

Cougars windup with winning season

By Randy Frank
Staff Writer

Clackamas Community College football coach Dale McGriff said yesterday that he is that his Cougars have had a fine season. "With a few more breaks and a few less injuries, I honestly feel that we could have won every game except possibly the Mt. Hood game," said McGriff. "That would have put us at eight or nine and one and lost certain state competition."

Instead the Cougars finished with a 5-4 league record and a somewhat disappointing third place finish.

The year began with high hopes of an excellent season. Back was Rick Schade, the Cougars' fine signal caller of the year before, who had helped Clackamas to be one of the best passing teams in the nation among junior colleges. However, Schade was lost before the season even got off the ground. As a result, the Cougars lost three close games at the very outset of the season that they probably would have won had they had Schade at quarterback.

However, the Olympia game showed a new Clackamas team. Backed by an excellent defense the Cougars defeated the Washington school 15-0 and went on from there to record four straight wins.

Then, however, came the Mt. Hood battle with the No. 1 junior college in the nation in an entirely different story.

Seeking the Junior Rose Bowl bid, the

MHCC Saints took advantage of every Clackamas error (four interceptions, one fumble, and numerous penalties) and were simply too much for the Cougar defense, as they won going away 56-12. Many thought that the season was over after that -- everyone except the Cougars.

Bouncing back in fine fashion, the Cougars defeated Grays Harbor in CCC's annual homecoming game. The victory brought added importance to the traditional season-end clash with Treasure Valley Community College, a team whose only claim to fame is their 4-2 series edge over Clackamas in their annual grudge match.

Not only did it mean the difference between a winning or losing season, it meant the difference between a second or third place finish in the same league as Mt. Hood. However, the favored Cougars were simply not up for the game and were upset 20-10.

They bounced back beautifully from three heartbreaking losses at the start of the season -- a fact that would have sent a lesser team to the showers without even trying to make a comeback. They also proved that they could compete with any Washington school and come out on top.

"Besides, we did have a pretty tough schedule considering this was our first year," said McGriff.

The signs point to an excellent season for the Cougars next year. Returning will be Rick Schade, the Cougars' excellent quarter-

back in 1975, who was forced to miss the entire 1976 season with an injury.

Also returning will be a couple of the reasons that the Cougars had such a fine season, Don Miller and "Lucky" Richardson.

Miller, Clackamas' fine fullback, was one of the top groundgainers on the Cougar offense that relied heavily on their ground game.

"Lucky" Richardson, the Cougars' fine tailback, was one of the major reasons for Clackamas' victory over Wenatchee Valley, as he became the first Cougar to ever rush for more than 100 yards in a single game. He rushed 29 times for 118 yards.

As Clackamas Coach Dale McGriff put it, "We should have a very strong team next year" -- a sure sign that the Cougars should be making the six o'clock news a bit more often next year.

Sullivan runs in nationals

Kelly Sullivan was the only Clackamas community College runner to compete in last Saturday's national cross country meet at Farmingdale, N.Y.

Sullivan qualified for the trip to New York with his 12th place finish in the Region 8 cross country meet held Saturday, Nov. 8 at Central Oregon Community College in Bend.

Ricks College (Idaho) took first place at the regional meet with 34 points. Ricks' runners captured first, second, seventh, 11th, and 13th places over the flat, five-mile course.

Five-time and previous winner Lane Community College finished second to Ricks in the meet. Lane placed runners in the third, fifth, sixth, ninth, and 14th positions.

Clackamas ended up with 112 points to grab fourth place behind third place Central Oregon (98 points).

Pat Curl took 22nd position for the Cougars with a time of 26:45. Jeff Ponsness placed 23rd (26:47); Ken Wanvig 26th (26:55); and Don Jones 30th (27:08). Other Cougar finishers were Garth Elliason (44th) and Damian Ranger (48th).

Buck Monroe, CCC cross country coach, didn't feel the cold weather was a good excuse for his team's poor showing.

"I'm disappointed," said Monroe. "I felt we could take third, and maybe even second with an inspired performance. We just didn't get the extra effort needed in a big meet like this."

At the national meet Sullivan raced to a finish of 77th against a field of 280. His time of 24:59 was one of the best ever recorded by a CCC runner.

Many fast times were recorded at the meet despite a pile-up near the beginning of the race. The pile-up resulted in a broken leg for one of the competitors.

CCC Bowlers lose

The Clackamas Community College bowling team lost seven out of eight games to Portland State on Tuesday, Nov. 9. The CCC women took one game but lost the other three.

The Clackamas men lost 0-4 to PSU despite a season high series of 587 (highest on the team) for Sheldon Thingvold. Thingvold also scored CCC men's high game of 203 for the match.

The high series and game of 447 and 164, respectively, for the women were bowled by Harriet Kitchen in the 1-3 effort.

The season record for the men, previously 6-8, is now 6-10, and the women's overall game record is 7-9.

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