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## Cougars wind up winning season

by Randy Frank  
Sports Writer

...a good season that could have been better," said Clackamas Community College baseball coach Gene Peterson as he looked back on his 1977 season. The Cougars lived up to their pre-season expectations of being one of the powerhouses of the Oregon Community College Athletic Association. Peterson said before the season began, the team should be able to score a few runs and score is what they did as they led the league in hitting with a .280 average, scoring almost twice as many runs as their opponents (246-143). The Cougars' attack were all-stars: Wilson, designated hitter, Rich Jones, catcher, and first baseman Tim Wach. Mike Wilson was voted to the OCCAA All-Star team after having one of the best seasons in Clackamas baseball history in 1977. Coming off a one year layoff, Wilson, a sophomore who attended Tigard H.S., led the league in hitting with a .429 batting average, which was also good for 14th in the state and it also tied a school record for the best average with Elmer Groener in 1969.

In the process, Wilson tied Mike Backman for the Cougar record with 48 hits and he also set a new school record for the most RBI's in a season with 38.

Jones, a sophomore from McMinnville, had a fine campaign for the Cougars as he was named to the OCCAA first team as he compiled a .380 batting average which placed him among the league leaders. He also was second on the team with 38 hits and third in stolen bases with 11.

Wach, a sophomore who attended Cleveland H.S. was one of the most respected hitters in the league as he tied the school record for the most home runs in a season with five, while driving in 26 runs and he played almost flawless baseball committing only three errors all season.

Playing a major role in the successes of the 1977 Cougars was the exceptional pitching coach Peterson received from his freshman staff made up of Bob Tollefson, Bob Simril, Jim Coffman and Gary Fiorante.

Tollefson, a freshman from Hillsboro H.S., was named to the OCCAA second team and was the Cougars' leader in complete games with nine and in strikeouts with 62 in only 71 innings pitched.

Simril, out of Grant H.S., was one of the Cougars' most effective spot starters with a 3-1 mark, which included a no-hitter against Blue Mountain and a one-hitter against Judson Baptist and a 2.07 ERA.

Coffman, a frosh from Rainier H.S. was named as an honorable mention to the OCCAA all-star team as he was one of the winningest pitchers in the league with a 6-1 mark, good for a .857 percentage and a 2.64 ERA. Coffman was also second on the team in innings pitched and strikeouts (41).

Fiorante, Tigard H.S., joined Coffman on the honorable mention listing and in pitching the Cougars' first no-hitter of the season, a 7-0 shut-out of Blue Mountain. Fiorante also had a fine season of his own as he compiled a 4-3 record and a 3.3 ERA.

Pitching and hitting won't win games if you don't have strong defense and the Cougars had one of the best in the league as they finished second, committing only 43 errors.

Still, the 1977 season turned out somewhat of a disappointment for the Cougars as they could only manage fourth place with a 19-9 (25-14-1) overall season, three games behind league leading Umpqua, who later went on to take the National Junior College Championship.

Cougar Coach Gene Peterson said he feels he knows what happened, "It would have been a much better season if the Umps wouldn't have burned us in those two games with Umpqua, because right now we'd be in the playoffs."

"I say this because I know that Umpqua is not any better than we are and if those two calls had gone the other way it would be an entirely different ballgame."

As for next year, Peterson said, "We should be competitive because all our starters will be back, but it will be tough to fill the shoes of Mickey Wilson, Rich Jones and Tim Wach."

## Netters tie for second in state

...led by top singles player Mike Maynard, Clackamas Community College men's tennis team finished in a tie for second with Central Oregon Community College in the Oregon Community College Athletic Association state championship tournament at Clackamas, May 12 through 17.

Maynard, a product of Canby H.S., won the first flight singles competition. He displaced Tim Kramer, of Concordia, 6-3, and Ken Kelly, of Southwestern Oregon, 6-2, and Art Cavanaugh, of Blue Mountain, 6-1.

In the second flight singles, Dave Lemons of Clackamas placed second, losing the decision to Marty Graham, of Blue Mountain, 6-4, 7-6.

Fourth flight singles player Buddy Patrick of Clackamas finished second also, losing to Central Oregon's Mike Quick in the final, 6-1, 6-4.

In the doubles play, Maynard and Dan Patrick placed third in the first flight and Lemons and Patrick did the same in the second flight.

In the regional meet, which was run with the state meet at Clackamas, the Cougars placed fourth behind Treasure Valley, North Oregon and Central Oregon.

Maynard placed fourth in the singles play in the regional, while no Cougars placed in the doubles competition.

Who has yet found a way to stop Clackamas Community College's Kim Fleming on the tennis courts.

The Cougar freshman won the Northwest Women's Sports Association Southwestern area community college tennis title at Hood Community College, May 13 and

Fleming, a graduate of Rex Putnam, remains unbeaten as she dispatched Mari Peterson of Clackamas Community College.

Donaldson of Clark College, 6-0, 6-0, and Teresa Alexander of Mt. Hood, 6-1, 6-1, to win the first singles title.

Mary Budnick, of Clackamas, took the consolation title in the second singles bracket as she defeated Julie Donaldson, of Clark, 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles competition, Fleming and Budnick combined to win the first doubles trophy, topping Alexander and Tootie Rice, of Mt. Hood, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1, and Geri Mader and Cheryl Shrum, of Lane 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

## Spikers compete in nationals

Four athletes represented Clackamas Community College at the National Junior College Athletic Association Championships held in Houston, Texas on May 19, 20 and 21.

Mark Nugen, a contender in the decathlon, Frank Gibson in the high jump, Kelley Sullivan in the steeplechase, and Dave Reed who competed in the triple jump were the total Cougar contingent.

Nugen completed both days of competition in the grueling decathlon event. He wound up 21st out of a field of 34. Cougar track coach Buck Monroe commented on Nugen's performance as being a "good job, especially against such tough competition, in an event where you only get one shot and then it's all over." Nugen finished with 5605 points.

Kelley Sullivan had his work cut out for him in the steeple chase when he was pitted against a former Olympic competitor from

the winning junior college, Essex of New Jersey.

High jumper Frank Gibson cleared the opening height of 6'4" in the first rounds of that event. Gibson went on to clear at 6'6", but failed at his 6'8" attempt.

Dave Reed competed for the Cougars in the triple jump, but didn't really perform up to par in his specialty. Coach Monroe said that Reed "did the best he could, but was also up against some top competition." Sixth place in the triple jump went to a 48'7" leap, three feet over Reed's best. The event was won at 52 feet. "It really was an awesome field," commented Monroe.

Essex, of New Jersey gathered a total of 92 points en route to their victory. The strong team included two former Olympians amid many outstanding athletes from other countries. Second place overall went to Mesa CC of Arizona. Placing highest from the Oregon colleges was state-winner Lane who took sixth place.

Next year's competition will be held in Champaign, Illinois and both men and women's team championships will be together.

