

Cougars run away with first at the NWAACC meet

by Dan Fulton
Sports Writer

The Clackamas Cougars' men's track team became the first Oregon community college team to take the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges tournament.

The Cougars came out of the NWAACC meet with a first-place score of 177, dusting the nearest competitor, Spokane, by 59 points. They also picked up Coach of the Year for Mike Hodges, and Player of the Year for Steve Miller.

"It is really a great honor to receive Coach of the Year," commented Mike Hodges, "It comes a lot easier when you have excellent talent."

Miller showed why he received the title; he finished first in the long jump with a leap of 22'11-2/3". He also took the gold in the triple jump bounding 48'1-3/4". Miller had to settle for the silver in the 100m running a steady 11.13.

Miller wasn't alone in these events. All the Cougars were living up to their name, clawing their way past the finish line. Kyle Riggs finished second 22'4-3/4", and Gabe Crane 21'3-1/2".

In the triple jump, Richie Taylor took second leaping 47'5", while Kyle Riggs bounded 44'1-3/4" finishing fifth.

In the relay competition, the Cougars always finished tops, and

this event was no different. The Cougars took the gold in the 400m in 41.9, and the silver in the 1600m in 3:19.4.

"We came out very strong and put to Spokane," commented Hodges. "We expected much more competition from Spokane but they couldn't handle the competition of our athletes."

Mike Hieb gave the javelin a soar and wound up in first place with a toss of 219'6". In the high jump, Dave Bate jumped 6'4" finishing third.

In the 10,000m, Tim Beardall and Dusty Moore gave the Cougars all the points needed in the event. Beardall took first in 32:12.5. Moore came out with the bronze in 32:22.6.

In the 3000m, the Cougars weren't so fortunate, Kevin Buse finished fourth and Moore took sixth.

In the 1500, Bob McCrumb took the gold in 3:56.3, while Shawn Ferguson took fourth, in 3:59.4. Gabe Crane came through for the Cougars finishing first in the 110 meter hurdles in 14.9. Crane found the winning circle once again in the 400 meter hurdles in 53.6.

Larson followed Crane's footsteps, and scored a first-place finish in the 400m in the time of 47.5. Larson liked what he did in the first race and wound up in the same

circle with the gold in the 200m with a time of 21.64. Beardall also finished first in the 5000m in 15:33.3 helping his team to the first-place finish.

The women were plagued with injuries and could only rack up 28 points and wound up in seventh place.

"Angie Wright and Erika Lorentson did not compete because of stress fractures in the her legs," commented Hodges. "If they were competing, we would have been in the top three or four."

Jean-Maree Lillard had a good day for the Cougars as she placed second in two occasions. In the shot put, Lillard took the silver in heaving the five-pound ball 42'9". Lillard also wound up in the two-spot in the discus. Flinging the frisbee-like discus 132'7".

Chris Nysten was the only other Cougar on the women's side to score. Nysten finished third in the javelin letting it soar 137'11". Nysten also finished fifth in the shotput thrusting the ball 40'11".

"We really had a super year, we were 15-0 in the meet competition, state champions, and also Northwest Champions. We really couldn't have had a better year," praised Hodges. "Next year we have 2/3 of the team coming back back so we could do something again, you never can tell."



A member of the Clackamas track team practices pole vaulting. The men are the first Oregon team to win the NWAACC meet.

Photo by Lane Schiedemen

Losing streak continues to the end

by Jennifer Soper
Production Manager

The Cougar Baseball team finished a rebuilding season with a final record of 6-30.

"We would have liked to have done a lot better," said Head Coach Robin Robinson. "There were some games where our pitching couldn't handle the hitting of this league."

The Cougars ended the season with a double header against the Lane Titans on May 18.

"We played very well all day long. We had a lot of fun," said Robinson. "We hit the ball hard; they hit the ball harder."

In the first game of the twin bill the Cougars had four home runs. Gage Campbell, who was 2-5 at the plate overall and had three runs, had one homer. Tim Arendell also went 2-5 at the plate, had two runs and one home run. Ryan Gillette crossed the plate with his first at bat of the day. Curt Alison was 2-4 at the plate and had one home run.

In the second game of the day the final score was 6-3 as the Titans prevailed. Beeler and Vantassle were both 2-3 at the plate, accumulating our of the eight hits the Cougars had in the game. Vantassle also had one RBI.

On May 17 Clackamas played a make-up game against the Chemeketa Chiefs. According to Robinson, the Cougar's pitching was "hit hard." The team put "lots on base," but had only two runs in the game resulting in a final score of 15-2.

In the twin bill against Mt.

Hood Saints on May 15, the Cougars once again failed to rise to the occasion and lost 14-3 and 13-3, respectively.

In the first game against the Saints, Campbell went 3-3 at the plate. Tim Ensley had a triple and two RBIs. Jim Squires earned two hits and two runs against the Saints.

John Bennett was the shining player in the second game earning two hits and two runs against the Saints.

Currently, Robinson and Assistant Coaches Tom Dyer and Doug Duvall are working on recruiting, fielding techniques, and a summer league baseball team, Robinson said. They expect about 10 players to return next year, and are already making plans for the

season.

"Obviously we need to recruit for pitching," said Robinson. "We're looking for guys who look like they can step in and play successfully in our league next year. We need more power and a lot more speed."

Although the season was not everything Robinson wanted it to be, there were some positive things drawn from it.

"It was a motivator to make me want to get at it a little stronger and harder...to learn some more baseball and to teach some more baseball. We're going to get out there and recruit some good kids," Robinson said.

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