

Cougars take two at Umpqua...

Women win league tournament

by Luis Perez
Staff Writer

It was one of the greatest comebacks in Cougar history as the Clackamas women's basketball team defeated host Umpqua 74-71 to win the NWAACC southern division tournament.

On Saturday the Cougars again got off to a slow start trailing by a 14 point margin at the half 43-29. Umpqua, getting strong play from center Kristy Frady, came out gunning in the second half building their lead to 20 points a couple of minutes into the period. Then Clackamas applied their legendary defense closing the gap to 51-46 with 14:46 remaining. At that point the Cougars had outscored the Timberwomen 21-3 in the first five minutes of the half.

"Stacy, Tracy and Casie (Wallace, Jones and Harker) put a lot of defensive pressure on them," said Head Coach Phil Garver. "I can't remember ever coming back so far...our defense picked it up in the second half."

Shutting down Kristy Frady was the key. "They couldn't get the ball to her," Garver said. "We were stealing the ball in the front court."

Clackamas tied the game with 5:28 left to play thanks to the offensive genius of J.J. Drennen. Drennen finished with 18 points, mostly in the second half. Tracy Jones calmly sank two free throws with 1:58 left to provide the final margin of victory. Umpqua barely missed a desperation three-pointer

at the buzzer which would have tied the game.

Umpqua's coach Cy Perkins was shellshocked. "I thought Clackamas played an outstanding second half," he said. "We couldn't control J.J. and Alicia was tough inside for them."

Pam Pember led a balanced Cougar attack with 18 points and 10 boards, and Alicia Stephenson contributed 17 points and 10 rebounds. The win was their seventh in a row.

Clackamas will face Wenatchee (Washington) in the first round of the NWAACC championships Thursday in Skagit Valley.

Game one: Clackamas 70, Linn-Benton 63

Pam Pember played her best basketball of the season and the remainder of the Clackamas women's team did the rest, defeating Linn-Benton Community College 70-63 to advance to the NWAACC southern divisional playoff final.

It wasn't easy as Linn-Benton played inspired ball from the outset, hitting everything they put up. The roadrunners built a 13 point lead in the first half behind the play of Michelle Derry, who hit 9 of 16 shots from the field en route to a 21 point, 16 rebound

performance.

Towards the end of the first half the Cougars, using their superior depth, put together a furious rally and took their first lead 35-34. The Roadrunners didn't die. They scored the next four points to lead 38-35, but a last second three pointer by Uptown Kelli Brown knotted the score at the half 38-38.

Pam Pember, displaying superlative moves, along with a tough Cougar defense took control in the second half. Pember finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

Head Coach Phil Garver was tickled to death. "She came out and played a really good game," he said.

Garver also had words of praise for Kelli Brown. "Kelli deserves the medal of honor, playing with that bad ankle...she hurt it earlier in the week and along with Alicia (Stephenson) coming down with the flu it made it hard for us to practice with two starters missing," Garver remarked.

Linn-Benton's coach Diane Prince was understandably disappointed. "In the second half we didn't come out doing the things that got us the lead," she said. "It was a game that could have been ours if we had played to our potential."

Roadrunner star Michelle Derry, who has been a thorn in the Cougars' side all season, commented, "We just let down and didn't play as a team."

Brunson ends great year

By Tim Jones
Staff Writer

Sean Brunson smiled and spoke modestly about his very successful wrestling season this year at Clackamas Community College.

Brunson compiled 35 wins and only 9 losses this year.

Ranked fourth in the nation at the Junior College level at the beginning of the year, he moved up to being ranked second after defeating North Idaho All-American Greg Buttress.

However, last season was much tougher for Brunson. He took a pounding from tough competitors in his weight class that featured two All-Americans.

A lot has changed for Brunson this season. This year he has beaten the wrestler from Alaska Pacific University that placed fourth in the nation last year. He lost to that same wrestler five times last year.

"My confidence has increased this year," Brunson said. He wanted to win and to go to the nationals with the security of knowing that he wrestled well all season.

Other than wrestling, Brunson enjoys sports like football and baseball. He liked the competi-

tion in intermural football last fall.

Brunson, a sophomore, is studying physical education. His future plans are to transfer to Portland State University next year. He will continue to wrestle there and pursue his degree.

"Coach Norm Berney has influenced me individually, as well as the team this year," said Brunson. "The team has really pulled together this season," he remarked, adding that Berney has him motivated this season.

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With the help of teammates Joel Suprenant and Ian Pitzman, Brunson has vastly improved this season. "Ian and Joel really make me work hard in practice. Joel really gets me pumped up before my matches," said Brunson.

Brunson ended a very successful season by placing fifth in the nationals held in Chicago, Illinois.

Team does well at nationals

by Tim Jones
Staff Writer

Five wrestlers from Clackamas Community College received All-American honors at the National Junior College Athletic Association championships, held last Friday and Saturday in Chicago, IL.

To receive All-American recognition, wrestlers must place in the top eight of their weight class.

Clackamas' Sean Carlson placed third and was the highest finisher for Cougars. Sean Brunson placed fifth, Bryan Schiller sixth, Joel Suprenant seventh, and Tom Malone placed eighth for the wrestling team.

The team finished fifth overall and did an outstanding job, according to heavyweight Ian Pitzman. Pitzman, who qualified for the national championships, was unable to compete due to a cracked vertebrae.

Gary Malone did not place for the Cougars in his weight division; it was dominated by six returning All-Americans.

66 teams were represented in the tournament and the Cougar wrestling team did an impressive job by clinching a fifth place finish.

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