

From the other side...
by
Staci Beard

Baseball dreams

Baseball is back. Did you ever think it would be? If you have paid attention to the money aspect of our national pastime, chances are you knew it would be back before someone went too far in to debt. Isn't that the name of the game; making money while also trying to win that pennant?

Why do I sound a little cynical? Because baseball is a great game and all these strikes and million dollar contracts are really leaving the fans out in the cold. It is hard to feel sorry for guys who will now make \$100,000 dollars their rookie season while most Americans make around \$20,000 a year.

As soon as the strike was finished, the fans were back watching the games. However, every one of the fans interviewed said they were back because of their love of the game not for the love of the players. There were remarks made and boos could be heard when the players finally took the field. But that seemed as far as the fans protested as the love of the game brought them back.

There are not too many things better than a summer night spent watching a baseball game, be it the hometown minor league team or major league. Isn't that why millions of kids play ball during the summer dreaming that some day they will be in the major leagues pitching the shut out or hitting the homer that wins the World Series?

That is what baseball is supposed to be about, not wondering when everyone will quit fighting over contracts and whether it is two years or three years before a player gets to go to arbitration.

The movie *Field of Dreams* was about giving people who loved the game a second chance to play it. They didn't go out and try to make as much money as possible on the game. First of all you have to believe in it to see them, not the money that could be had.

It is probably very naive of me to think that we can go back to the days that baseball had a more innocent air (even though they had their share of scandal and problems). But couldn't we at least try to get back some of that fun and carefree summer feeling that goes with baseball? We could first start with trying to avoid these lockouts and strikes.

Maybe then some of the kids in the parks, when they see the reality, won't have their dreams totally shattered, just a little cracked.

Young Cougars promise to be strong competitors

by Mark A. Borrelli
Editor-in-Chief

'Young, but exciting' promises to be the motto of the Clackamas baseball team this season. First year coach Robin Robinson will head this inexperienced squad, but is confident that his young club will be competitive throughout the season.

Pitcher Tim Arendell and catcher David Grey are the only two players returning from last year's team.

"We're very inexperienced as far as college ball goes," said Robinson. "We need to get some leadership out of our returners, because that's something we've lacked," said Robinson.

Arendell could be the key to the Cougars' pitching staff this year. Last year Arendell looked brilliant at times, and if he has a solid year, it would most likely help the Cougar cause.

Although Grey and Arendell are the only two non-rookie Cougars, Clackamas does have other players with college experience. Brady Miller, who could very well be the Cougars opening day pitcher, attended Yanapa Junior College in Arizona. He, along with Arendell, could head a strong CCC pitching attack.

"We have two strong pitchers, and three that need to improve," said Robinson.

Providing power at the plate

for Clackamas could be Blues Bucholz from OIT, Paul Huddleston from Clark, and Jim Squires from PSU.

"Paul Huddleston is hitting the ball very well," commented Robinson.

Hitting, according to Robinson, will be the strong part of this Clackamas team.

"We'll out-hit every opponent that we face. We really hit the ball extremely well. We'll run some this year; we'll be an exciting team to watch," said Robinson.

Robinson expects big contributions from John Bennet describing him as "a hustler, a good defensive player, a good hitter, and an all-around outstanding

player," praised Robinson.

Robinson inherits a program that saw little success last year, and faced some internal problems with player attitudes, and coaching philosophies. Robinson is optimistic, but remains realistic about setting goals too high.

"Our only goal is to be competitive in every ball game. I'd like to see a lot of improvement. My biggest goal is to make sure that the players enjoy themselves," said Robinson.

Thus far this year the Cougars are 1-3 in non-league play. Clackamas will host Linfield Thursday, before entertaining league favorite Chemeketa Saturday at 1 p.m.

Robinson real winner with baseball team

by Jennifer Soper
Staff Writer

In his first season as Clackamas' head baseball coach, 33 year old Robin Robinson has already made a favorable impression on his team.

"He may be one of the best coaches I've ever had for any sport," said right fielder Curt Allison. "He's smart. He knows how to play the game. He gives players responsibility."

Paul Huddleston, who transferred from Clark College because he heard Clackamas hired a new coach, seemed to agree.

"He's without a doubt the best coach I've ever had. He stresses positive reinforcement. He keeps a real positive atmosphere," Huddleston said.

Tim "Arny" Arendell, who pitched for Clackamas last year, explained Robinson is improving the team's overall performance.

"He's really turning the team in a good direction. He's more of an aggressive coach. He doesn't stand for any screwing around. He's the kind of coach everyone wants," said Arendell.

Robinson left a strong program at Oregon City High School where he was the head baseball coach for four years. Before that he coached at Junction City, his alma mater, for six years. He seemed certain his move to Clackamas in the fall was a good one.

"It was one of the best moves I've made in my career. Everything seems positive and supportive here," Robinson said.

Robinson recognizes there are many differences between coaching high school and college baseball.

"The reality is you've got so many guys who have already played so much ball and have been coached in different techniques. To get them to do what I want is a little more difficult," he said.

"I've had to be a little more open minded with my theories. I have guys coming in with different philosophies. I'm trying to listen and be flexible in adapting to what they want to do in some situations," Robinson continued.

As coach, Robinson is concerned with more than just winning games.

"Most coaches have to babysit. Robby doesn't want to and he won't because he figures if a person's playing college ball they're old enough to know the difference between right and wrong," said Allison.

"The budget is tight here just like anywhere. We've done some fund raising and improved the equipment. What we still need is the money for dugouts," Robinson explained.

Robinson, who was once known as "Hitler" at Oregon City for the drastic cuts he made when

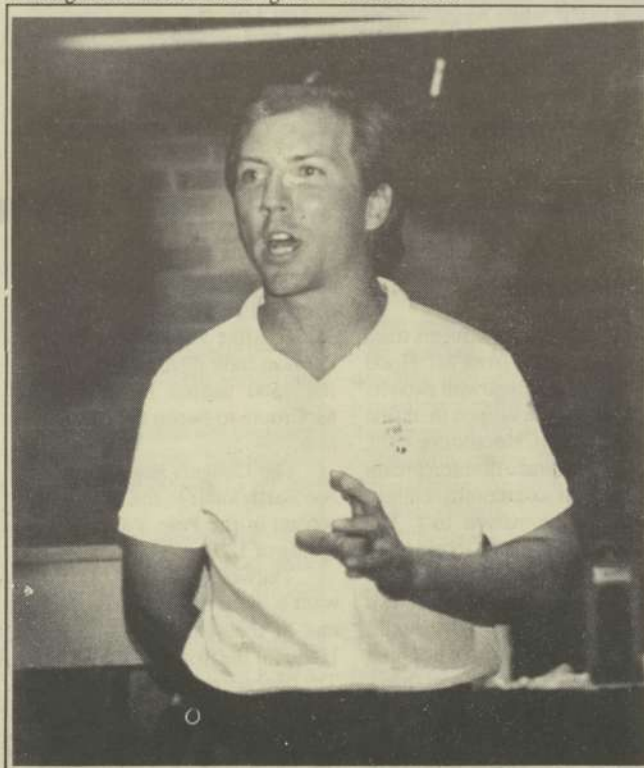
selecting players, expects a lot from the team.

"I expect us to win. I expect us to be competitive against everyone and win our share of games," said Robinson.

Huddleston explained that although Robinson's coaching has

a big impact on the team, others deserve credit.

"All three of our coaches do a good job of relating to the team and making us winners. Nobody on this team is a third placer. We're all playing to win," concluded Huddleston.



Robin Robinson left Oregon City High School to become Head Coach at CCC.

Spring Sports Schedule

BASEBALL

April 5 Linfield Jv
April 7 Chemeketa
April 8 at Oregon
April 10 Mt. Hood
April 14 Lane
April 16 OSU Jv
April 17 Clark (2)
April 21 at Linn-Benton (2)

TRACK

April 7 Clark/Lane/Chemeketa
April 14 Mt. Hood Relays at Gresham
April 21 at Coos Bay
April 28 Oregon Open at Eugene
May 1-2 at Albany
May 5 Clackamas Invitational
May 11-12 Region IV Champ at Salem
May 24-25 NWAACC Champ at Seattle

SOFTBALL

April 6 at Grays Harbor
April 7 at Lower Col.
April 10 Green River
April 14 S. Puget Sound
April 17 Tacoma
April 21/22 cross over tourn.
April 27 at Olympic
April 28 at Green River
May 1 Lower Col.

