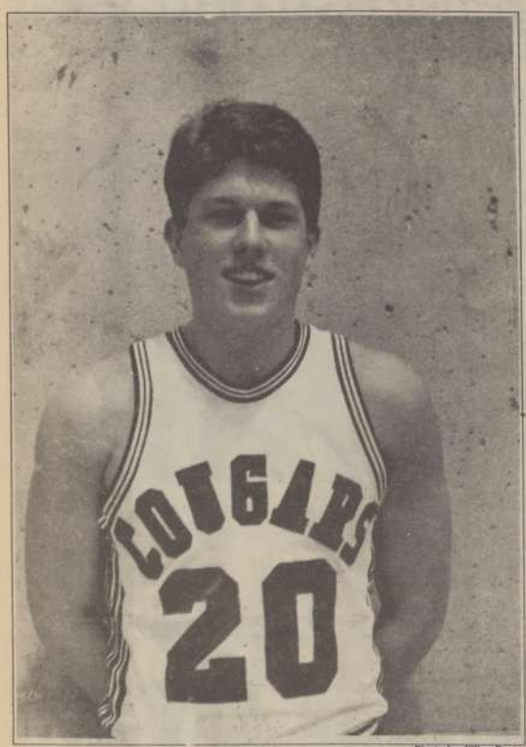

Photo by Jillian Porter

Clackamas spohomore Jeff Hoffman is amongst the leaders in every area this season for the Cougars. His strong play inside, and desire to win has made him a winner.

Hoffman all-around player for Cougars

by Staci Beard
Staff Writer

An early season knee injury may have made Jeff Hoffman some what tentative on the court, but his steady play still shines through.

Hoffman shows a toughness that comes from within. One that coach Royce Kiser feels helps to provide leadership for the team.

"Jeff leads mostly by example. He has a mental toughness. He works hard, which makes him a good person for others to watch and learn from. He never never lays down," explains Kiser.

Hoffman feels his leadership hasn't been too evident. "I have shown some but not enough. I will need to show more leadership as we get closer to the playoffs," stated Hoffman.

Rebounding and scoring have shown to be Hoffman's easily seen assets for the team. Hoffman last year lead the NWACC Southern Division in rebounding with an average of ten rebounds a game. But his hard work behind the scenes are not seen by the fans.

He has had to face the added task of changing positions. This year Hoffman is at guard wing, which has made him work on his quickness.

"I need to get faster so I can guard the quicker people and improve my defense," said Hoffman.

"I have to make myself chew him out sometimes. When he makes a mistake he is working so hard at the time. He is so likable to work with," stated Kiser.

A few high marks have already been achieved by Hoffman. A game at Lower Columbia produced a game high of 34 points. A tournament also at Lower Columbia saw Hoffman make the all-star team. But the biggest highlight is hopefully still to come.

"My goal is just to have an overall good season and help the team to win and go as far as we can in the playoffs," explained Hoffman.

Hoffman's basketball career started in the fourth grade. He used to play with Todd Spencer and an older brother. He has been playing ever since. Before beginning his career at Clackamas, he was a member of the David Douglas High School varsity squad for two years.

"We played in the state tournament and made it as far as the fourth position, but we ended up in seventh place," Hoffman remarked.

Hoffman hopes for more basketball in his future, but at a bigger school.

"I want to go to a bigger college and play basketball. Right now I am open to where I want to go," states Hoffman.

Kiser also feels that Hoffman has a future in basketball. "I really hope a division one school picks him up. He has the type of qualities and athletic ability that the big schools are looking for."

Cougars drop two out of three

By Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

The struggling Clackamas men's basketball team continued its downward slide last week by losing two out of three league games, dropping their league mark to 4-7, and tying for fourth place with Lane Community College.

The week started out well for Clackamas when Lane came to town February 6. Trev Kiser got the Cougars off on the right foot, opening the game with a pair of three pointers to give Clackamas an early lead. They coasted into half-time with a 36-29 lead, but almost let it get away in the second half.

Lane charged out of the locker room and scored the seven points needed to tie the ball game. The game stayed close the rest of the way, and the Cougars couldn't shake the Titans. The game was tied with 1:55 left in the game, when Todd Spencer turned into a hero for the Cougars.

With the game tied at 55, Spencer drilled a three pointer, his first of the night, to give the Cougars a 58-55 lead. That took the air out of the Titans sails, and Clackamas eased to a 62-55 victory.

Jeff Hoffman and Trev Kiser lead the Cougars in scoring, each chipping in 16. Nate Pyatt added 15 points and 18 rebounds.

The next stop for the Cougars was at cross town rival Mt. Hood. Clackamas played exceptionally well in this game, committing only five turnovers. But the Cougars ran into a familiar problem: bad officiating.

Mt. Hood came out smoking behind their talented guard James Coles. Coles poured in jump shots from all over the court, and helped send the home town Saints into the locker room with a 42-31 half-time lead.

Clackamas came out in the second half playing inspired ball. The Cougars fought hard to get back into the game, tying it up with 6 minutes to play at 76-76. That's when the officials took the Cougars right out of the game. The officials missed several calls, and failed notice when Trev Kiser was thrown out of bounds by a Mt. Hood player. The Clackamas bench was outraged about this non-call, and was issued a technical foul for protesting too loudly. Then Coach Royce Kiser was hit with two quick technical fouls and was ejected from the game.

The loss of their coach took the Cougars right out of the game from that point on. Mt. Hood went on a scoring spree en route to a 90-86 victory.

Jeff Hoffman poured in 23 points and Trev Kiser added 21 in a losing cause. James Coles lit up the Cougars all night and finished with a game high 31.

With the tough loss at Mt. Hood the Cougars needed a break, but they didn't get one. They were home to entertain the leagues number one team, Umpqua.

The Cougars had to go into the key match-up without their coach, who was suspended by the Clackamas athletic department for being hit with two technical fouls at the Mt. Hood game. So before the game started, Clackamas already had an obstacle to overcome.

As if facing James Coles a few night ago wasn't enough, the Cougars were faced with Umpqua's high scoring guard Anthony Steward. The flashy guard rained jump shots from everywhere but the parking lot.

Steward exploded for a game high 37 points to lead his team to an 88-77 victory. Umpqua jumped out early and held a 50-39 half-time advantage. Clackamas clawed back in the second half, but were never able to get over the mountain as they dropped their second straight game.

Jeff Hoffman again led the way for Clackamas, tallying 29 points and ten rebounds.

The Cougars are 4-7 in league, and tied with Lane for the fourth and final playoff spot. The Cougars will be at Chemeketa tonight, before closing out the regular season at home Saturday against SWOCC.

Cougars crush PCC, keep playoff hopes alive

Clackamas 102, PCC 86

The Clackamas men's basketball took their show on the road in a makeup game at Portland Community College. The Cougars came out red hot and built a 54-45 half time advantage. They didn't let their host hang around for much longer however, putting them away early in the second half on their way to a easy win in a game that they had to have. Nate Pyatt scored 25 points, and Trev Kiser pumped in 7-9 three pointers to also finish the game with 25. Richard Rushing led Portland with 27 points.

the Cougars are now tied with Lane Community College for fourth place. each team has a pair of games left, Clackamas will be at Chemeketa tonight, and will close out the regular season at home Saturday against SWOCC. The top four teams in the southern division make the playoffs, so for Clackamas to make the playoffs they need at least a split of the next two games. Should Clackamas and Lane be tied at the end of the year, they would have a playoff game to determine the fourth place finisher.

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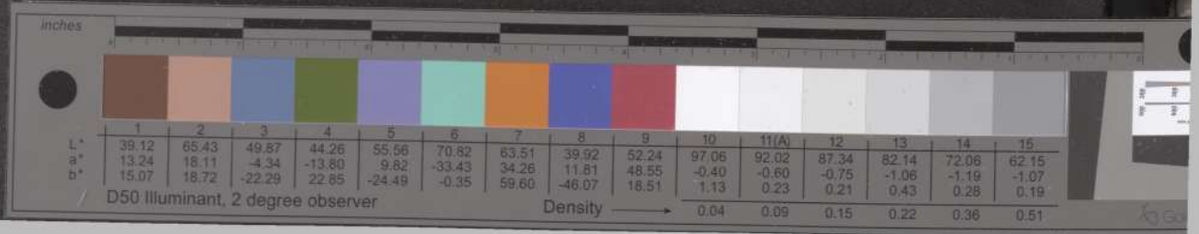
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