

Links crew in full swing, club Willamette

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

Jim Hudson's swingers recorded another big win last week clubbing Willamette 301-323 on the Cougars' home turf. The victory upped Clackamas' dual match record to 3-1.

The 301 total was Hudson's squad's lowest of the season. "They are beginning to come along. We are just now beginning to play good golf," the coach said.

Some inconsistent play has hurt the club at times this year. Hudson feels it won't be long before the squad is shooting sub-300 consistently.

"It's a matter of concentration, they just need good weather," Hudson said.

The weather has not affected the play of sophomore

Dave Stevens one bit this season. Stevens, one of only two returning members on Hudson's team, has been medalist in four matches already this season.

Stevens is averaging 76 strokes per round and has a low of 73. Hudson credits the Estacada grad's short game as his most effective weapon. "He is able to get the ball up and down," the coach stated.

At the moment Hudson sees seven golfers playing good enough to make his top-five regional team. The coach foresees some very tough intra-squad competition.

Hudson feels his team's attitude is the best he has had in years. "I think it's their desire to play golf and their willingness to practice. That, of course, is what makes the good golfer, working on ac-

curacy," he said. "They are out there every day—that makes a difference."

The Cougars, though very young, are no strangers to tournament play. In their three invitationals this season, Hudson's stokers have captured a first, a second and a third.

Clackamas' chief competition at regionals will come from Treasure Valley Community College. Stevens led the Cougars past the Ontario club by four strokes earlier in the year, and Hudson's club tied with Treasure Valley for third in the Mt. Hood Invitational.

Clackamas hosts Central Oregon and Treasure Valley in a triangular match today at Arrowhead Golf and Country Club.

Seattle's Mariners: No longer doormat of American League

By Rob Conner
Sports Editor

Northwest baseball fans have waited a long time for a winner in the major leagues. Make that a real long time!

The Seattle Mariners, for all intents and purposes, have played the role of American League doormat for all of their 8 years in the major leagues. But there is something brewing in Marinerville this season.

So far, that is.

How does one account for the "surge" (they have never surged before so we can't call it a resurgence) of Seattle's misfits in the early going of the 1984 season? I just call it good old-fashioned hard-ball.

The Mariners are currently 7-3 and atop the American League's western division. Their last two losses came in consecutive one-run defeats at the hands of the Minnesota Twins. The M's are definitely playing quality baseball.

The big reason has got to be the early heroics of the young pitching staff. The four primary starters have combined for a 1.33 earned run average which has stymied rival bats.

With the loss of Bill Caudill in an off season trade, the bullpen was supposed to be in question. Somebody forgot to tell Ed Vandenberg. The lanky bullpen ace has been nothing short of sensational in the early going of this '84 campaign.

With all of the youth in the Mariner club, most people have forgotten that this team does have some quality veterans. The chemistry is conducive to winning games.

With the acquisition of Barry Bonnell and Gorman Thomas, the Mariners have added instant credibility to their lineup.

Bonnell, a perennial .300 hitter, came to Seattle from Toronto. His big bat in the lineup will help considerably, as well his versatility on defense. He can play outfield as well as infield.

Thomas came to the Mariners from Milwaukee, where he felt he wasn't being given a fair shake. Thomas should have a banner season in the long-ball department.

The big outfielder has been among the A.L.'s top sluggers for the past five seasons. Despite some nagging injuries that have slowed the "big fella," the close confines of the Kingdome should be to Gorman's liking.

One man that might be overshadowed by the two new vets is one Mr. Al Cowens. Cowens, a veritable superstar in his own right, still has the range, speed and power to play right field with anybody in the league.

Forget about last season when Cowens failed to hit his weight. He will be back to the form that made him one of the league's premier outfielders during the mid to late 70's.

And how about some more bats? Try the likes of Steve Henderson, Dave Henderson and young Ricky Nelson on for size. All potential .300 hitters that can drive in 75 runs during the season.

Combine all of this talent with a manager like Del Crandal, who single-handedly did wonders with the L.A. Dodgers farm clubs, and you have the potential for a contender in the A.L. West.

There will be no more softball in Seattle, the Mariners are playin' hardball in 1984.



SUN NOT RUN—Yul Provancha takes time out for sunbathing before track practice. Photo by Joel Miller

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