

Cougars beat SWOCC, claim league championship

by Mark A. Borrelli
Sports Editor

The Clackamas men's basketball team completed their Cinderella season with a 72-71 victory over Lane, and with the victory, the Cougars closed out the year at 13-1, league champions, and a number 2 ranking in the NWAACC.

Clackamas, who had their undefeated season ruined by Chemeketa at home Wednesday, felt some pressure, as the Chiefs only trailed by one game going into the final game. But as it has been this season, the Cougars responded with a solid performance, and another win that gave them the league title.

The Cougars, who have made a living this season with their quickness and dead-eye shooting, made believers out of a lot of people who saw Clackamas claim the championship. One person who really wasn't at all shocked by the success of his team was Head Coach

Royce Kiser.

"Early in the season I would have been a little skeptical, but as the season went along, I knew we had a good team. Our guys really work hard. You really have to give a lot of credit to our guys; they always found a way to win," said Kiser.

An astounding trait the Cougars hold is their ability to win without size. Clackamas doesn't have a man over 6-7, but still hung tough on the boards with bigger teams this year. Kiser credits much of his teams success to hard work, and team speed.

"We have a lot of quickness, and our defense is probably a key to our success. We also seem to make the big shots when we need them. We rise to the occasion, and find a way to win," said Kiser.

With the win, Clackamas will be hosting the mini-tournament which starts Thursday and runs through Saturday. Clackamas, the number-one seed, will square off

against Lane, the number-four seed at 8 p.m.

Cost for the tournament is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Student body cards will not be good for admittance to playoff games.

"I think that we have a good shot in the tournament," said guard Brett Nesland. "We want to get Lane Thursday, then knock off Chemeketa Saturday."

Sophomore guard Troy Merrill feels that his team will be competitive in the NWAACC tournament.

"We have a very good team, and if we play like we can, there's no reason why we can't win the whole thing. This is the best men's basketball team in the history of CCC," said Merrill.

Clackamas has already assured itself a place in the NWAACC tourney, which will be hosted by Walla Walla. The NWAACC tourney is next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.



HANG TIME... Tim Osburn glides to the hoop over an Umpqua defender. Clackamas finished the year at 13-1, and won a league championship. The Cougars will face Lane at home Thursday.

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Women end season in first place tie with Umpqua

by Robert Stubblefield
Contributing writer

The Clackamas women's basketball team closed out the regular season in style by cruising to a pair of one-sided victories. On Wednesday, Feb. 14 the Cougs held their own version of the St. Valentine's Day massacre and demolished Chemeketa 114-47.

After being plagued by slow starts in recent weeks, the Cougars came out blazing. They jumped to a 58-19 halftime lead and never

looked back.

Clackamas applied relentless full-court pressure and forced 28 turnovers. Pam Pember and Alicia Stephenson ruled the boards with 11 rebounds each. Angela Hewlett led the Cougars with 30 points and also dished out 11 assists. J.J. Drennen and Kelli Brown had 15 points each.

The Cougars showed exceptional balance by placing six players in double figures. "Every player we had dressed down scored,"

Coach Phil Garver said. "It's nice when everyone is able to contribute like that."

On Saturday Feb. 17 the Cougars braved a long trip to Coos Bay to face SWOCC and came away with an impressive 101-45 victory.

"It was one of our best defensive efforts of the season," Coach Garver commented. Clackamas forced SWOCC to turn the ball over 29 times. "We came out in a man-to-man and held them with-

out a field goal for the first eight minutes," Garver said.

Stephenson dominated the inside and led the Cougars with 22 points and 13 rebounds. Hewlett and Brown sparkled from the backcourt, combining for 19 assists while only turning the ball over three times.

"To handle the ball as much as Angela and Kelli do, and only have three turnovers is incredible," Assistant Coach Bruce Toney said.

Clackamas once again found

reliable help off the bench. Jean-Marie Lillard scored 16 points and went a perfect 7-7 from the field. Casey Harker played excellent defense and had seven rebounds in limited minutes.

"It was a great way to end the regular season and gives us momentum going off into the playoffs," Garver said. "We're assured some playoff games at home in Randall Gym, so I hope the fans come out and support us."

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