

CC teams end successful season

By Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

The Clackamas men's and women's cross country teams ended their season on a very positive note - the women with a impressive second place finish and the men with a respectable fifth place finish.

The state champion women came within one point of a Northwest championship. Spokane edged the women, scoring 49 points. Clackamas finished second with a score of 50.

The individual champion for the five kilometer event was Kari McKay from Spokane with a time of 18:45. Karin Merritt was the first Clackamas finisher, coming in 5th with a time of 20:15. Karmay Bond was 8th at 20:24, Angie Wright 9th at 20:36, Sonya Hult 18th at 21:41, Lauri Schutt 20th at 21:44, Heather McElheny 24th at 21:57, and Leona Burke was 39th with a time of 26:34.

"They (Spokane) were defending champions and favored to win. I think we did a pretty good job of getting after them, we just didn't quite get there," said Coach Mike Hodges.

A second place trophy is not all that the women's team brought home from Lane. Karin Merritt, Angie Wright, and Karmay Bond, all were chosen to the All-Northwest team for finishing in the top ten.

Coach Hodges picked up another honor, being named Northwest women's coach of the year.

"I am certainly proud of that; that is the first time that I have

ever been Northwest coach of the year for anything," he said.

Even with Hodges' great coaching record, and even greater success, he refuses to accept total credit for his latest honor.

"It was a great performance by our team. They are an extremely pleasant group of ladies to work with. They conduct themselves with a lot of class; the credit goes to them," he said.

The Clackamas men set a goal to finish in the top five at the Northwest meet, and they accomplished just that.

The overall team winner was Highline with 19 points. Clackamas finished 5th with 134 points.

The men's individual winner was Brett Goller from Highline, finishing the 8 kilometer course with a time of 26:12. Nick Barger was the first Clackamas finisher, crossing the line 10th at 27:33. Dusty Moore was 16th at 27:56, Mike Paulson was 26th at 28:22, Rich Lilgenberg was 35th at 29:12, Bob Utley was 47th at 30:09, Marc Paulson was 49th at 30:16, and Jack Kegg was 57th, with a time of 31:16.

Although the men finished fifth, Coach Hodges was pleased with his team's performance.

"We really were only out of third place by 16 points. I thought we ran pretty well, considering we're basically an all freshman team," he said.

Hodges will have some time off, before indoor meets in January, before preparing for track and field in the spring.

Attitude makes Utley a winner

By Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

Natural talent or athletic ability, in most cases, describes an outstanding athlete. But for those who are not blessed with natural talent it takes hard work, a good attitude and determination, three things that Clackamas cross country runner Bob Utley has put to use, making him an outstanding athlete the old fashioned way: he earned it.

Utley, a Gladstone High School graduate, got his track career started during his sophomore year. He was on the track and cross country teams three years. He placed third in district his senior year in the 800 meters, and was on the mile relay team that finished third at state.

"That was really disappointing. Gladstone always has a good relay team," he said.

Utley decided then to come to Clackamas so he could continue to run and stay close to home.

Utley, though he has not been with the top finishers, has been a consistent runner all season long.

"I just basically want to help the team. It doesn't make me mad or upset me when I don't finish high. It just makes me work harder."

Although cross country is not one of the more glamorous sports to many, it is to Utley.

"I really like the individualism of the sport, but I also like the team concept of the sport. I get along with all of my teammates. They are like my big brothers."

When he's not running or



Smile Bob...

Cross country runner Bob Utley takes time out.

practicing, he can usually be found hunting, fishing or playing pool.

Utley credits his success as a runner to a number of things. "Better coaching, a better attitude towards myself, and just getting older, more mature," he said.

"Coach Hodges is one of the best coaches that I've ever had. My family also has been very supportive of me. They didn't push me. They let me do what I wanted."

Utley's plans for the future include one more year of Clackamas, then a four year school about

which he is undecided at this time. He wants to continue running

whether it be in college or at home.

"I'll still be running, maybe not world class but at least for exercise and fitness," he said.

His career goals are to be a fitness or a health teacher and to open his own athletic store. He also is thinking about becoming a track coach, but says the chances are "slim".

No matter what Utley decides to do, his hard work and determination will pave the way for a successful future.

Born again Cougars keep playoff hopes alive and well

by Luis Perez
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Cougars finished the 1988 volleyball season in a four way tie for third place in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, and mathematically remained alive for a berth in the NWAACC post season tournament.

Clackamas got off to a near fatal start last week, barely losing a five set match to Chemeketa 9-15, 16-14, 6-15, 15-10, 7-15.

Despite the loss it was a solid performance by the Cougar spikers, who had their backs to the wall as they headed for Southwestern Oregon Community College for their match Saturday.

The Cougars scratched their way to victory against SWOCC 8-15, 15-12, 15-3, 9-15 and 15-10. The results pleased Head Coach Kathie Woods.

"We showed a lot of enthusiasm that we lacked before. When we made a kill, we knew it,

they knew, everyone knew it," said Woods.

Dawn Cusick set up the win with 43 assists. Mindy Zgorzelski and Casie Harker led the way in the kills department, with 24 and 19 kills respectively. But it was inspired defense that sparked the Cougar victory.

Clackamas was dominating

on defense, stuff blocking almost everything SWOCC tried to send across the net. "We were really strong on the block, that's what sparked us. When they can't get a ball past us, it really reduces their chances on offense," Coach Woods said.

Mindy Zgorzelski was a terror on defense with eight blocks, Judi

Bennett contributed seven, and Jannell Cameron chipped in six for the Cougars.

Although they lost a heartbreaker to Chemeketa, overall it was a good week for the Cougars.

"It was one of our better weeks," said Woods.

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