

Cougar track teams qualify 30 for state

by Mark Borrelli
Staff Writer

The Clackamas men's track team continued their domination over league opponents, cruising to an easy dual meet victory to end their league season with a perfect 17-0 record.

The Cougar men finished with 104-1/2, while second place Linn Benton finished with 57-1/2. The undefeated season marked a first for coach Mike Hodges. "This is my first undefeated season as a coach. It is definitely one of the better seasons that a Clackamas team has ever had."

The five team field included Clark, Linn-Benton, Chemeketa, SWOCC, and Western Oregon State College. "Western has the best small four year college program in the state."

Highlighting another successful Clackamas meet was the return of Keith Ferrell. Ferrell returned in fine fashion, turning in a first place finish in the steeple chase (9:35.06). He then turned in his fastest ever 5000 meters, covering the distance in 15:08.7. Gabe Crane continues to shine for the Cougars, finishing first in the long jump with a leap of 22'8". He turned in a personal record time in the 400 meter hurdles, finishing first with a time of 55.3. He also placed second in the high hurdles, and anchored a winning mile relay team.

Tory Bland once again dominated the sprint events, winning the 100 meter run in 10.8 seconds. Bland also won the 200 meters with a time of 22.4, and ran a leg on both of the winning relay teams. Steve Miller placed third in the 200, crossing the line with a time of 22.7. Shawn Hartley finished fifth in the 400 meters, but his time of 50.05 qualified him for the State Championships. In the 800 meters event, Victor Viecele turned in a season best, finishing fourth with a time of 2:07.03. Jack Kegg finished off the running events with a first place finish in the 1500 meters, turning in a personal record time of 40:8.8. Nate Golden kept the Clackamas points adding up, finishing second in the 400, with a personal record of 48.8. He also ran a leg on both relays and finished second in the long jump with a leap of 21'9 1/2". Bryan England was close behind Golden in the 400, finishing third with a clocking of 48.7.

Clackamas also fared well in the field events, Jim Baker got things off to a good start with a third place finish in the Hammer throw, tossing it 142'2". He also placed third in the shot put with a heave of 44'2" and placed second in the discus with a mark of 137'9". In the javelin throw, Warren Behymer finished third with a toss of 179'10". John Pahlke finished fifth with a mark of 178'6". Rick Flemmer finished

first in the high jump, jumping over the bar at 6'8". Steve Miller finished the great day for the Cougars with a second place finish in the triple jump, with a 45'7 3/4" mark.

With the regular season over, the men have already qualified 20 men in 37 events and there are still three weeks until the State Championships at Mt. Hood Community College May 13-14.

"I was very pleased with our season. We knew that we would be strong, but we never counted on being undefeated." Even with their outstanding season, Hodges feels that his team could have been better. "We were never at full strength. We just got Keith back and we lost Wille Hewson to an ankle injury." Hodges feels his team will be the team to beat in the State Championships. "We should be the favorite. The way we have handled everyone this season."

While the men were dominating their opponents, the women were not doing too bad either. "That was the finest women's performance in several years," observed Coach Hodges. Freshman Gina Passadore lead the way for Clackamas, winning the javelin throw with a mark of 141'3". She won the triple jump with a jump of 31'5", she finished second in the shot put with a toss of 33'3 1/2", and she ran a leg on Clackamas' second place 400 meter relay team. Another freshman, Jodi Martini also contributed to the cause, placing second in the 100 meters with a 12.8 which qualified her for the State Championships. She finished third in the 200 with a time of 27.6, her best of the season, and she ran on both relay teams.

Cami White set personal records in the high jump,

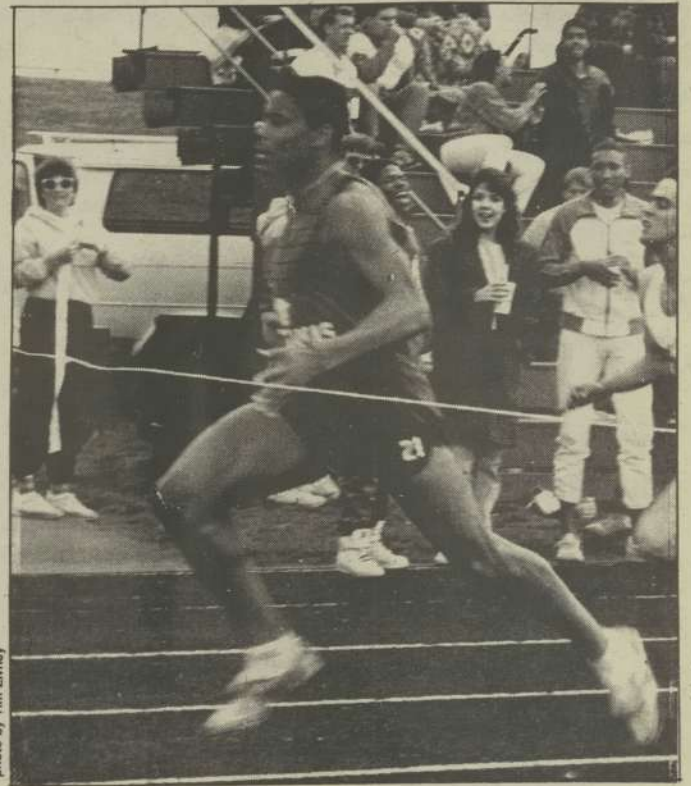


photo by Tim Zivney

Damascus Hopes cruise across the finish line.

finishing third with a 4'8" jump, set another personal record in the 400 meters with a clocking of 63.7, and she ran on both relay teams. LeAnn Hopkins finished fifth in the 400 with a time of 71.2. Christa Caraher finished fifth in the 800 and 1500 with times of 2:52.7 and 5:29.1 - both season's bests. In the 5000 meters, Jeanne Barnett placed fifth with a time of 19:47.6, her season's best. Wendy Johnson finished sixth with a personal record time of 20:16.6.

The women have qualified 10 women in 11 events for the state meet to date. Hodges feels that the women's team is just now reaching its peak: "This team is stronger than last year's and

they're improving every week." Hodges feels that his team has come a long way from last year's performances: "We have gained a lot of ground since last year on some of the tougher teams. I'm really proud of our progress." Clackamas suffered an injury to distance runner Dena Raddle that will put her out for the rest of the season, but Hodges hopes his women will do well at state. "We set a goal to finish third and we think it's a legitimate goal."

Both the men and women will be back in action, getting ready for the state meet May 13-14 and the Northwest Championships May 27-28 in Spokane.



Cougar runner recovers from race.

photo by Tim Zivney

Softball split double-header

by Christopher Curran
Design/Sports Editor

In Tuesday action Clackamas swept their double-header against Grays Harbor.

In the first game the Cougars topped Grays Harbor 8-2 behind the pitching of Leslie Johnson, who increased her record to 5-4.

Clackamas scored 11 runs in the fifth and sixth innings en route to a 12-4 smothering of the Chokers. Yvonne Johnson increased her record to 6-4 with the victory.

The Clackamas softball team split a pair of double-headers over the last weekend and came away with a two win two loss performance in doing so.

Friday saw the Cougars in Bremerton, Washington to match talents with Olympic Community College.

In the day's opener Clackamas pitcher Yvonne Johnson allowed just four hits by Olympic's batters as she tossed her way to a 3-2 triumph. Those four hits came one each in the first, second, third, and fifth innings.

The Cougars trailed 2-0 from

the first inning until the seventh inning when they earned three runs off five consecutive hits. Leading the batters for the Cougars were Trina Hutchinson, Leslie Johnson, LeAnna Helvig, and Angie Downey, who all pounded two hits apiece.

The second game against Olympic turned out to be a complete departure for Clackamas. There was very little the Cougars could do as Olympic overwhelmed them 9-0.

Olympic started early, scoring three runs in the top of the first inning. They pulled one more out of their hat in the second inning and if that weren't enough, mastered five runs during inning number five.

For the Cougars, Leslie Johnson suffered the loss which put her season tally at 4-4.

Yvonne Johnson pitched both games at Highline Community College because Leslie Johnson was out with a sore shoulder.

In the first game of the double-header at Highline in Tacoma, the Cougar defense allowed only one run in the first four innings and claimed a 2-0 lead at that point, but were mauled by four

runs in the fifth inning and one in the sixth. They could never recover and they fell to defeat for just the sixth time this season.

The second game was more to the Cougars' liking. They were able to come back from the earlier loss to conquer Highline 5-3 on another excellent pitching performance from Yvonne Johnson.

The Cougars claimed eight hits, four of them in the first inning and took control of the game. Two runs in the fourth inning sealed the victory for the Cougars. Yvonne Johnson allowed Highline batters to hit just .154 on four hits out of 26 at bats.

COUGAR NOTES: Clackamas pitcher Yvonne Johnson had a busy week, pitching four of six games. She went 3-1 for the week... Leslie Johnson was hampered by a sore shoulder and didn't pitch in either of Saturday's contests. However, she pased a 1-1 record last week... Merry Ferguson was a bright spot in Clackamas' 9-0 defeat in the second game against Olympic Friday as she claimed two of the Cougar's three hits for that game.

