it once."

Win or lose, Szantos said that this year's team has a special quality. "I have coached more skilled players, but as a team this one is the best. They really put their hearts out for one another, and that is important in any team game," Szantos said.

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