

Fiarito 'Mr Clutch' for Cougars

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

The Clackamas baseball team has not seen a lot of bright spots during this disappointing season. Sophomore catcher Dino Fiarito has been the one ray of consistency that has earned him the nickname "Clutch."

Fiarito to this date is the RBI and batting average leader for the Cougars. His consistency is why fellow players are counting on him in the clutch situations of a game.

"He's clutch. You can always count on him for that big two out man in scoring position base hit," said team mate Craig Andyke.

Fiarito got his baseball career started in the eighth grade, working his way up through little league and Babe Ruth before becoming an all-star at Tigard High School. Fiarito played one year of varsity for Tigard, and took full advantage of it. He was named 1st team all-league and 1st team all-state for his

outstanding performance at third base.

Fiarito then came to Clackamas Community to get the chance to play college baseball while staying close to home. Right away, he had an adjustment to make.

"Paul needed a catcher, so I said 'What the hell,' and did it," said Fiarito.

Making the move from third to catcher hasn't come without some adjustment, but Fiarito has made the transition nicely. There are still some things about catching that he doesn't necessarily like.

"When pitchers like Huff(Steve Huffaker) throw 55 foot curves, and when you get hit by foul tips in a painful area. It takes a stupid SOB to be a catcher," said Fiarito.

Although Fiarito is stuck behind the dish, not the most wanted position on the field, he keeps playing and keeps delivering.

"The game's fun. I love to play the game," said Fiarito.

Fiarito picked up four more RBIs in a recent game at Mt. Hood with the highlight of his season.

"The grand slam at Mt. Hood was my highlight of the year for me so far, but to get RBIs--that's my big thing.

This season hasn't been exceptionally fun for Fiarito or his teammates as the Cougars have not had a good year.

"We haven't been playing well. We've been committing far too many errors. We want to play better than we have been and end the season on a positive note," said Fiarito.

This season will end Fiarito's career as a Cougar. Whether or not it will end his baseball career is undecided.

"I might hang it up, I mean it would be nice. I'd love to get drafted by the Oakland A's, but it's not my immediate goal," said Fiarito.



photo by Jillian Porter

Sophomore catcher Dino Fiarito has been Mr consistent for Clackamas all season. He is batting .348 and is the team leader in RBI's and is second in home runs with 4.

Cougars continue domination; close to clinching 1st

by Staci Beard
Staff Writer

Winning has become a habit with the Cougar softball team as they won another three games.

Friday saw the team on the road against Green River. They took the first game in a close 2-1 victory. All the stops were pulled out in the second game as they ran to a 13-0 win.

Kristi Northcutt provided the only RBIs needed to win with a one-run single in the second inning, and a triple in the sixth. Yvonne Johnson and Ann Kerr both chipped in two hits apiece.

Johnson lost her bid for an-

other shutout when sun played havoc with an infield pop up allowing a run to score.

Although Johnson missed her chance for a shutout, game two saw Heather McCorkle record her own.

Like so many other times during the season, the Cougars used the first game as a warm-up to explode offensively in the second game.

They got the offense rolling quickly when Northcutt and Patty Abell each singled, setting up Johnson to get the first two RBIs of the game.

The team could have stopped

there with McCorkle pitching so well, but they didn't.

On four hits and Green River's pitcher contributing seven walks to the cause, the team pushed ten runs across the plate to provide the wide margin of victory.

Those wins broke a four-year dryspell of wins at Green River.

Saturday saw the continuation of great playing by the Cougar team. The 2-0 Clackamas victory did some damage to Wenatchee Valley's chance of winning the Northern Division title.

Defense shined especially bright in several places. Catcher Merry Ferguson executed a great

pick-off play in the second inning. Molly Bremmer contributed to the sound defense by making a diving unassisted double play. Abell helped in the success by cutting down the runner at home with a throw from the outfield. The last of the great plays even helped to end a rally with LeAnna Helvig's throw from the outfield to D-Donne Madigan at third.

Even with the team playing so strong and winning so often, they have not let down on the playing field.

"I was a little worried because we didn't have a great week of practice, but the intensity on Fri-

day and Saturday was just great. We had no games during the week and at this point of the season it is hard to practice three times in a row," stated Paul Fiskum, coach.

With wins this week, the team can clinch the league title-- but that isn't the team's main goal.

"We are not looking at the standings. We are watching our level of intensity and concentration. If those stay where they are and we play to our ability the wins and losses will fall into place," explained Fiskum.

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