

SPORTS INSERT

Clackamas Community College

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Berney content coaching community college

by Mark Borrelli
Staff Writer

To say that Norm Berney is "just a wrestling coach," would be an insult. Just call Berney successful, resourceful, a wrestling mentor... Norm Berney.

Berney has been the head wrestling coach here at Clackamas since 1976. He came to Clackamas in 1971 and was an assistant coach under Larry Wright. Berney also helped coach

and second in the conference championships.

While in college, Berney studied business, and planned on getting into the business world, not education. "I wasn't even going to get into education. I was going to get drafted, so I had a chance to teach, and I decided to teach." But according to Berney that's not the only reason he got into teaching and coaching. "I like working with people, seeing them become successful out of college."

"It was a small town; coaching was my whole life. That's all I did."

—Norm Berney

cross country, and was the head coach for one year in 1983.

Ukiah high school in Pendleton is where Berney got his coaching career off the ground. While serving as Athletic Director, Berney was also the basketball, track, cross country, and volleyball coach. "It was a small town; coaching was my whole life. That's all I did."

Berney attended Canby high school, where he was a wrestling state champion. He then attended PSU, Eastern Oregon, and Cascade. While in college, Berney participated in wrestling all four years of his eligibility, and was Northwest regional champion,

Berney also is a counselor here at Clackamas, and feels that if a student doesn't continue on through school, then he hasn't done his job well enough. "I hate to see kids quit, whether it's academically or drug abuse." Berney feels that any student who carries out his education has a good opportunity to be successful. "I hate to see kids not continue on who have the ability to be successful in college if they just put forth the effort."

One of Berney's most satisfying moments came last year when his team went to nationals, and finished second. For the Cougars banner season, Berney was

selected national coach of the year. Berney was also nominated to coach the Junior college all-American team. For now, Berney is content coaching at the junior college level, because he feels that being a major college coach would take up too much time. "I don't know if I want coaching to be a major part of my life. It would require a great deal of time away from my family, and my hobbies."

Berney feels that the time he spent at Ukiah was a good preparation for him to be a college coach, along with the help, and guidance of Larry Wright. When asked why he continued to coach, Berney responded, "My hobby, missionary work. I don't think we have a good enough base for me to leave yet."

Berney hopes to continue coaching until he stops contributing, so it looks like he will be here for awhile. Berney would

offer a piece of advice to the high school coach who would like to coach on the college level. "You better be ready to travel, be ready to do a lot of fund raising. Be ready to do a lot of recruiting." But according to Berney, the job of a coach does not stop after recruiting. "You have got to recruit, get them to their classes, and get them motivated to win." Things Berney has done well for 11 years, and most likely for many years to come.



Photo by Julie Church

Business as usual. Berney prepares for national tournament.

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—Norm Berney

Season frustrating for men's wrestling team

by Mark Borrelli
Staff Writer

The Clackamas men's wrestling team will try to end a frustrating season on a good note, hoping that freshman Bryan Schiller, and sophomore Tim Jordan can make a successful showing for Clackamas in the national tournament Feb. 25-27.

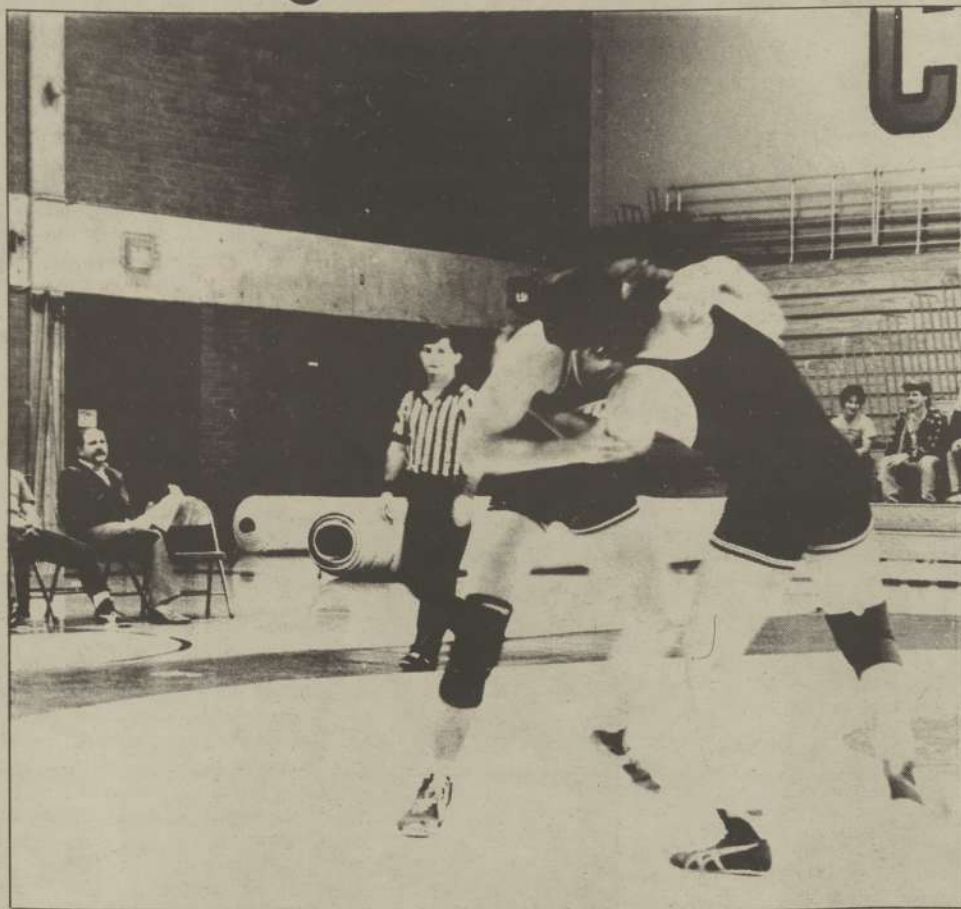
Because of an untimely injury to Tom Malone, and some personal problems to other top Cougar wrestlers, Clackamas was only able to send two members of its squad onto the national tournament. Inexperience, according to coach

"The lack of experience was really a key."

—Norm Berney

Norm Berney contributed to the teams slow season. "The lack of experience was really a key. At one point in the season we had eight freshman starting for us."

The inexperience led the Cougars to an average 6-5 team record, and they carried over their average performance to the regionals. "I think that was a very average tournament for us, I think we could have taken



Clackamas wrestler attempts to throw opponent.

photo by Heidi Klein

more people to the national tournament."

Injuries, and illness have also slowed the Cougars this season.

Star Tim Jordan, who did very well in the national tournament last year, became ill in December, and wasn't able to

return until February. Things got worse for Clackamas come regional time, as Tom Malone, who had been hot, injured his

shoulder just two days prior to the regional meet. Ken Thompson who had been one of Clackamas' most consistent wrestlers all year, did not wrestle in the regionals, after dropping off of the team for personal reasons. Jordan did however make it back in time for regionals, finishing second at 158.

Berney feels that while this year was a rebuilding year, it was good experience for some of his freshman. "The fact that we competed with eight freshman showed me that next year we should have a group of sophomores who will be ready,

and will know what to expect in college competition." Expected to return for Clackamas are: Bryan Schiller, Tom and Gary Malone, Brent Thompson, Robbie Bill, Shawn Brunson, Mike Prummer, and Steve Cox. Berney hopes that the sophomore experience will help turn next season into another championship year.

For now, Tim Jordan and Bryan Schiller are the Clackamas wrestling team as they go onto nationals. We wish both of these men good luck, and will look forward to taking more members of next year's team, which promises to be very strong, and experienced.