Miller feels team unity helps his success on track

by Amber Cordry
Dan Fulton
Staff Writers

The Clackamas Cougars Men's track team is having much success this year, and is predicted to be in contention for the Northwest Championships at the end of the year, with part of the success due to the return of Steve Miller.

Miller started his career in track running and jumping for Mollala High School. There, Miller matured as a jumper and became one of the best in the state. Because of his great talents in track and field events, Miller was recruited by Mike Hodges, track coach of the Cougars.

"It was really great coming to a college team that has always been one of the better teams," commented Miller, "I like to jump, but I run because I am fast. It is a great feeling to run fast, which is why I continued my track career out of high school."

In Miller's first year, he showed signs of promise. His second year he red shirted, only to have his Cougars start smoking out of the gates and wind up taking the Northwest Championship. The year before Miller showed his skills by qualifying to triple jump against the best in the Northwest.

In Miller's third season with the Cougars, and as a team captain, he sees a lot of potential from his teammates.

"It was really great coming to a college team that has always been one of the better team."

Miller owes his team's success to their athletic ability and their hard work.

"The whole team really gets out there and works hard like every meet is the Championship," commented Miller, "We really want to win."

Miller sees the Cougars more united than last year; every one gets along so well. The rest of the credit Miller gives to Hodges.

"Hodges has so many things to do and his time is spread so thin, he has done just an outstanding job to get us where we are," commented Miller.

In last couple of meets, Miller has been sitting out with an injury. He's hopeful to be healed soon so he can complete once again in the Northwest Championship.

This year being Miller's last year, he has decided to block transfer to the University of Oregon in Eugene next year to continue his collegiate track career. Miller is still undecided on what he wants his major to be.

The only thing Miller would like to see change at Clackamas in the track is the track.

"We have such a good program here; it is a shame we have to run on that track," stated Miller.

In Miller is plans for the future, he hopes to make a stop in Europe and stay somehow around the track scene.

Steve Miller started off strong until injuries sidelined him. He has missed the last couple of weeks

photo by Tim Zivney

Cougars suffer pitching injuries...

Cougars drop 2 of 3 on road trip to Chiefs, Saints

by Mark A. Borrelli
Editor-in-Chief

The Clackamas Cougars continued on their 10-game road swing, with a pair of double headers at Chemeketa and Mt. Hood. Despite playing improved baseball, the Cougars didn't fare well, dropping three of four games.

The Cougars were in Salem last Tuesday to face the Chemeketa Chiefs in a twin bill. The Cougars put together a good effort, but came up short losing 5-1. Don Nelsen started on the mound for the Cougars, and pitched four innings allowing all 5 runs before being replaced by Jim Squires. Squires kept the Chiefs' bats quiet, but the Cougars failed to produce any runs.

John Bennent had a good day at the plate going 3-4. Squires went 2-4, and also plated the Cougars only run, with a solo home run in the sixth inning.

The second game saw the Cougar bats become silent. Clackamas was held to just four hits, but still managed two runs, but it wasn't enough, as Chemeketa completed the sweep with a 7-2 win.

"It was a rainy, yucky, muddy kind of day," described Coach Robin Robinson.

"Our bats were quiet, we hit a lot of fly balls, and we had 10 ground outs."

Blues Buckles started for the Cougars, but lasted just three innings. Brady Miller came on in relief, and didn't allow an earned run.

After disappointing results at Chemeketa, Clackamas packed their bags and headed to Gresham to face cross-town rival Mt. Hood.

After getting humiliated 18-1 the last time they faced Mt. Hood, Clackamas went into the game with revenge on their mind. Although Clackamas couldn't manage a win in game one, the result was certainly a lot more respectable than last time, as they lost 9-6.

"We played very well, we made some great defensive plays, but we gave up 4 unearned runs, and that cost us the ball game," said Robinson.

Clackamas sent a trio of pitchers to the mound, and Nelsen, Miller, and Brian Gillette all turned in a fine performance.

Gage Campbell was the hot bat for the Cougars going 2-2.

The fourth and final game for Clackamas proved to be the best one, as they nipped Mt. Hood 4-3. Clackamas had just 5 hits, but according to Robinson, "They were all timely hits."

Tim Ensley was 2-4, John Bennett was 1-4 with two RBIs. Robinson was beaming with pleasure on his team's performance at Mt. Hood.

"We played those games really well. We're definitely playing better--more competitive," said Robinson.

Clackamas has been hurt by the loss of ace pitcher Tim Arendell, who is out with tendinitis but the rest of the Cougar staff has really competed well, and is pitching better than their coaches had hoped for.

"They are pitching far better than we expected this year," said Pitching Coach Tom Dyer.

Clackamas concludes its current road trip Wednesday at Linn-Benton. The Cougars will return home to face Clark on Saturday.

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