

## Tracksters aim to sweep regional championships

by Brenda Hodgen  
Sports Editor

The Cougar track teams are looking toward this weekend's Southern Regional Championships at Mt. Hood Community College, where the men will be striving for their third victory in four years, and the women will be battling for a long-awaited championship.

"The men have a strong chance to win. Their toughest competitors would be Mt. Hood[CC] and Clark[CC]," explained Hodges with enthusiasm. "I don't think Mt. Hood should have any advantage being at home. We've been there enough and are strong enough competitors that I don't think it [Mt. Hood competing at home] will have any effect.

"For the women it will be a real battle," Hodges continues. "There are really three teams that are considered the strongest, which would be Chemeketa[CC], Clark[CC], and us. We're probably considered the lowest competitor, but we'll still get in there and battle for the championship.

This weekend's regionals will also provide an opportunity for those individuals who have not yet qualified for the NWAACC to meet the standards.

"Obviously, we want to win the championships if we can. For some people this may be the last meet of the season, so we want to make the team effort as good as we can. Then, anybody else who is left to qualify, we want to qualify so that it won't be their last meet."

Currently the Cougars have qualified 23 men in 35 events and 8 girls in 13 events, some of which came out of last weekend's Clack-

amas Invitational.

Some highlights from that meet were Mike Ballinger in the hammer throw taking first place with a personal record (PR) and a qualifying distance of 138' 5".

"He has only thrown in three meets; his first he threw 103', second 120' and now he just threw 138'," stated Hodges. "He went from nowhere to second in the Northwest in three meets."

Also, in the long jump Dean Jolley and Kyle Riggs are tied for best in the Northwest after Jolley's jump of 23' 2 1/2. And, Alicia Smith reached a new PR by 1 1/2 feet and stands second in the NWAACC with her jump of 17' 11".

Mark Wechter improved his PR by 10 feet in the javelin to qualify with his throw of 183' 3".

"We saw another one and two performance by Dean Jolley and Richie Taylor in the triple jump," said Hodges. "And Pam Raade reached a new PR in the 400m in 59.4, which is not easy when you win by over two seconds and have little competition."

Hodges attributes his teams' success to strong family-like bonds between the teammates.

"I have to give a lot of credit to them for being strong teammates and having strong morale, which helps us as a coaching staff since the athletes believe the program is working for them," explained Hodges. "Then, when we offer a new suggestion or change in their workout, they are willing to try it.

"This team is just a group of really positive people who provide the support needed for each other to progress. I couldn't be prouder of a group of kids."

## Batters swing five victories

by Frank Jordan  
Staff Writer

The Clackamas men's baseball team went on a small roll during the past week, winning five out of six games.

Last Tuesday, the Cougars took on Lane Community College at home, and feasted on the visitors to the tune of a 7-4 and 5-0 double-header sweep.

Brandon Bittner led the home team with two hits, while Bill Beck threw a solid game, giving up only three earned runs while picking up the win.

Seven Cougars had one hit apiece, and Scott Timms threw six shutout innings, while leading the Cougars to the 5-0 whitewashing of Lane in the second game.

"We just spread out our hits during the course of the second game," said Coach Robbie Robinson, "and Timms just threw a tremendous game, one we needed."

On Saturday, the Cougars hosted Clark College of Vancouver, and split a twinbill with the visitors, losing the first game by a 10-1 count, but coming back in the second game, winning 7-5.

"We suffered a slight letdown in the first game; we only got three hits, and they [Clark] hit the ball all over the place," commented Coach Robinson.

In that second game, Gage Campbell went 3-4 hitting with 2 RBIs, Paul Mueller went 2-4 with 2 RBI, and Mark Ristad went 2-3 with 1 RBI and 3 runs scored.

"I made a small change in our batting order before the game, and it really seemed to pay off," said Coach Robinson. "I moved Ristad to the lead-off position, and put Mueller in at the second spot, and it really made a difference."

"We've been leaving too many runners on base, so I thought that some sort of change might get us



Photo by Lane Scheideman

Greg Grace works on his swing during practice. The Cougars' hard work is beginning to pay off. Last week the team took five victories out of the six games they played.

over the hump," added Robinson.

On Sunday, Clackamas hosted the Linfield College JV team in a double-header, and the Cougars capped off a successful week with a sweep of the Wildcats by the scores of 4-3 and 13-4.

In the first game, Greg Grace led the hitting parade by going 2-4 with a solo home run, Eric Nielson went 2-3, and Mike Cristman also went 2-3. Eric Andyke threw a complete game, getting his first win of the season.

"We decided to get the guys who haven't played a whole lot this year some playing time, and they all played so well," said Coach Robinson. "This will give us some more options down the road if we need to use them."

In the second game with Linfield, Eric Nielson, Cody Nelson, Anthony Nelson, and Jason Hawkins all had two hits apiece, with Cody Nelson hitting a two-run homer, and Hawkins knocking in three runs to lead the Cougar offense. Don Nelson pitched another complete game for the

Cougars, picking up his second win of the season.

"We are playing a lot better right now, our pitching is getting more consistent, and the offense is continuing to hit the ball real hard," commented Coach Robinson. "It's about time that we started playing the way that I knew that we could; we are on a roll right now and we need to continue to do the things right to stay on that roll."

"We are pretty much out of the playoff picture right now. Mt. Hood and Linn-Benton each have four losses in league right now and are tied for first. All of the rest of us are way back, with at least ten losses, and we don't have much of a chance," added Coach Robinson.

The Cougars go on the road this week for a single game in McMinnville against Linfield on Thursday, and on Saturday, CCC travels to Salem to face Chemeketa for a double-header.

## Ladies take winning streak through 25 games

by Lane Scheideman  
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Cougar softball team has extended its college record winning streak to 25 games and brought their overall record to 27 wins and only one loss.

The week started out last Tuesday with the Cougars taking two wins against Lower Columbia CC by the scores of 13-1 and 5-1.

"I keep on waiting for them to show the strength that they have," said Coach Paul Fiskum, "but they haven't been able to."

The first game started off real well with Launa Meck hitting for a double, then scoring the game's first run after a passed ball occurred.

The team went on to score 12 more runs while only allowing one.

Christy Tuma collected her eighth win, threw a four-hitter, and batted for four hits.

"Our pitchers are doing an excellent job this year at keeping the ball low, not giving up walks, and getting out of the inning easily," commented Fiskum.

The second game was not as lopsided as the first but it was "a good win" for the Cougars.

"We were up against a very good pitcher for Lower Columbia; if it wasn't for our third inning it might have gone the other way," said Fiskum.

The third inning showed the Cougars erupting for four runs on four hits.

LCCC's pitcher was credited with five strike outs and only three walks.

Linda Gross, Clackamas' pitcher, also had a strong game, giving up two hits and three walks on her way to her record of 11 wins and one loss.

Launa Meck, K.C. Jones, Corie Peck, Jacquie Romine, and Julie Braman had the bats going during the two games to account for most of the 18 runs scored.

On Saturday the Cougars went up against the softball team from Grays Harbor CC. They won both games by the scores of 11-2 and 4-2.

In both games the Cougars gave up an early 1-0 lead to the team from GHCC.

The first game showed the Cougars score 11 runs on 17 hits. Peck was 4 of 4 at the plate, scoring two runs and stealing two bases.

Jones, Miner, and Braman all went 3 for 4 with 3, 2, and 1 RBI, respectively. Meck hit her fourth home run of the year.

In the second game the Cougars were down 2-1 in the third, but when the Cougars got up to bat the first two batters hit for triples.

Dawn Seastrom threw the first five innings, allowing four hits and no walks.

Shelly Spees was unable to play in the games because of a shoulder injury. "She will hopefully be able to play next week," said Fiskum.

### PROFILE

### LINDA GROSS

Date of Birth: 10-26-71

Sport: Softball

Position: Pitcher

High School: Gladstone

When did you get started in softball: "I started in summer softball about 10 years ago. I played Pitcher and third base."

What is your major: Psychology

When will you graduate: "I will be graduating this spring."

What are your plans for next year: "I'm going to be transferring to OSU. I'm not sure if I'll be hanging up my glove."

What is the highlight of your career: "Throwing my first no-hitter against Grays Harbor last year."

Other Hobbies: "I enjoy snow and water skiing, and basically everything outdoors."

Other Sports: "I also played volleyball in high school."



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