

With returning vaulter, Greg Hess and several sophomores...

Tracksters vault toward repeat championship

Editor's note:This story was the first place winner in the Regional Skills Competition for sports writing. The contributor is a student at Canby Union High School.

by Erin Bates
Contributing Writer

The return of pole vaulter Greg Hess could bring the Cougar Track team what it needs to repeat as champions. Hess currently holds the school

record of 15'6", which he set at the 1989 Northwest Athletic Association of Community College Championships en route to placing third. But, last year he watched on the sidelines while nursing an injured hamstring.

"It was frustrating," said Hess. "I wanted to vault."

His personal goal for this season is to reach "16'6" and up," which would at least allow him to tie the NWAACC record. So far this season, [as of press time] he has only cleared 15' indoors.

Hess feels the team could take the championship again. Clackamas returns five stars from last year's team.

Joining Hess will be Tim Beardall, 10,000m and 5,000m NWAACC champion. Beardall is seconded in distance events by sophomore Kevin Buse, who took second in the Southern Regional 3,000m steeple chase.

The field events should be dominated by Hess and sophomores Richie Taylor and Dan Bates. Taylor received second in the triple jump with 49', while Bates flew 6'8" to place third in high jump.

"We are weak in sprints," said Hess. "We don't have a lot of sprinters." But, Hess stated the distance events could pull them through.



Photo by Greg Hess

Dwayne Arnold maintains stride with opponents in hurdles during the team's most recent indoor meet. The track season kicked off it's outdoor competition last weekend at the Ice-breaker Invitational.

"We have a good cross country team running distance. They placed third at NWAACC this fall."

According to Hess, the freshmen look strong. Hess accredits this young strength to the recruitment job done by Coach Mike Hodges at high schools.

"Hodges goes to about five track meets each week," Hess said.

The strong recruitment has helped build a strong team that is known throughout the state, according to Hess.

"Just our name brings people here," he said.



Photo by Greg Hess

Justin LaPointe positions himself prior to releasing the discus during last weekend's Icebreaker Invitational in McMinnville where he placed fourth. After the first meet of the outdoor season, the track team is looking toward another victorious season leading them to the championship.

Cougars smack, stroke and strike in recent tourney

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

Clackamas students did not fare very well at the Association of College Unions-International regional tournament held this past weekend at Oregon State University.

James Clark and Brad Hamblton represented the college in table tennis, only to be eliminated from competition in the early rounds. Clark lost his only two matches in the double-elimination

format, while Hamblton played three matches before being eliminated, losing the first, winning the second, then losing the third.

Ioanis "John" Haldis, a foreign student from Micronesia, also found the going rough in the billiards tourney, losing the only two matches that he played. "The competition was much tougher than what I was prepared for," said Haldis. "These guys were really, really good."

In the bowling tournament, Clackamas' high hopes were dashed on Friday morning during the first three-game set of the tourney. Clackamas ended that set in 11th place, killing hopes of a top five finish that would earn the school an invitation to the national tournament.

Friday evening, the CCC bowlers did not fare much better,

moving up to ninth place after the second set. "These lane conditions were about as tough as we have bowled on all season," team member Scott Hagen commented. "Really nasty."

In the final set on Saturday, the team finally started bowling to the form that earned them second place in the Oregon Intercollegiate Bowling Conference this season. They finished the third set with 7534 pins, which moved them up to a sixth place finish, missing the top five by 198 pins.

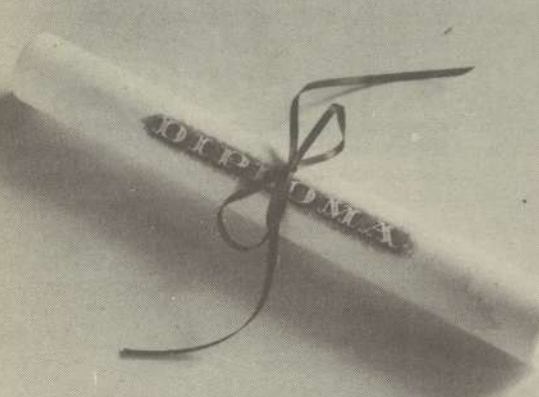
Jeff Palmquist of Clackamas earned a medal and a possible trip to the national tournament by rolling a 614 series during the men's singles competition to finish in a tie for second with Jodey Rees of Washington State University, behind Pat Padden of Idaho State, who rolled a 653 series.

Palmquist led the Cougar

bowlers with a 182 average during the nine-game tourney. Frank Jordan averaged 167, Scott Hagen had a 166 average, Guy McElhane averaged 162, Roy Weedman averaged 159, and Jim Webber averaged 154 on very difficult lane conditions for the tournament.

For the ladies, Jean Tamerius averaged 152 for the tourney, putting her in a tie for 17th place for the weekend. Sherry Lamm averaged 129 for the tourney, as Lamm and Tamerius were the only women to bowl for Clackamas.

Washington State University won both the men's and women's team competition, with the Oregon State University men and the University of Idaho women finishing second. Kim Johnson of WSU won the women's singles, while Rees and Johnson, both of WSU, won the men's and women's all-around titles, respectively.



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