

From the Other Side
by
Staci Beard

Cougars take 5 of 6 to start off season

by Staci Beard
Sports Editor

Baseball winners

I am going to try and predict how some of the teams in baseball are going to fare. I tried this during football season for a person at work. How did I do? Let's just say it is a good thing he didn't follow the advice too closely. I am going to try it again because I figure everyone needs a good laugh.

Let's try this by leagues, first the American league. This is where you have the defending World Series winners the Oakland Athletics. But I am sorry I just can't go with them. Besides losing some key players, they achieved their goal of getting back to the world series and winning it. I think they will get a little lackadaisical.

On the other hand, I am not going to go out on a small limb and pick some one like the Detroit Tigers, please ... they need help getting to five hundred.

I think it will be a tight race between the Kansas City Royals, California Angels and the Toronto Blue Jays and the Athletics. They have all picked up people who are supposed to help last year's weaknesses.

But when it comes right down to it, it will be the Royals. They already had one of the leagues strongest pitching, but they have added a Cy Young winner and another who is a proven winner. Pretty soon, Bo is going to know world series.

Let's move on to the National League. I will say right now that unless the San Francisco Giants can make an injury-free pitcher out of their air they aren't going to repeat. Kevin Mitchell and Will Clark can carry you far, but not all the way to the top. (They must have done the pitching with mirrors).

Chicago Cubs could be on top again but with their karma not likely. They need a few horrible years to really make it count when they attempt to win again.

So let's go with the New York Mets, San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers making a play for it.

When it comes down, I think it will be the Padres. Why am I not picking the Mets you ask? Look at that pitching staff you say. I don't think they can hold it together long enough during the season to come out in one piece. While there were no fights during photo day, the question of Davey Johnson staying was raised quite often. How secure do you think he is?

Yes, I am going with the Padres. Don't ask me for specific details why. It is just a feeling, or call it women's intuition, whatever I don't care. They seem to have built themselves a little stronger, and what the heck, let's get someone new in the limelight.

After a sluggish preseason that saw the team finish at .500, the women's softball team have put the regular season on the right track. They have taken their six games and turned it into a 5-1 record.

The first regular season match up was a double header against Olympic which the Cougars split, winning the first 8-1 but losing the second in extra innings 3-2.

Angie Baker pitched a strong game to earn her fourth victory. Four others put in strong performances to give the Cougars their win Kristi Northcutt went 2-3 with three runs, and Lisa Williamson went 2-4. K.C. Jones connected only once with the bat but that brought in 3 RBI. Julie Troutner came up with the biggest hit going 2-4 with one homerun and knocking in three runs.

The second game wasn't so kind as Olympic rallied in the eighth inning to steal the game.

"There are three things that I want the team to do and if they do it you can't be upset when we lose. Those are to have one or less errors, hit hard and don't pop up and no mental mistakes. We did all three of those things I think the god of softball didn't intend for us to win today," stated Coach Paul Fiskum.

Two freshmen did come up with productive games: Julie Stickel and Jenny Wimberly both went 2-3. Stickel also came up with a triple and Wimberly with one RBI.

The next opponent Grays

Harbor got a taste of what Clackamas can do when the bats are in full gear, as they got routed 12-0. Wimberly carried the biggest bat going 3-3 with 3 RBIs and one homerun. Stickel also popped a homer while going 3-4 with three more RBI. Northcutt and Tricia Soli also had a good days going 3-5 and 2-4.

In the second game, the bats took little longer to get active. Going into the seventh inning the score was 3-1 but the Cougars exploded for six runs for the 9-1 victory. Jill Schnell and Wimberly both went 2-3 with Schnell knocking in 3 RBI. Jenny Houck went 2-4 with 1 RBI.

Offense wasn't the only thing going strong as Baker collected her fifth win of the season. Freshmen Linda Gross achieved her first collegiate win in the second game with a 10 strike out, no walks performance.

"Baker has been throwing well all season. Gross had a great game she was in command the whole way," explained Fiskum.

Clackamas' next opponent Lower Columbia who Fiskum felt was one of their toughest opponents, but Clackamas came away with two more victories going 4-2 and 3-2.

"Their pitcher is very tough with an excellent rise. She can move the ball around well. It was good to beat them in a close game on the road," said Fiskum.

The first game stretched to 10 innings when Stickel came up with the clutch hit that knocked in Jacquie Romine for the winning

run.

Baker again had a winning outing striking out nine and moving her win loss record to 6-1.

On the mound in the second game, Heather McCorkle had her best outing of the season giving up only 4 hits, 2 walks while striking out five.

Troutner was the only Cou-

gar needed to bring all three runs across the plate going 2-3 with a double and a triple.

The Cougars will be home next Tuesday for their first game against Tacoma. Their only home Saturday match will be on April 14 against South Puget Sound; the game will start at 2 p.m.



Pitcher Heather McCorkle warms up for the second game against Olympic. Clackamas lost in eight innings 2-3.

Photo by Tim Zivney

Competitiveness level raised by diamond men

by Mark A. Borrelli
Editor in-Chief

Despite losing 3-4 games this past week, the Clackamas baseball team has been competitive, and has shown great improvement.

In the team's second league game of the year, the Cougars hosted Linn-Benton last Tuesday. Tim Arendell started on the mound but one inning cost Clackamas the game. Clackamas trailed only 8-6 entering the 8th inning, but the

Road Runners capitalized on 5 Cougar errors, and scored 11 runs to break the game wide open. Arendell, tired in the 8th and was replaced by Ryan Gillette. Arendell picked up the loss, dropping his record to 1-3.

"We played really well through seven. We just don't have enough pitching to stay with a team that hits that well," said Coach Robin Robinson.

Gage Campbell lead the hit-

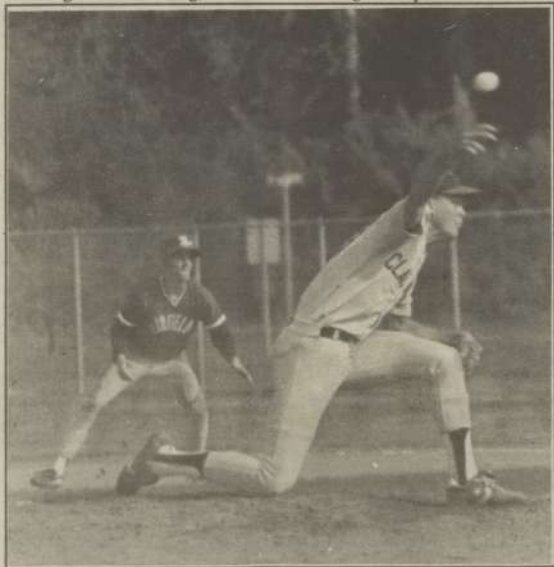
ting parade for Clackamas, going 2-3 for the day. Clackamas had just 5 hits, while Linn-Benton connected for 19 runs (6 earned), on 15 hits.

Saturday, Clackamas hit the road to Salem to battle league power Chemeketa. John Miller started on the mound and pitched well after a shaky start. Chemeketa struck for 2 in the 1st, 3 in the 2nd and a run in the 3rd, before Miller settled down. Miller pitched 5 2/3, before being relieved by Arendell.

The Cougar hitting wasn't able to overcome an early hole, as they hit the ball well, but could only muster 2 runs, in losing 7-2. John Bennett went 2-4 at the plate, and picked up a RBI. Jim Squires also went 2-4, and Tim Ensley and David Grey each connected for a base hit.

"We played great baseball after the 2nd inning. We outplayed them after that," said Robinson. Once again it was the unearned runs that killed Clackamas, as just 3 of Chemeketa runs were earned.

Clackamas stayed on the road Saturday and Sunday, as they took their road show to Eugene to Face The University of Oregon in non-league action. Blues Buckles started on the mound for Clackamas, and he gave the Duck batters the blues, as Clackamas won 6-5. Buckles allowed just 2 earned runs in picking up his first run of the



Jim Squires fires a pitch toward the batter. The Cougars went 3-4 for the first week of league action.

Photo by Lane Scheideman

inches

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11(A)	12	13	14	15	
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	
13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.02	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.55	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19	-1.07	
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	
D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer										Density					
										0.04	0.09	0.15	0.22	0.36	0.51