

Pyatt's performances inspiring

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

The Clackamas men's basketball team appears to have all the ingredients necessary for a winning basketball team. Sophomore center Nate Pyatt is one of the main ingredients of the Cougar squad and his continued improvement throughout the season is crucial if the Cougars are to reach the top.

To generalize an outstanding basketball player you would automatically assume he started playing at a young age on every team available, was an all-star junior high school player, and had an outstanding high school career before moving on to college. In most cases this is true. But in Pyatt's case, he fought the system and won.

This is only Pyatt's second year of organized basketball. He had

never been on an organized basketball team before coming to Clackamas last season.

"I just never played organized ball. I played a lot of street ball growing up; I love basketball," Pyatt commented.

Pyatt got his unusual basketball career started at the age of eight in the streets of South Carolina where he grew up. Pyatt attended Myrtle Beach High School in South Carolina, but never played high school basketball.

"I wasn't in any kind of shape to play basketball in high school, but I worked hard, got in shape, and came to Clackamas to play," said Pyatt.

Although playing basketball at CCC is important to Pyatt, it's not everything.

"I'm here for an education. The most important thing right now is to get a good education,"

Pyatt remarked.

Pyatt is an engineering student and will transfer to O.I.T. after Clackamas to continue his education and his basketball career. But Pyatt has only one thing on his mind right now: winning some basketball games and attaining his goal.

"I want to win the Northwest championship. We have a very talented team and if we play as well as we can, and keep our turnovers down, we can't be stopped," said Pyatt.

Along with team goals, Pyatt has also set some individual goals for himself.

"I need to play well every game; be consistent, keep on the boards, play solid defense, and stay out of foul trouble." Pyatt feels his team's talent, depth, and good coaching will help the team attain their goal down the stretch.

"Every player on our team has talent. All of our freshman are doing an outstanding job and just need to keep it up."

Clackamas Coach Royce Kiser, according to Pyatt, is one of the reasons Pyatt has been so successful.

"He's an excellent coach and I wouldn't trade him for anyone. He's really taught me a lot since I've been here."

Between basketball, studies, and work Pyatt seldom sees any free time. But when he does, he knows how to fill it.

"Sports, any sports; softball, football, baseball. But to relax I like to listen to music: pop, and even a little jazz."

To call Nate Pyatt merely an athlete seems unjust. He has proven himself to be more than just an athlete, doing in two years what most athletes devote their lives to, and doing it very well.



Photo by Jillian Porter

Nate Pyatt dunks one in during practice.

Cougars drop a pair of league games

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

After getting off to a fast 2-0 league start, the Clackamas Cougars dropped a pair of tough league games this week and, in the process, lost sophomore forward Jeff Hoffman for two weeks.

In a crucial home game with Mt. Hood on January 11, Clackamas played well, but not well enough. The Saints from Mt. Hood got away with the win 88-82.

Both teams came out fired up in this important league encounter. The defenses dominated the first half, and Clackamas could only connect on 12-33 (36%) shooting from the field in the first half. Mt. Hood couldn't manage much better: the Clackamas defense held the high powered offense of Mt. Hood in check, forcing them to shoot just 11-27 (40.7%) from the field in the first half.

Clackamas played well enough in the first half to sneak into the locker room with a 29-28 half time lead. But that lead was short-lived. The Saints opened the period with an eight point run sparked by James Coles, who was the game high

scorer with 21 points. Coles killed the Cougars down the stretch, calmly connecting on 4-4 free throws to ice the game for Mt. Hood.

Trev Kiser collected high scoring honors for the Cougars by tossing in 20 points, including 5 of 9 from three point range. Jeff Hoffman scored 18 points and pulled down 15 boards. Nate Pyatt scored 12 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in a losing cause.

The next stop for the Cougars was a Saturday night match up with Lane Community College. Lane proved that they're a tough team at home by handing the Cougars their second straight loss, 65-57. Trev Kiser led the Cougars scoring with 16 and Nate Pyatt chipped in 14.

The big news here wasn't only the loss of the game, but the loss of Jeff Hoffman, who was injured and is expected to miss two weeks of action.

Things will not get any easier for the Cougars as they hit the road for two tough league games. They will be at Umpqua tonight and at Southwestern Oregon Saturday night.

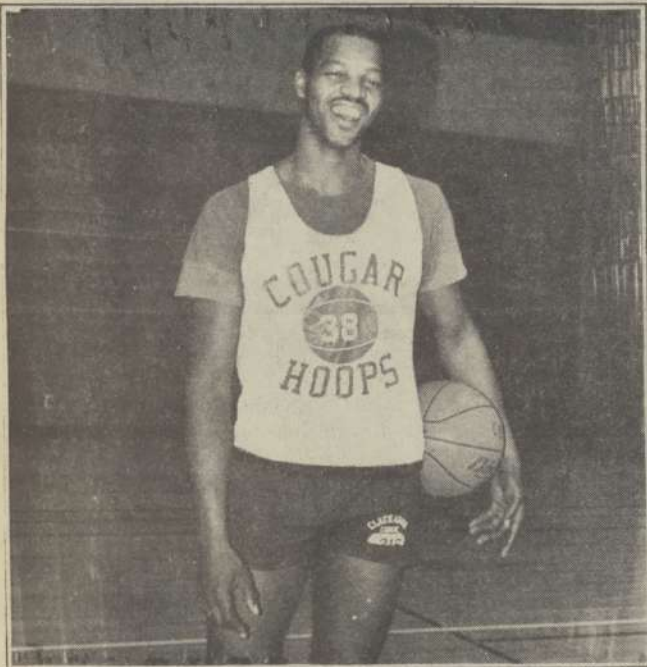


Photo by Jillian Porter

Postman Nate Pyatt shows off that colgate smile.

Women's Basketball Statistics

| Player | FG | FGA | PCT | FT | FTA | PCT | PF | REB | AST | TO | PTS | AVG |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| C. Brison | 16 | 49 | .327 | 7 | 17 | .412 | 22 | 46 | 19 | 28 | 43 | 2.5 |
| K. Brown | 42 | 120 | .350 | 31 | 48 | .646 | 32 | 64 | 97 | 71 | 175 | 10.3 |
| J. Drennen | 105 | 212 | .495 | 33 | 59 | .559 | 53 | 101 | 73 | 61 | 245 | 14.4 |
| D. Gale | 13 | 35 | .371 | 6 | 9 | .666 | 18 | 29 | 6 | 12 | 24 | 1.4 |
| S. Glasgow | 6 | 20 | .300 | 5 | 12 | .417 | 13 | 21 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 1.0 |
| C. Harker | 13 | 19 | .684 | 3 | 10 | .300 | 17 | 27 | 10 | 11 | 29 | 1.1 |
| T. Jones | 63 | 96 | .656 | 20 | 27 | .741 | 30 | 52 | 39 | 37 | 146 | 8.6 |
| P. Pember | 118 | 223 | .529 | 59 | 104 | .567 | 48 | 193 | 18 | 119 | 281 | 16.5 |
| A. Stephenson | 96 | 182 | .527 | 72 | 112 | .643 | 50 | 161 | 8 | 47 | 265 | 15.6 |
| S. Wallace | 31 | 80 | .388 | 13 | 33 | .394 | 36 | 28 | 41 | 53 | 61 | 3.6 |
| TEAM TOTALS | 503 | 1036 | .486 | 249 | 431 | .578 | 722 | 319 | 457 | 331 | 1276 | 75.1 |
| Opp. Score Avg. | | | | | | | | | | | | 55.8 |

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