

SPORTS



Cougar center Nate Pyatt (44) scores against Linn-Benton Community College in a regular season game. The Cougars lost their first playoff game Friday 69-67. Photo by Tim Zivney

69-67 playoff loss . . .

Men's basketball season ends

by Christopher Curran
Design/Sports Editor

The Clackamas Men's Basketball Team's season came to an abrupt end Friday night.

They were trimmed 69-67 by Chemeketa at Umpqua Community College in the first round of the Southern Division's mini tournament.

The Cougars jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead, but Chemeketa bounced back with two straight baskets and tied it at 4-4.

The Chiefs were able to maintain a lead of around eight to 10 points until the final minutes of the first half when they narrowed that to six points for a halftime margin of 33-27 with the Cougars on the short end.

The second half opened up and Clackamas slowly worked the Chemeketa lead down to a 54-54 tie with five minutes remaining in the contest. A basket and a three pointer started a 13-4 run for the Chiefs and propelled them to a 67-58 lead with just two minutes remaining.

Clackamas wasn't finished yet. Trev Kiser hit a three point shot and Jeff Stein connected on another, and the Cougars were within three points at 67-64.

With time running out on the Cougars they were forced to foul. Chemeketa's Clark Buerk was sent to the line and connected on both shots giving the Chiefs a 69-64 cushion. With 17 seconds left, Kiser converted his third three pointer of the game.

In order to get the ball back, the Cougars sent Buerk back to the free throw line. He failed to make the front end of a one and one, and consequently Jeff Hoffman claimed the last of his game high 15 rebounds and sent the ball back up court.

The ball never made it within 30 feet of the basket as it was stripped by Chemeketa guard Jeff Bair with 11 seconds left in the game. He was able to elude Clackamas defenders until the three second point.

Bair missed his first free throw and Clackamas, who was out of time outs, got the ball to Stein who came just inches from connecting on a three pointer with time running out and Clackamas' season was over.

"I thought it (Stein's shot) was going in," stated Clackamas Head Coach Royce Kiser, "That would have been great."

Hoffman led all Clackamas scorers with 17 points, Trev Kiser added 13, Stein pitched in 11 points along with a game high

seven assists, and Todd Harris and Shaun Hartley contributed 10 points apiece for the Cougars.

"We played a good game," said Trev Kiser, "we just made some mistakes at the end."

Coach Kiser was a little disappointed with some of the officiating. "They went to the free throw line a lot more (26) times than we did (14)."

Dylan Nash powered the Chief attack with 18 points by connecting on six of nine three point attempts, while Tim Hamel netted 16 for Chemeketa.

Hopes of a repeat of last year's northwest championship season are gone and a successful season comes to a humbling end.

Unfortunately for the Cougars it happened just a little too soon.

Baseball season starting March 19

by Lisa Salder
Staff Writer

The baseball team has finally come out of the gym last week with their first outdoor practice. Team members and Coach Paul Roeder are both enthusiastic and optimistic about the team's upcoming first game in Yakima on Mar. 19. "We're going to kick some ass, write that down," said one player.

Roeder said he has confidence in his team's ability. "We're going to play good defense, we're going to play good offense, and we're going to pitch well too," predicted Roeder.

The team's turnout was 24 this year with nine returning players. Roeder sees the freshman talent as being "very good."

"We were lucky enough to pick up a couple of kids from Tigard," said Roeder. Tigard was the runner up in last year's Three River's league.

Roeder said that last year, pitching was not one of the team's stronger points. This year should be an improvement. "We have 12 pitchers this year," said Roeder, "and they all throw pretty darn well." Assistant Coach Rusty Myers also agreed. "This is the best pitching staff we've had in five years," he said.



photo by Tim Zivney

After several months indoors, the baseball team is now practicing outdoors. The Cougars will start the season in Yakima, WA March 19.

Start the year right
with a bright smile!

Call **Steven Blakley**
1104 Molalla Ave. Oregon City DMD
656-7131

**20% Off of Cleaning
Student and Faculty
Discount**

**Old Milwaukie
PIZZA FACTORY**

15300 S.E. McLOUGHLIN
MILWAUKIE • OREGON **654-1920**

HOURS: MON-THURS 11-11 • FRI & SAT 11-Midnight • SUN 1-10

**50%
OFF
ANY LARGE
OR MED PIZZA!**

Buy any Large or Medium Size Pizza and receive 50% off the regular price with this coupon.

Dine-in Orders Only

CCC 88 not valid with other offers

