

Spencer adds to Clackamas' hope for the future

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

After a disappointing season that saw the men's basketball team just miss the playoffs, the Cougars have hope and enthusiasm for the future. The late season emergence of freshman point guard Todd Spencer has given Clackamas

reason to be optimistic about next season.

Spencer, a graduate of David Douglas High School, is one of the many rising stars on the list of Cougars expected to return next season. Spencer's sparkling play in the second half of the season helped Clackamas win five of their

last seven games, putting them in playoff contention before eventually losing to Lane in the fourth place playoff game.

Spencer got started playing basketball at an early age and has been going strong ever since.

"My dad got me started playing basketball in the fourth grade. I just love to play the game, and I have been playing ever since then," commented Spencer.

Spencer had an outstanding basketball career at David Douglas, playing two strong years of varsity basketball and being named first team All-Mt. Hood Conference his senior season. One of Spencer's most memorable moments came from his senior year at David Douglas.

"Getting to the State tournament in the coliseum was a memorable moment. We played West Linn and lost to them on a last-second shot. I played a pretty good game, but it was tough to lose like that," said Spencer.

After a successful high school career Spencer decided to pick up

his basketball shoes and head to Clackamas.

"Clackamas has a really good basketball program, and I wanted to go somewhere where I would be able to play," said Spencer.

With scorers like Trev Kiser, Nate Pyatt, and Jeff Hoffman, Spencer hasn't really been relied on to be a scorer, but he has been the man to get the ball into the hands of the shooters.

Even though Spencer's favorite player is Larry Bird, it should be Magic Johnson, because he was the Magic Johnson of the Cougars, leading his team in assists and finishing 11 in the NWAACC in assists with a 5.7 average.

"Passing, dribbling, and getting assists are my strong points right now. I need to work on my free-throw shooting," said Spencer.

Spencer's emergence as a team leader helped the Cougars put together some of their best performances of the season. They finished 7-7 in league, and tied for fourth before losing to Lane in a fourth place playoff game.

"We were really coming together as a team in the last eight games. We stopped letting little things bother us, and we were able to settle down and cut down on the turnovers," said Spencer.

The mid-season rally by the

Cougars fell short this year, but with almost all of the freshman planning to return next season hopes are high that next year's team will be successful. Spencer hopes to step in next year and direct his team to a successful season.

"My goals are to come back to Clackamas next year, try to be a team leader, and do anything it takes to make our team a winner," remarked Spencer.

With basketball season over, Spencer now has a lot of time to do other things.

"Basketball is my hobby. I like to play a lot of rat ball, hang around with friends, and party," said Spencer.

Spencer's career goals are to be a teacher and a coach, much like his current coach Royce Kiser.

"He's a great guy and a great coach," Spencer explained.

Spencer hopes to move on to a four-year school after one more year, and ten years down the road sees himself coaching an AAA high school team, married, and to have had a chance to play college basketball on the division one level.

Spencer's hard work, dedication, and tough guy attitude will certainly lend itself to what should be a successful Cougar team next year, with Todd Spencer manning the controls.



photo by Julie Church

Freshman point guard Todd Spencer's brilliant play during the last half of the Cougars' season has given Clackamas reason to be optimistic about next year.

Drennen Cougars' loaded gun

by Luis Perez
Staff Writer

J.J. Drennen simply loves basketball. That love for the game is infectious not only to her teammates, but also to those who watch her play.

The Clackamas women's basketball team has unlimited potential. They finished second in league play this season and are peaking at the right time, right before the playoffs. J.J. is a big part of their success, using her deadly outside shooting to prevent opponents from sagging in on the post players.

"J.J. is a very good offensive threat," said her coach Phil Garver. "We have really counted on her for that outside shooting."

Garver continued to sing the praises of the Freshman forward from Wilson High School by saying that, "I think she's gaining a lot more confidence against the other teams... she's a good shooter and she penetrates well."

While J.J. loves to pass the ball to her teammates Pam (Pember) and Alicia (Stephenson), her coach will allow her to shoot in any game situation.

"J.J. can shoot whenever she wants to. She definitely has a green light," Garver said.

Drennen has used that green light to average 14 points a game while shooting 49 percent from the field, a very high percentage considering the many difficult shots she takes. She has also averaged 5.4 rebounds per game, which is incredible considering that with Pember and Stephenson around there are few spare rebounds available.

Drennen is understandably op-

timistic about the Cougars' chances for post season glory.

"We have a lot of dedication; everybody wants to win," she said. "If Phil (Garver) is not available we'll hold practice by ourselves."

As long as she can remember, everyone has called Jennifer Jill Drennen J.J., a name she likes. The Drennen family has always been committed not only to basketball, but to education as well. Her father started the girls' basketball program at Markham Grade School, where he was J.J.'s coach. Following her eighth grade year, he built a basketball court in the back yard so she could practice.

"He's worked with me every summer in the back yard," remarked J.J.

The support of her parents is the main reason that Drennen became such a good player. "My parents live for basketball; they love it. My dad hasn't missed one of my games since my freshman year," she said.

Drennen had an outstanding

high school career. She started as a sophomore, was second team all-P.I.L. as a junior, and by her senior year was first team all-P.I.L. while averaging 15 points a game and receiving an all-state honorable mention. Drennen's coach at Wilson knew Phil Garver and recommended that Drennen attend Clackamas.

"I really like Phil. I love Phil's coaching philosophy," Drennen said.

Drennen is a dedicated student. Her warm smile and her easygoing personality seem at odds with the seriousness she applies to both basketball and her schoolwork. She carried 16 credits during fall term, a heavy load for an athlete who spends so much time practicing. She plans on continuing her education at a four-year school, hopefully in Oregon, and someday hopes to be a juvenile corrections counselor. Like some of her friends she is criminal justice major, which explains a long standing campus mystery.

"That's why we're called the 'partners in crime,'" J.J. remarked.



photo by Jillian Porter

Drennen's play this year has helped her team be successful.

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0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	55.93	68.80	-49.49	30.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-29.46	
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