

# Daniels' leadership, defense key to Cougar success

by Mark A. Borrelli  
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Cougars are enjoying one of their finest basketball seasons ever. They are currently sitting atop the NWAACC Southern Division, and despite not having just one super-star caliber player, they are playing well as a team--and winning. Although the Cougars don't really have a "star," they do have a player this year that has really helped their cause. Freshman David Daniels has given the Cougars something they didn't have last year: a true point guard. His floor smarts and savvy can be seen as a reason for the Cougars' success.

Daniels, a graduate of Redmond High School, has been the floor leader for Clackamas this year. His ability to run the offense and play tenacious defense has earned him high praise from his coach.

"He is a really smart ball player. He executes our offense really well, and he doesn't make many mistakes. He also plays solid defense. He has been a real asset to our

team this year," said Coach Royce Kiser.

Daniels also had some good things to say about his coach, crediting him with much of his own betterment this year.

"I'm really pleased with the way this season has gone so far. I've improved a lot under Coach Kiser, everything is really going well, I'm glad I came here," said Daniels.

Although Kiser gets part of the credit for improving his game, it was Daniels' dad who got him playing at a young age. His father was a coach, and at his urging and coaching, Daniels began playing.

"My dad was a coach, and I've been playing every since I can remember. He has really helped me more than anyone," said Daniels.

Being a point guard is one of the toughest positions to play. You have the great point guards in the NBA, such as Magic Johnson and John Stockton, (who by the way is Daniels' favorite player,) both of the players have been credited with being great because they are passers and run the offense well. Thus

far this season, Daniels has been doing both exceptionally well. And, an added bonus for Daniels is his ability to play good defense.

"I really enjoy playing defense, I feel that it's the strongest part of my game," said Daniels.

Although he has an impact on the defensive end of the court, Daniels has also found his mark offensively. He has averaged 17 points per game since starting, and has dished out five assists per game. He recently connected on 9-12 three-pointers in a game.

"I'm not real concerned with scoring. We have four or five guys who can score; that's why it makes it really tough for another team to concentrate on just one of us," said Daniels.

With his team currently in first place, and playing very well, Daniels is optimistic that they can keep it up and continue to play well down the final stretch.

"We've got to continue to play aggressive defense. Everyone really gets along on this team, there is no selfishness, and that's what it takes to win," said Daniels.

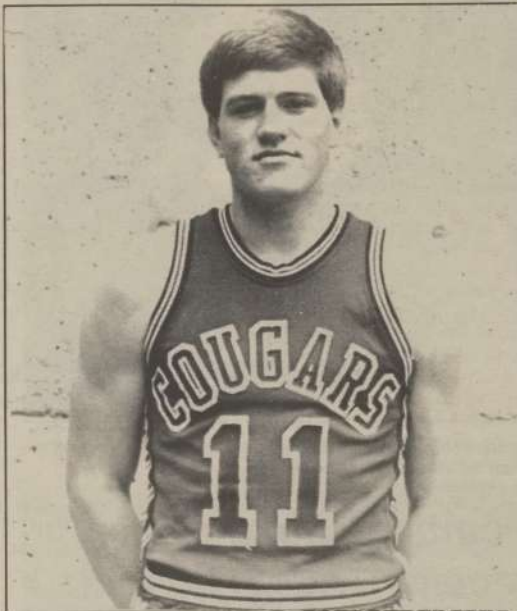


photo by Tim Zivney

Freshman guard David Daniels has made an immediate impact on the men's basketball team. His defensive skills, and court awareness are a key to the Cougar's 10-0 league mark.

## Wrestler wins with determination

by Staci Beard  
Sports Editor

Determined. That is the first word that comes to mind when wrestling Coach Jim Jackson thinks of grappler Craig Morris.

"Craig has pretty good mental toughness. He is never afraid to work or look for a challenge. He always wants to go against the toughest opponent that he can," stated Jackson.

That determination is one area where Morris, a sophomore, feels he has improved on from last season.

"Compared to last year I am more mentally tough. Last season I was a little afraid of some of the big college wrestlers. But I am not anymore," explained Morris.

Morris usually wrestles between the two weight divisions of

118 and 126.

Although they are a young team with only four sophomores, Morris feels they can accomplish more than last year's team who sent six wrestlers to Nationals.

"This team has come together as a team and works hard. Last year's team had better wrestlers and more potential but they didn't try as hard as they could have," stated Morris.

In four years of wrestling at Newberg High School he took third three times at the State competition.

One of the reasons Morris chose to concentrate on wrestling rather than size was the individual aspect of the sport.

"Being small eliminates me from some sports. Wrestling is the sport I compete in better than

any other," explained Morris. "Also when you win, you win, and when you lose you can't blame anyone for anything that happened but yourself."

Looking to the future Morris wants to continue wrestling at a four year school. One school he would like to wrestle for is Portland State University while going into the field of education.

"I would like to coach; I enjoy working with the kids. I have helped with coaching for a few wrestling clubs."

All sports, Morris feels, are great activities to be involved in.

"Any sport gives a kid something to occupy himself to keep him out of trouble. It gives you another goal besides school to work toward," stated Morris.

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11(A)	12	13	14	15
L*	39.12	65.43	49.87	44.26	55.56	70.82	63.51	39.92	52.24	97.06	92.02	87.34	82.14	72.06	62.15
a*	13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.82	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.55	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19	-1.07
b*	15.07	18.72	-22.29	22.85	-24.49	-0.35	59.60	-46.07	18.51	1.13	0.23	0.21	0.43	0.28	0.19
Density										0.04	0.09	0.15	0.22	0.36	0.51

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