

Cougars emerge top of NWAACC

Just a year ago the Clackamas women's basketball team was suffering through their toughest season.

This season, thanks to a more balanced team, the Cougars are 16-4 overall and 7-0 alone atop the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's southern region.

Why?

Curran's Corner



by Christopher Curran
Design/Sports Editor

When you go to a Clackamas game it would be impossible not to see freshman guard Angela Hewlett pouring in her 17.1 points and passing out her 9.5 assists per game. Leslie Hughes, a 5' 11" freshman from West Linn High School, is currently averaging 10.3 rebounds per game, 92 of them offensive rebounds, which give the Clackamas offense that many more opportunities to score two points.

Another reason why the Cougars are having as successful season as they are having is field goal percentage. Clackamas is shooting 44 percent as a team compared to 37 percent for their

opponents.

Coach Phil Garver has been able to play almost every player in every game. Nine of the 13 players have seen action in all 20 of Clackamas' games this season.

The Cougars are outscoring their opponents by 12 points a game.

In their Jan. 22 triumph over Lane Community College, the Lady Cougars were down 52-50 with very little time remaining in the contest. In the final minutes, they scored seven straight points to lift themselves past the Titans 57-52. According to Garver, the team has "been able to come through in the crunch."

"We had a meeting last Friday (Jan. 29)," said Garver, "the girls set goals to keep an undefeated season."

That season will be tested this week when the Cougars go up against three opponents in the next four days. Tonight they square up against Chemeketa Community College. Feb. 5 sees the team play host to Umpqua Community College and Feb. 6 Southwestern Oregon Community College comes to town.

"Three games in a week is a little much," stated Garver, "but I would rather be playing than practicing."

Garver says he will have a lot of players returning next year, so the team can look forward to another good season, but as far as the season goes, "We're going to take it one game at a time."

At this point in the season, the Cougars have come together and are leaving visions of last year in the dust.

Against PCC...

Cougars, Kiser signal win

by Jerry Ulmer
Staff Writer

Trev Kiser scored 32 points by nailing 9 of 12 three-pointers as Clackamas built a huge first half lead and held off PCC 90-81 last Wednesday at Randall Hall.

Kiser's performance offset a dominating 28 point effort by PCC's John Thompson. Thompson, a 6' 4" sophomore from Washington, D.C., carved up the Cougars inside and threw down a couple of mammoth slam dunks along the way.

The first 13 minutes of the game were the difference. A stifling Clackamas defense forced a lot of bad shots and PCC turnovers, and on the other end the Cougars pushed the ball inside to dual posts Nate Pyatt and Shawn Hartley with repeated success. The Cougars slowly stretched their lead to 38-16 with 6:30 left in the half when Hartley rebounded his own miss with a hoop.

"They didn't get a chance to scout it," Clackamas Coach Royce Kiser said of posting both Hartley and Pyatt. "We put that in new. All it is, is a basic triangle but they weren't ready for it."

Sensing an easy win, the Cougar defense went on vacation late in the first half and PCC cranked up its offense. PCC outscored Clackamas 18-6 to close the half behind 53-45.

Clackamas reached for the throttle to open the second half, but couldn't find it, and after PCC's Thompson spun for a hoop in the lane, the lead was down to 53-49.

That's when Trev Kiser took over. The 6' 5" frosh from Lake Oswego would go on to score 21 second-half points as the lead bounced between five and 12 points the rest of the way.

"They've been trying to stop him out there," Coach Kiser said of the perimeter attention Trev is drawing. "But he's been doing it all year."

Jim Bonnarens scored 17 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead a physical Mt. Hood team to a 68-61 win over Clackamas at Mt. Hood last Saturday.

The Saints won the game with defense and rebounding. Mt. Hood constantly hassled Cougar lead scorer Trev Kiser, playing him tight around the three-point arc and forcing Clackamas to find their offense elsewhere.

Cougar assistant, Paul Fiskum agreed. "Playing good defense also means making them work for their scores, and we weren't doing that. The good defense at the end saved us."

Clackamas was right in the game for more than a half despite poor ball movement and missing the services of leading rebounder, Jeff Hoffman, who was out with a muscle pull. Relying heavily on the inside scoring of Nate Pyatt and



photo by Tim Zivney

Clackamas center Nate Pyatt skies for the score as the Lane team watches from below.

Shawn Hartley, the Cougars pulled into their last tie (there were ten in all) at 39-39 on two Todd Harris free throws.

Then things got worse. With Bonnarens cleaning out gaps in the Cougar defense bigger than a wheelchair suite in a public restroom, Mt. Hood pulled away. The freshman post from Lakeview scored 11 of his 17 points from then on to lead the way.

"Bonnarens is one of the best players in this conference," said CCC assistant Paul Fiskum. "He's a big tough stud. He out-positioned us all night and my hat's off to him."

After Mt. Hood's Wray Wade stole the ball from Jon Rainforth and soloed for a layup, the lead was 51-42. The Cougar offense stalled during the run as they couldn't get a shot to fall or a whistle to blow.

"Incompetent officiating," remarked CCC Coach Royce Kiser. "They shot 28 free throws and we shot eight. Mt. Hood played a heck of a game, I take nothing away from them, but we didn't get any calls."

Actually, Mt. Hood shot 34 free throws, making 25. Clackamas was 8-8 from the stripe.

The Cougars couldn't close the gap until desperation time, as Mt. Hood grabbed more offensive rebounds than by Jeff

Stein and Trev Kiser weren't enough to pull it out.

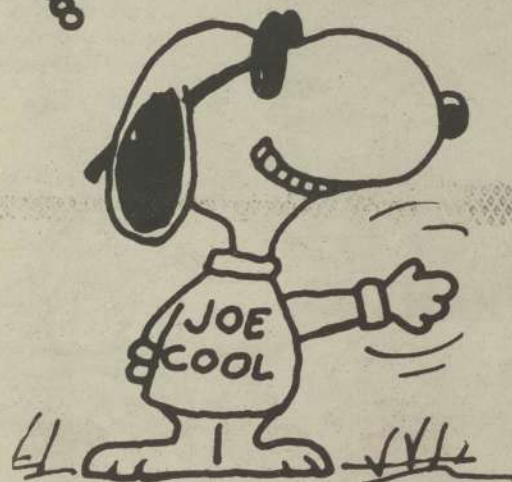
"Our game plan was to make (Trev) Kiser put the ball on the ground," said Mt. Hood Coach Andy McClouskey. "He still go a couple threes on us in the second half because he's such a tremendous shooter. When Hartley was scoring inside on us to start the second half, that was mostly due to our respect for Kiser." Kiser finished with eight points.

Did McClouskey think the refs were bad? "I think we got more calls because we took it inside a little bit. I have to look at the films to see. I know I've been on the road before and felt like I've been cheated."

PCC's last chance came when Thompson hit a jumper to close the margin to 75-70. But Trev Kiser quickly quelled the rally by hitting a three-pointer, drawing a foul, and adding the ensuing free throw for a rare four-point play.

Despite the win, Coach Kiser had mixed emotions. "I'm glad that we won and we're working hard, but we're really hurting if we don't play better defense. We had to keep switching from zone to man in the second half because we couldn't stop them. We have to get back on defense. There's gonna be some ass chewing and defensive drills in practice tomorrow."

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO WHEN YOUR GIRL FRIEND HAS LEFT YOU, YOUR TV SET IS BROKEN AND YOUR JOGGING SUIT IS IN THE WASH?



GIVE BLOOD

Feb. 10 from 10a.m. to 3p.m.

in the Fireside Lounge

