

# Sports

## Berney predicts top 10 placing

By Doug Vaughan  
Of The Print

More than 2,000 miles stand between the Clackamas Community College wrestling team and their goal. That's roughly the distance between Oregon City and Chicago, the site of the 1984 junior college national championships March 1-3.

Coach Norm Berney looks at the Cougars' possibilities with optimism, yet uncertainty.

"I have a feeling we will do real well, but I don't know what we will be facing," Berney said.

What Berney is talking about is the lack of communication between junior colleges. "All the teams from the East know about each other, but we don't know anything about them," Berney explained.

What Berney does know is that the Cougars will be well represented. Seven of

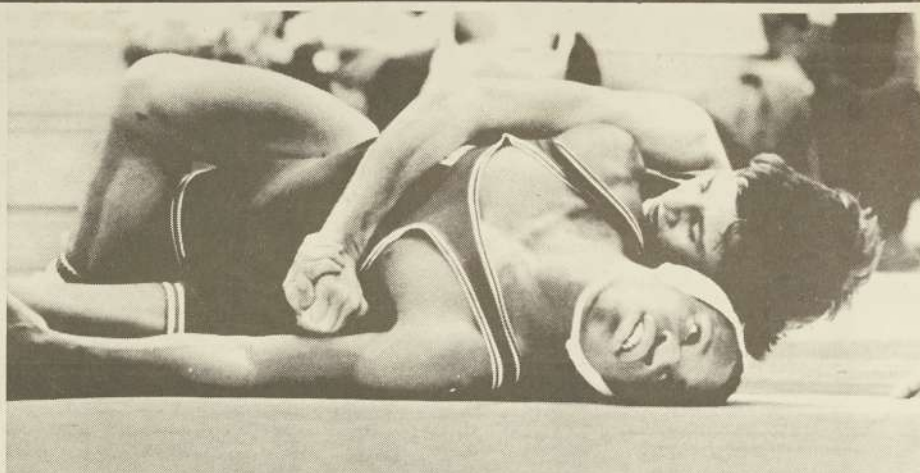
Clackamas' matmen made the cut.

The trio of Scott Ames at 190, Dave Duncan at 177, and heavyweight Robert Young are expected to carry the Cougars. If a couple other Cougars wrestle to their potential, Berney is expecting a top-ten finish.

Duncan has lost to only one junior college opponent this year while compiling a 29-5 record. North Idaho's Roy Ozser is the only junior college rival to beat Duncan, but the Cougar grappler got revenge in the regional title match with a 7-4 decision.

Young has had even less trouble with junior college opponents. While gathering a 21-3 overall mark, the heavyweight has yet to be beaten at the junior college level. Young also captured the regional championship.

The third wrestler of the Cougars' nucleus, Ames, reached the regional finals, but lost his first junior college



COUGAR IN CONTROL—John Wachsmith controls tempo in regional wrestling action.

match to North Idaho's Carlton Pease. Affected by the flu, it was Ames' first loss to Pease in their five meetings.

Blaine Schutzler at 150, who also made the cut, was victimized by the flu at regionals, but has recovered. While earning a tough 16-8 seasonal record, he placed second in regionals.

The three other wrestlers representing Clackamas in Chicago are John Wachsmith at 126 (19-8), Randy Barkhurst at 142 (15-0) and Larry Jo Tanner at 158 (12-9).

"It's going to be a totally different atmosphere there. Everyone is starting out even," Berney said. "Our outcome will depend on how things get going. If we can compete at our highest competitive attitude, anything can happen."

Clackamas goes into the tournament ranked in the top 20, and Berney thinks in order to get in the top ten, three Cougars will have to place. Berney says they have the ability to do it. The wrestling

program at the College brought back four trophies from 1971-1974, but have not been able to do as well recently. An accomplishment like the national championship that the Cougars earned in 1971 might be a fantasy for this year's team, but at the national championships, the sky is the limit. "I would definitely say that a top-ten placing is not out of the question. Everything is equal, and anything can happen," Berney concluded.

## Women's tourney up for grabs, Garver confident

As far as Phil Garver is concerned, the Region 18 women's basketball title is up for grabs.

Garver feels his team, which has won six of its last seven games has as good of a chance as anyone, despite being seeded third. Northern Idaho is the top seed, College of Southern Idaho is the second seed, and Rick's is seeded fourth.

"The brackets are set up really nice," Garver said. "Northern Idaho doesn't know much about us. It couldn't make things better for us."

The fact is that Clackamas doesn't know much about Northern Idaho either. This doesn't bother Garver. "We'll do well. We play tough against the tough teams," he said.

Two keys for the Cougars will be the play of Brenda Merkley and Carol Hashberger. Merkley has carried the load as of late in the scoring department. Garver hopes to keep Hashberger out of foul trouble.

"Merkley has been at the top of her game. She's doing real well inside," Garver said. The sophomore transfer from Treasure Valley poured in 24 points in her last outing.

The defense has really pulled Garver's crew through this season. "If we come out and run our press we'll be alright," Garver said. "I wouldn't disclose any details of his team's pressing tactics in case this article fell into the wrong hands."

The Cougars wound up the regular season in fine fashion by taking two games from the Capilano Blues over the weekend. Clackamas ended the regular season with a 17-12 record.

In the first game the Cougars edged the Blues by two 47-45. Clackamas relied on their hot hand from the floor and Capilano's cool touch to eke out the victory.

The second game was just as close and just as exciting. The result was the same, Clackamas 71, Capilano 69. Brenda Merkley led all scorers with 24 points.



INSIDE POSITION—Clackamas women take charge under the boards. The Cougars have won six of their last seven. Phil Garver's squad ended the regular season with a 17-12 record.

Regional action will take place March 9-10, in Couer d'Alene, ID.

"The whole tournament is up for grabs," Garver said. "Whoever puts the most hoops in will win it."

Photos by Joel Miller

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