

From the other side...
by
Staci Beard

Blazer mania

Even as fans begin to pack the ballparks, there is still some unfinished business--basketball has yet to pick its champion.

As wonders have it the Portland TrailBlazers actually have a chance to be competitive in post-season play.

I will be the first to admit I have not been the most stand-by-your-team-through-thick-and-thin person. I have often come close to being kicked out of the room where a Blazer game is being viewed because of my less than positive comments on their performances. But how many times in the past have the Blazers cruised through the regular season getting Portland's fans' hopes up only to fall face first in the first round of the playoffs.

This year has a different feel to it. Gone are the feelings of unhappiness that pervaded last year's team. Everyone seems to like Rick Adelman. Even the team members are crediting Adelman with the new feelings around the team. People aren't fighting because of minutes. It is amazing what losing a couple of people and the gaining of a level-headed veteran named Buck Williams can influence even more a team's chemistry. It must be working because thus far we have yet to see any Sports Illustrated articles appear wondering if anyone is happy.

To win it all though would be a difficult task. Detroit Pistons are playing almost as well as last year. The Chicago Bulls could be an unpredictable team with the practically unstoppable Micheal Jordan. Then there is the always-present Los Angeles Lakers. But after last weekend's slam to the Lakers, why be gloomy? Just go for it and cheer and argue with friends about the Blazers chances.

This could be a rare opportunity. Don't mess around and miss it.

Winning doesn't matter

The number one pick in the NFL draft is a quarterback from Illinois Jeff George who was picked by the Indianapolis Colts. He is reported to have received a contract that will give him 15 million dollars over the next six years. Put this in perspective, he has not played a down of football in the pros. But as of now, he has a contract that is bigger than Joe Montana who has won four Superbowls and three MVP awards. He is also getting more money than Randall Cunningham who while he hasn't won a Superbowl is one of the main reasons the Philadelphia Eagles have won. Does this make sense to you?

CCC takes two victories at SWOCC meet

By Dan A. Fulton
Sports Writer

The Clackamas Cougars track team went down to SWOCC on April 21, and came home with first place victories for both the men and women.

In a three-school competition, Clackamas ran away with first scoring a sizzling 103 points. Linn Benton wound up second with 79 points, while SWOCC found home track not so pleasant finishing a very distant third with 11 points.

Richie Taylor leaped his way into first in the triple jump jumping 42'10". Meanwhile, his teammate David Bate sprang a first place victory over the high jump bar with a jump of 6'4". In the 400m hurdles, Randy Fish ran 56.02 seconds taking home the first place trophy. In the 200m hurdles, the Cougars finished one and two. Gabe Crane cruised to first in 22.7 seconds and Todd Gibson came a close second running in a time of 23.14. In the pole vault competition, Joe Bartley sprang his way to second place vaulting 12 feet.

In the 4x400 relay event, Clackamas took second in a time

of 3:36.91. In another 4x100 relay, the team of Parker, Crane, Gibson and Larson finished first with a time of 42.36.

In the 400m dash, the Cougars placed second and third, going to Crane and Bob McCrum.

The Cougars got a lift from Shaun Ferguson winning the 5,000 in a time of 16:23.95 in his first meet back with the Cougars from being ineligible. Mike Paulson had a good day taking second in the 5,000 in a time of 17:51.11, which was almost a minute better than the third place finisher. The 10,000 saw him bring home his first college victory with 35:41.07. Following closely and finishing second behind his twin brother Mike, Marc Paulson ran the 10,000 in 37:01.

Kyle Riggs let no one outjump him in the long jump, taking first leaping 22'6-1/2". Once again, Mike Hieb surpassed everyone in the javelin taking first, tossing the javelin 205'2". John Landis finished third with a throw of 165 even.

In the 800 Cougar sensation Nav Larsen, who is a rookie in this event, finished second in 2:00.12.

Following Larson in third was Beardall in 2:00.44.

In the 100 meter, the Cougars took all the medals, Todd Gibson took the gold with a time of 11.3 seconds, Parker finished second in 11.38, and Fish took third in 11.43.

In the 100m hurdles, Crane wound up first springing to the finish line in 15.35. In the 1500, Kevin Buse made sure that Clackamas took another first-place finish running a time of 4:04.32.

"It was a relaxed meet for the men," commented Track Coach Mike Hodges. "We had a lot of fun."

The women had to work a little harder without Angie Wright, who sat out, but still managed to outthrust Linn Benton and finished first scoring 65 points to their 62.

For the women, Erika Lorentson had a first place finish in the 100m hurdles with a time of 12.77. The 400m hurdle saw Lorentson slip to second hurdling in a time of 1:09.88. Alison Munson took the 400m in 1:05.87.

In the long jump, Misti Gra-

ham saw her career-first jump fall short of first with a leap of 13'1/2", and Chris Nylen, who usually stays with the shot put and javelin, ran the 800 and finished second in 2:53.32.

Sonya Hult ran to the finish line in the 10,000 picking up her first college victory in 44:36.09. The discus saw Lillard take out teammate Chandler throwing the discus 135'7" to Chandler's toss of 107'9". Once again Lillard's nearest competitor was her teammate, this time beating out Nylen in the shot put finishing one and two. Lillard heaved the shot put 42'1/4" to Nylen's 38'8-1/2". In the relays, the Cougars finished second in the 4x100 and 4x400.

"They were really strong as a team," commented Hodges. "We got some really strong performances by Hult and Paulson." The men are 15-0 while the women are 12-3. Their next meet is an invitational, Saturday at the U of O.

"There will be a lot of good competition there so it will be fun to compete in," said Hodges.

Cougars win, lose, and tie at Olympia

By Staci Beard
Sports Editor

With a week-long break in league action the women's softball team put their energies in to honing their craft.

The first game was played between rain showers against Western Oregon State JVs. In five innings they were able to run over the competition with a 14-4 victory.

Rain again caused a problem, this time stopping the second game for good in the second inning, with the Cougars leading 8-7.

A number of Cougars had big offensive days in the seven innings played. K.C Jones went a perfect 3-3 while pushing across three RBIs. Both Kristi Northcutt and Molly Bremmer had 2-4 days. Jackie Romine also came up with a 2-4 performance also adding three RBIs. Julie Troutner and Jenny Wimberly had 2-3 with the latter pulling in a team leading five RBIs.

"In seven innings we had 22 runs. It was our biggest offensive output of the year," stated Coach Paul Fiskum.

In the first game Angie Baker only let one earned run cross the plate on way to her ninth victory of the year.

Saturday, the team started on a long day of travel and games. Leaving Clackamas at 7:45 a.m. to get to Olympia for the Crossover Tournament, the team had enough time to change into uniforms and were then on the field warming up for the first of three games.

First competition of the day was an American Softball Association team called the Diamond Queens from Linwood, WA. The Cougars played them to a 3-3 tie. The game was not played out due to a time restriction.

"It should have been a 0-0 game. We both scored our runs on

three hits. We also contributed four errors to their success. But we did get some luck when a girl lost a fly in the sun that had just come out; it knocked in two runs," explained Fiskum.

Heather McCorkle pitched the first game giving up three hits but no earned runs.

Shoreline Community College was the next competition for the Cougars and the team regained their run making ability by winning 10-5 in six innings.

The Cougars jumped out quickly scoring two in the first inning. Then came four runs in both the second and fifth innings to give Clackamas the victory.

"The defense wasn't quite what I wanted it to be. Our sticks are what carried us in this game," said Fiskum.

Those having big games were Troutner who went a perfect 3-3 with three RBIs. Stickle brought in two runs during her 2-4 day. Lisa Williamson went a perfect 2-2 scoring two runs. Baker, in as designated hitter, went 2-3 with two RBIs.

Baker's offensive production this weekend has Fiskum feeling he has another good way to use her skills besides pitching.

"This weekend I decided to have a look see at what she could do offensively because of what she had been doing in practice. She walked four times and went 2-6 while scoring four times. I envision using her more at the plate when she is not pitching," stated Fiskum.

The last game for Saturday ended with a 5-2 victory over Highline. Clackamas again put three errors in the scorebook which helped Highline to score their two runs. But the Cougars came back in the sixth inning with their bats to score three more runs.

Another strong outing was given by Baker who struck out nine while walking one. Fiskum feels part of Baker's success is the pitch selection being called by her catcher Romine.

"Romine has been catching Angie since before high school. She just calls a wonderful game whenever I talk to her about how I want to pitch a batter she knows when to call the fastball, or the breaking ball, or the curve. She mixes them up so it puts the batter off balance," explained Fiskum.

Sunday was the next day of action for Clackamas where they played Skagit Valley, the team they beat for last year's NWAACC championship. This had a different ending as the Cougars lost in nine innings 4-6.

"We didn't capitalize on our scoring opportunities. We left 12 runners stranded by the sixth in-

ning," said Fiskum.

Cougars found the time to find out things they need to fix and others that they have improved on. Concentration between double headers has been a problem but even with three games on Saturday the Cougars were able to keep up the concentration level and not let down.

Improvement is needed in the defense where the team has consistently been putting in a lot of errors according to Fiskum.

"Defense is not where it needs to be. The players know it--I know it. We have the ability to overcome it by scoring. We have players who are staying later to work on it. I think we can do it," explained Fiskum.

Next action for the Cougars is Friday at Olympia and Saturday at Green River.



Lisa Williamson watches her hit towards left center field as she heads toward first. Clackamas begins second half of league Friday at Olympia.

Photo by Tim Zivney

inches

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

D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer

Density → 0.04 0.09 0.15 0.22 0.36 0.51

Golden Thread