

Disgruntled rally not cheering

by Staci Beard
Staff Writer

Difficulties with an advisor, audience apathy, and the loss of team members have left this year's men's basketball cheerleaders with little to cheer about.

Three members and the Cougar mascot now make up the squad. Two members have previously quit, one due to a transfer and another due to her entry in a beauty pageant.

Audience participation has also been a problem for the cheerleaders. A poll of the audience taken by the advisor showed that they need the cheerleaders, but that they needed to yell louder. The cheerleaders feel the audience doesn't have the right attitude.

"If people don't believe in us, we aren't going to be able to do a lot of things," stated team member Jennifer Rae.

Shelly Burck, the team's advisor, decided to get involved in the community college cheerleading program. Burck had been a cheerleader for nine years.

"I called the college and since no one at the college was really interested in doing the job, they said I could do it," stated Burck.

Burck started in October, but resigned during Christmas vacation. She has since taken up her position again.

"We are really working hard. We went through a few difficult times, but we have worked some things out," stated Rae.

"It has been a learning experience. We are doing our best. We have lots of ideas, but are having a hard time getting them started," explained another member, Michele Van Orsow.

Cougars gain split on road...

League record 3-3

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

The Clackamas men's basketball team survived a very tough road trip to Umpqua and Southwestern Oregon Community College, doing what they had hoped to do, winning one of the two games.

The first stop for the Cougars was at Umpqua Wednesday night. Umpqua, a league powerhouse, showed its strength early as they jumped all over the Cougars, building a 24 point lead in the first half.

"We didn't come out ready to play; we built a hole that we could never crawl out of," said Clackamas guard Trev Kiser.

The Cougars came out inspired in the second half, but it was too little, too late.

"We cut the lead to 5 points with two minutes left in the game, but we just couldn't quite catch them," said Kiser.

Kiser led the Cougar scoring attack, tossing in a team high 27 points and snaring 8 rebounds. Nate Pyatt chipped in 19 points and 11 boards, Troy Merrill popped in 13 points, and Phil Dalton added 18 points in a losing cause.

With the loss at Umpqua behind them, the Cougars hit the

road again to face another tough league foe in Southwestern Oregon. With the loss at Umpqua, this game was one Clackamas absolutely had to have, and they got it.

It didn't look good for the Cougars early. They trailed 36-6 midway through the first half. Then Clackamas put on their rally caps and cut the lead to 12 points before intermission.

The Cougars came out blazing like a house on fire in the second half and opened the period by scoring the first 12 points in a span of two minutes to tie the game.

"We really got ripped at half time," said Trev Kiser. "We came out using our splatter press to try and create something, and it worked."

Phil Dalton paced the Cougars with a game high 36 points. Trev Kiser scored 20 and had 9 rebounds. Nate Pyatt had 19 points and 11 boards, and Troy Merrill played one of his best games of the year, scoring 9 points and handing out 8 assists.

The men, 14-6 and 3-3 in league, will be home to face Chemeketa tonight at 8 p.m.

Women 5-1 in league

by Luis Perez
Staff Writer

A win is a win and the Clackamas women's basketball team played just good enough to win Saturday, defeating Southwest Oregon Community College 77-65.

It was a game that the Cougars led from start to finish despite a fine defensive performance from the S.W.O.C.C. team.

"I thought their defense was excellent," said Cougar Coach Phil Garver. "They really put a lot of pressure on us, but we handled the pressure well enough to pull it out in the second half."

Alicia Stephenson continued her commanding play from the post position with 31 points and 8 rebounds. "Alicia was just dominating," Garver said. "She controlled the inside game... Pam (Pember) did too. She just couldn't get the shots to drop."

Pam Pember contributed 13 points and 8 rebounds to the Cougar cause, while J.J. Drennen added 10 points and Kelli Brown dished out 9 assists. S.W.O.C.C.

was led by Kathy Boquist with 19 points and Phil Garver was impressed with her play. "She's a real good shooter," he said.

Earlier in the week Clackamas lost a heartbreaker at Umpqua, 82-79. It was a game in which the Cougars were plagued by 35 turnovers, which proved to be fatal. Clackamas was coasting with a 6-8 point lead until a furious Umpqua rally overcame their deficit in the final two minutes to secure the win.

Alicia Stephenson had a strong game with 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Kelli Brown had another solid performance with 16 points and 7 assists. J.J. Drennen chipped in with 13 points.

The Cougars are currently tied for second place in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges. A win over Chemeketa tonight would put the Cougars in the driver's seat in the race for the league title.

Phil Garver thinks his team can win. "We can win if we come out and play motivated... we're still a young team. We still lack that killer instinct," said Garver.

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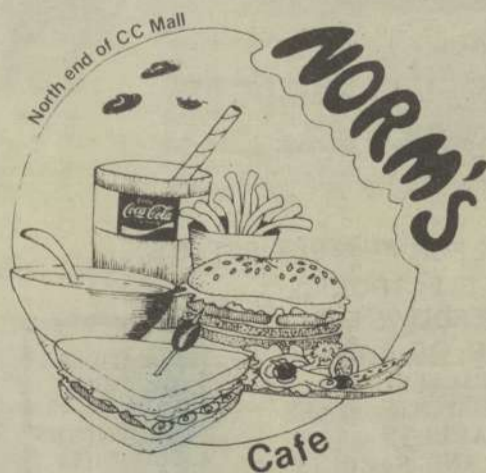
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