

Sports

New faces add strength, netters leap to 3-0 start

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

With none of his top three singles players returning from last year, and only two of the top six back this season, is men's tennis Coach Dave Buckley worried?

No way. Buckley revamped the Cougar attack with three new faces to make for a solid top five. The Cougar mentor coached 22-year-old Eugene product Leo Young out of semi-retirement to resolve any doubts about the number-one position.

Young, who had played the northwest club circuit for four years, was working in construction before Buckley contacted him. "He's probably one of the most talented players in the northwest," Buckley said. "He's a little rusty but he's going to destroy some guys."

Buckley was also able to recruit Mark Stevenson, one of the top local high school buckles from last year. Buckley has tossed the West Linn grad right into the second position without much hesitation.

"He's a good player.

Mark is getting used to college tennis right now. Every match he's had has been close," Buckley said.

Penciled in at the moment in positions three and four are Clackamas' only two returners from the 1983 Region 18 championship team Steve Gorman and Tom Hercamp. Buckley is especially impressed with the early season play of Gorman, who jumped from the fifth position last year to third this season.

"Steve's playing real tough. He was probably the toughest player on the team at the end of last year. He's picking up where he left off," the coach stated.

Hercamp has been slowed in the early going by an ankle injury which the coach feels has the cagey Oregon City star a bit out of shape. "He's a real steady player. I think he's 3-0. When he gets himself into better shape and takes care of his injury, he'll be okay," Buckley said.

Rounding out the top five is Pineville, Ore. native Kurt Clements. Clements played number three at North Idaho last year and should help out considerably.

Clackamas has jumped out to a blistering 3-0 start this

season. The Cougars have turned back Linfield 8-1, Walla Walla 8-1, and Multnomah School of Bible 6-3. Buckley couldn't be more pleased.

"Considering that the teams we have been playing have had four or five matches, we are playing real well," he said.

"We are stronger than last year. We have the same depth but are a lot stronger at the top," Buckley said.

In the team's most recent action at the Multnomah School of Bible, Buckley wasn't real pleased with the score. However, a win is a win.

Leo Young wasted little time in dropping his third straight opponent 6-2, 6-0. Steve Gorman also won 6-1, 6-1, as did Hercamp 6-1, 7-6 and Clements bested his man 6-4, 6-4.

In doubles action Young and Stevenson rolled 6-0, 7-6 and Gorman and Hercamp made quick work of their opponents 6-1, 6-2.

The Cougars have home action this Thursday versus Portland State. They will then travel to both Willamette University and Oregon State on Saturday.



TENNIS ANYONE?—Bill Clayson gets everything into his serve in recent action versus Walla Walla. Dave Buckley's tennis team has also turned back Linfield and Multnomah. Next action is against Portland State at home Thursday.

Photo by Joel Miller

Track times improve as weather breaks in Pasco

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

Mother nature has played dirty tricks all season against the Clackamas Community College men's track team, but Kelly Sullivan, assistant coach, believes when the storms quit, the Cougars will shine.

"We have had really bad weather to compete in and it has really affected our times," Sullivan explained. "I am pleased with our performance so far, but we have had to battle the weather."

The bright spot for the Cougs so far was an invitational meet in Pasco, Wash.,

hosted by Eastern Washington State University. Team scores were not tallied, but Clackamas' individual performances showed just how tough the team from Oregon City is.

Yul Provancha and Matt Parker surprised the field of 800-meter runners as they placed first and second respectively. Provancha's 1:51.9 and Parker's 1:52.9 were both personal bests and qualified them for the national meet.

"The run by Yul and Matt was definitely the highlight of the meet. They beat two very good runners from Washington," Sullivan said.

A trio of 5,000-meter runners also caught Sullivan's eye in this meet. Adam Jagelski, Jim Edmark and Jim Hogue finished with times of 15:05, 15:11 and 15:13, respectively.

Cougars Rob Conner, John Hansen and Parker have already qualified for the national meet in the 5,000 meters, and Parker, along with Brian Abshire, has also qualified in the 1,500 meters.

The only team meet for the Cougars before the regional meet will be their invitational at home April 27. The other competition the Cougs have faced is invitational, non-team meets. The next of this type will be in Corvallis at Oregon State University April 11.

Each of these meets are a step in the team's training for the regional meet.

"Right now, looking towards regionals, I would have to say we are in good shape. We just haven't ran like we are capable due to the weather," Sullivan said.

"Knowing this is our last year to compete at the national level we would like to do very well. It will be the last time the school has a chance to," Sullivan concluded.

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