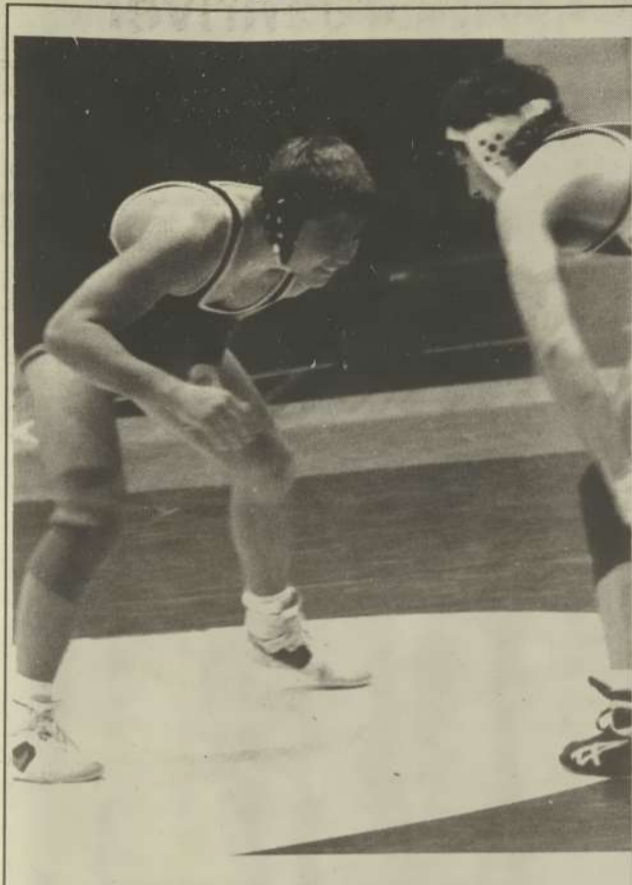


Cougar grapplers face tough schedule in weeks ahead



Cougar wrestler Greg Benner prepares to do battle with an opponent. Benner won by a decision over his rival.

By Heatherlie Himes
Staff Writer

The Cougar mat men will be easy to recognize this week. They're the ones with the exhausted look. The team's schedule of events between Nov. 27 and Dec. 1 included three duals and a showing at the Pacific Open Tournament. It was enough to make even the most well-tuned athlete show up to class with bags under his eyes. On the positive side, though, the events elevated the team to an even 2-2 dual meet record on the season.

About against Western Oregon State College was first on the week's agenda. The Cougars fell 27-15.

"It was actually a lot closer than the score indicated," said CCC Head Wrestling Coach Jim Jackson. "We forfeited at 118 pounds because our wrestler had been hurt the week before. The meet could have gone either way. We could have beaten them. We had the ability."

The college brought in four wins over the course of the evening. David Moore (150 pounds) won a 8-7 decision with a reversal in the last ten seconds of his match. At 6:55 into his match, Steve Teeney (177) had the only pin of the night. He was leading the score 12-3 at the time of the fall. Matt

Lindland (158) won 1-0, having been awarded the point for riding time. Bob Brewer (HWT) won an 8-3 decision.

On Nov. 28 the Cougars fell 23-17 to the Portland wrestling club. The Oregon Thunderbolts, a team made up mainly of former collegiate wrestling standouts.

"The final score was a six point difference," stated Jackson, "and we had to forfeit at 118 and Heavyweight. It tells us that we're wrestling against good people and doing well."

Winners, all by decision, were John Mehouse (126) 9-4; Greg Benner (150) 19-6; David Grieve (167) 10-0; and 177 pound Teeney, who beat former junior college national champion John Ybarra 4-2. Clackamas and the Thunderbolts will meet again Jan. 5 and Feb. 5.

Clackamas stomped Big Bend Community College into the mat Friday night by a score of 40-9. Six of Big Bend's points came due to the fact that the Cougars had the forfeit at the 118 pound weight class. Moore pinned his opponent in 2:35. Heavyweight Adam Reynolds won by fall in 4:45.

Jackson took 13 wrestlers and seven red shirts to the Pacific Open Tournament on Dec. 1, and brought home three tournament places: Lindland and Teeney at

second in their weight classes and red shirt Kelly Reichner (177) at third place.

"We did real well in our wrestling ability against some four year schools," said Jackson. "That was real important to us. I was pleased at how we wrestled and compared against some good competition. We're not done improving. We could be tough come regional and nationals time."

Gladstone graduate Reichner had to say about the tournament: "I wrestled well except for my first match, which I lost. My first matches are never any good anyway, but other than that I was happy about how I wrestled."

"The biggest difference from high school wrestling and college wrestling," he added, "is that when you make a mistake the other guy capitalizes on it. You can not make that mistake."

He plans to wrestle on the official Clackamas roster next season after improving his grades and his muscular strength.

Tonight, the Cougars travel to Washington to meet Highline Community College and Pacific Lutheran University in separate duals. Saturday, the team will compete in the Big Bend Invitational at Moses Lake.

Happy Holidays

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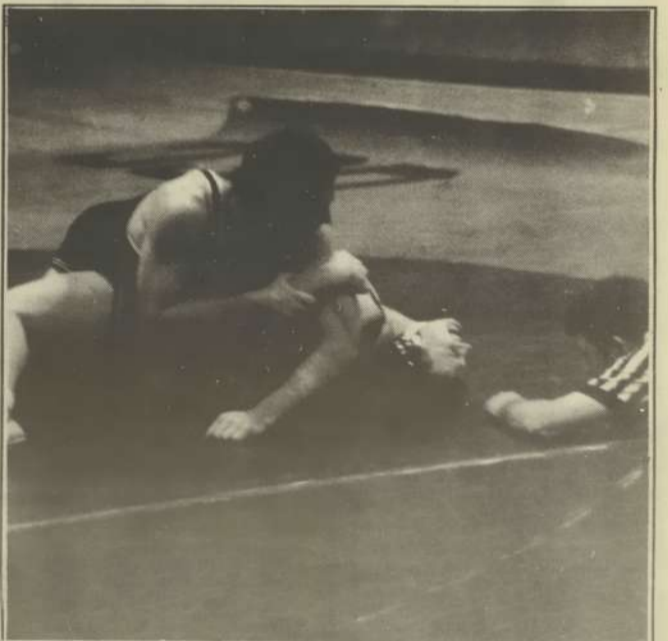


Photo by Eric Sanders

Dave Grieve attempts to pin his opponent, while his enemy strains to hold off the attack. Grieve also won by decision.

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