

Sports

Netters win 5-4, despite doubles trouble

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

Outstanding play from the top of the order proved to be all Dave Buckley needed to slip his men's tennis team by a stubborn Lewis and Clark club 5-4.

The victory, coupled by a 7-2 decision over Pacific University earlier in the week, lifted Clackamas' record to 12-2.

Led by freshman Leo Young, the Cougars dominated singles play capturing all of the top five positions. The Pioneers retaliated

by winning six singles and sweeping all three doubles contests but simply ran out of matches.

Doubles play has been the Achilles heel of the Cougar attack all season, and it was extremely vulnerable Monday. A make-shift lineup did little to combat the problem.

A knee injury to Mark Stevenson forced Buckley to pair two of his doubles teams with first-time combinations. Kurt Clements moved up from third doubles to play with Young at number one, and Bill Clayson paired with Jose Naranjo at the third position.

Cougar duets dropped

like flies all afternoon. The closest a Clackamas team got to a match victory was 4-6. The effort did not particularly please Buckley.

"We work a lot in practice on doubles. It's just applying what we do in practice in the matches, and they're not doing it right now," he said.

The Cougar mentor also feels it is a lack of aggressive net play which has hurt his team. "Most of our guys, except for Leo, aren't serve-and-volley players, so they aren't comfortable at the net. They keep the ball in play too much. Instead of hitting the ball right at the guy, they'll hit it to the side and have the guy return it for a winner."

On the other hand, the singles play couldn't have pleased Buckley more. The Cougars swept the top five matches without the aid of Stevenson at number two.

Young turned back Lewis and Clark's Frank Grote, the defending NAIA conference champ, in a tight three set match 7-5, 2-6, 7-5. Buckley feels the contest pitted the two top college players in the state.

The match of the day was probably Steve Gorman's upset, come-from-behind victory over Tim Matheson. Gorman dropped the first set 2-6 on the indoor surface at Lewis and Clark but rallied to steal the next two 7-6, 6-3.

"He (Matheson) has beaten just about everybody (at the number-two position). He's a good player, plus Gorman beat him on a fast surface," Buckley said.

Another positive note in the middle of the lineup was Tom Herkamp's victory at number three. The big Oregon City High product showed no signs of his recurring ankle in-



Steve Gorman

jury as he walked the dog 6-1, 6-3.

Kurt Clements and Bill Clayson each toppled their opponents 6-4, 6-3 and 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 respectively.

Buckley is pleased with where his team is at for the stretch run. "The more we're playing, the tougher we're getting. They are starting to win the closer matches. When you can go into the third set and

win, that's the big difference," he said.

This afternoon the Cougars host the University of Oregon for play which begins at 3:00 p.m. Stevenson is scheduled to play his number-two singles which leaves Buckley confident.

"It's going to be close but we should beat them. It's going to be how we do at four, five, and six and one of the doubles," he said.

Relay shatters mark

Hoping to qualify a few members for the regional and national meets, the women's track team hosted an array of Oregon teams at the Clackamas Invitational last weekend.

Prior to the meet, Coach Marilyn Wynia confirmed that the meet would not be mandatory for her team. One event Wynia hoped to qualify for nationals was the two-mile relay squad of Tami Flores, Vicki Anderson, Petra Johnson and Suzy Thompson.

The quartet had not competed in the event all season because Wynia said it is not a popular race in collegiate track even though it is a national event. The team's performance was pleasing for their first running.

Running against members of the men's track team, the crew set a new school record

and qualified for the national meet with a time of 9:30.6.

The Lady Cougs also got a strong performance from Sherry Yost in both the high and long jump. Yost captured both crowns with a 5-4 high jump and a 16-10 long jump.

Along with being a part of the record-breaking two-mile relay, Anderson captured a first in the intermediate hurdles with a 1:05.7 running for the host team.

In the javelin, the Cougs were represented well as Debbie Koffel threw the spear 149-6 for first, and teammate Shari Hilton placed third with a 143-8 toss.

The Lady Cougs will compete in the regional meet Friday and Saturday. The College will host the event. The meet starts at 1 p.m. Friday and continues on Saturday.



LONG JUMPING—Freshman Sherry Yost did double duty Saturday. Yost won the long jump at 16-10 and took top honors in the high jump with a 5-4 jump.

Photos by Joel Miller



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