

# Sports

## Cougs down LBCC

By Julie Miller  
Sports Editor

Saturday night the Men's Basketball team played what could almost be termed as a 'boring' basketball game. The Cougars defeated the Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) Road Runners on the Cougar's own home turf, 77-73.

"We are definately in a slump," said Head Coach Royce Kiser, "and we have to come out of it. We looked slow and tired; something's not clicking." Both teams seemed to match each other basket for basket the entire first half, with hardly any fouls.

Towards the end of the first half, the Cougars pulled ahead 22-18, with the help of a very 'blond' Russell Livingston, who was also the games leading scorer with 21 points. At halftime the teams went into the locker room with the Cougars leading 41-36.

The second half was quite different from the first as LBCC started to catch up, but with 13:26 left in the game, the Cougars were up 56-47. But then sudden fires were started

under the Linn-Benton squad as turnovers increased, and both teams started going to the foul line. With 5:27 left in the game the score was tied, 69-69.

With three minutes left in the game, the Cougars led by two and LBCC's long outside shots kept them within a two point range. At the 41 second mark, the Cougars attempted what looked like a stall, leading 75-73. With three seconds left, Mark Steger got fouled and dropped both of his foul shots to clinch his team's victory 77-73.

Although the Cougars were victorious, Kiser admitted that, "Every team has peaks and valleys, and we're in a valley right now. But when you come out of that valley, you'll be better than you've ever been."

In Wednesday's play, the Cougs were blown away 89-62 by Lane Community College. Holford led the team scoring, downing 19. Livingston had 12, Richards, 13 and Steger 11. Coming up Wednesday, the team travels to Portland Community College to do battle.

## John Ybarra Athlete of the Week

By Kathi Nelson  
Staff Writer

"John's been doing so well consistently," said Wrestling Coach Norm Berney of Athlete of the Week, John Ybarra.

Berney said of the 6 ft., 177-pounder Ybarra, "The last few tournaments he has done an outstanding job and has worked real hard in practice."

Ybarra has been wrestling since sixth grade when he started watching his older brother compete in the sport.

"At first I laughed and thought it look funny," Ybarra said. But with some influence from his brother, Ybarra got into the sport himself.

After ending last year's season as the district champion and taking second place at the state tournament,

Ybarra has continued his success this year. On Monday, he took second place at the regional competition which now qualifies him for the national competition.

"He's always got a positive attitude, he's on time to practice, stays late and always does what is asked of him," Berney said. "He has become a good college wrestler along with being a super person."

Ybarra considers Berney as "a good friend as well as a good coach." He said Berney "is always keeping an eye on me." The athlete's parents and brother were mentioned as the major support behind his wrestling career.

A graduate of Woodburn High School, Ybarra is taking general courses at the College. He plans to transfer to Oregon State University or Portland State where he will major in art. His career plan is to become a designer.

## Berney reflects

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"Well," Berney continued, "We went in there that year and came within a point of winning. In the last seconds, Rich Hollimann was about to turn his man over, but the whistle blew. After the match, the NIC coach came up to me flabbergasted and even embarrassed. He told me a team like ours should never have come so close to a team like theirs. It was a great feeling."

I then asked Coach Berney who his most memorable wrestler was. He smiled and commented that he had several, but one definitely worth noting was Nathan Winner, who now coaches at Eagle Point. "His name, 'Winner', was very fitting. He won forty matches and went on to win the Nationals, I guess it was his attitude I remember so well. He was a winner in every sense of the word," coach Berney commended.

Overall, Coach Berney seemed optimistic about the CCC wrestling program, "I'm very excited about the program because it gives everybody a chance.

To be continued next issue

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### PERSONALS

WILL THE GUY named Marc in the Ski Club who loaned his ski gloves to me please pick them up in the activities office. Sorry, Kim.

DID YOU SEE the car accident which occurred Monday morning in front of the college (01-13-86)? Please call Kathie Langel at 657-0114 if you did. I am trying to locate a witness. Thanks!!

