

Madigan, Helvig key offense

by Staci Beard
Staff Writer

Two of the hottest players in the league right now happen to be friends who have been playing softball together since they were ten years old.

Offensively, both stand out in their game. Dionne Madigan leads the team and is second in the league with a batting average of .403, while LeAnna Helvig follows with a strong .362. Madigan is one and two in RBIs with the team.

They first met at the age of ten on a summer softball team. They played every summer together for six years.

In high school they went their separate ways, Madigan to Reynolds and Helvig to Gresham. They met up once again on the same team when they came to Clackamas Community College last year.

"It was nice to know somebody because we didn't know anyone else. So we stuck together," explained Helvig.

Both have a real love of softball, but for slightly different reasons.

"I enjoy the competition and

excitement of it," Madigan laughs, "and the glory of it."

"I enjoy the competition too, but I like the meeting of new people and the good physical workout that I get from it also," stated Helvig.

Each of them have confidence in their abilities and help the team both offensively and defensively. They also contribute other things that don't have stats and can't be backed up with hard facts. Coach Paul Fiskum could only come up with positive things to say about each of them.

"Helvig is strong in all phases of the game. She is tough defensively and never has a bad day. It comes from her always being ready to play and practice. Her attitude is just outstanding.

"Madigan was our outstanding defensive player last year and is still aggressive on defense, but her batting has been so productive. She has been a great clutch hitter this season. Neither of these players have weaknesses," asserted Fiskum.

Although Fiskum feels they have no weaknesses, both players have a couple things they would like to work on.

"Offensively I'd like to be faster on the bases. On defense, I want to have a more controlled throw," explained Madigan.

"I want to work on my speed both on the base paths and in the outfield," stated Helvig.

Madigan would like to take her softball skills and continue them at a four-year university. Helvig has some things she would like a coach to know about Madigan.

"She is dependable both in games and in practice. She puts an all-out effort into everything—even in practice. Madigan is just an all around good player with a great attitude," stated Helvig.

Both echo each other when asked about what they would like to see the team accomplish.

"We are such a team we don't have a couple of people who just stand out. It would be great if we would win the NWAACC championship," stated Madigan and Helvig collectively.



photo by Jillian Porter
Leanna Helvig and Dionne Madigan are two key ingredients that could help the Cougars win a NWAACC championship this year.

18-3 record tops in the league

by Staci Beard
Staff Writer

Three victories out of four games for the Clackamas softball team have helped them raise their league leading record to 18-3.

Friday's double-header against second place Highline showed two sides of the Cougar team.

The first game showed proficient bats and strong pitching. Clackamas converted eight hits into five runs. Kristi Northcutt and LeAnna Helvig lead the way with two hits each.

Yvonne Johnson led the defense with a one hit shut-out of the Highline team.

When it came time for the

second game the offense slid over to Highline. They took four hits and turned them into a 6-0 victory.

The Highline defense made a strong showing. They played error free as they kept Clackamas from scoring on the three hits that the Cougars produced.

Saturday the Cougars bounced back to take two games against Gray's Harbor.

Both pitchers had strong days and were backed up with strong bats. Johnson allowed only one hit in another shutout to bring her record to 12-2. Heather McCorkle allowed four hits, none of them earned, to

raise her record to 9-3.

On offense the Cougars came to the game ready to hit. In two games they produced 11 runs on 18 hits. Ann Kerr was perfect for the whole day going three for three.

Helvig and Patty Abell each contributed three hits to the hitting barrage. Molly Bremner lead the group with four hits.

The game was not without the big hits. In the first game in the fourth inning Abell hit her second home run. Helvig, who was next up, was not to be outdone and smacked her second home run of the year.

The Cougars' next big game will be on the road Friday against Green River.

Cougars drop two at Mt. Hood

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

Despite strong pitching, the Clackamas Cougars dropped a pair of league games at Mt. Hood last Saturday.

Katsuya Suzuki started the first game and turned in a very fine performance. Suzuki scattered 4 runs, but was out-duelled by his Mt. Hood counterpart as Saint pitchers limited the Cougars to four hits and no runs to win 4-0.

"Suzuki threw very well. Mt. Hood pitchers just had a very fine performance against us," said Coach Paul Roeder.

The next contest saw regular shortstop Doug Manley get the call to start.

"Manley is a junk ball pitcher

and Mt. Hood is a fast ball hitting team. It made sense to pitch him because we don't have anyone who can throw the ball by them," said Roeder.

Manley turned in a solid pitching performance, but wasn't backed up with much defense; his team committed seven errors behind him. Mt. Hood scored 13 runs off of only six hits. The Cougars brought their bats to this game, as Dino Fiarito dinged a third inning grand slam to give him four dingers for the year. Kevin Kmetec turned up his home run trot with a two run shot in the fourth inning to account for the last two Cougar runs.

"We lost the first game, but gave away the second game with

dropped fly balls and errors. They scored 13 runs on 6 hits," said Roeder.

The Cougars are 4-13 in league; with 8 games remaining, their playoff hopes are slim.

"We're not giving up; we're gonna work hard and get this thing turned around"

"We're not giving up; we're gonna work hard and get this thing turned around," said Roeder.

Clackamas will be in action this Saturday when they travel to Lane Community College. They will be at home next Tuesday with a double header with Clark starting at 1 p.m.

'Dongs R Us' ready to collide with 'The Untouchables' Thursday

What started out as a four team battle in intramural softball has quickly turned into a three team affair.

So far, the only game to have actually been played is the contest between "The Untouchables" and the "No Names."

The game was played Thursday, May 4. Things got off to a good start in the first inning for the "Untouchables", as they scored to take a 1-0 lead. They held a 4-2 lead into the third, but the "No Names" exploded for seven unanswered runs to win 11-4.

Acting "Untouchable" Coach

Mark Borrelli thought his team played well, but gave the game away.

"We committed at least eight errors. Basically everyone played well; it was just a matter of not making the routine play that killed us," said Borrelli.

The "No Names" will be the number one seed in the playoff bracket and will have a bye to the championship game. "Dongs 'R' Us" will face the "Untouchables" this Thursday at 12:30 p.m., with the winner going on to play the "No Names" May 16 for the championship.

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-0.16	-0.18	0.54	-0.05	-0.81	-0.23	20.98	-24.45	16.83	13.06	-38.91	52.00	3.45	50.88	-27.17
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
0.75	0.98	1.24	1.67	2.04	2.42									

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