

CCC baseball team sees three players receive first-team honors

by Kevin Shields
Staff Writer

The Cougars split a twinbill with Clark last Thursday which marked the end of their baseball season.

Clark posted a one-run victory in the first game with a 9-8 squeaker. The Cougars turned it around and ended their season on a positive note with a 13-10 slugfest win in the nightcap.

The Cougars pounded out 15 hits in the first game and 11 in the second to pick up the split which pushed the Cougars' record to 15-22 for the season. Their league record of 9-15 wasn't enough to capture a playoff berth in the NWAACC Championships.

Coach Robin Robinson noted that injuries to key members of their team greatly diminished their chances of making the playoffs.

"If our front line guys stayed healthy, we would've been in the playoffs. We have as good as front line guys as anyone; just

didn't have the depth."

The Cougars lost 8 of the 12 games they played when four and sometimes five of their starters were nursing injuries. Robinson also pointed out that 11 of their 22 losses were by one run.

J.R. Lesch signed a professional baseball contract with the Texas Rangers' organization and he heads a list of six Cougars who were all-league selections.

The smoke-throwing righthander was a first-team league selection at pitcher. He led the Cougars in four individual pitching categories: posting a 2.31 ERA with 4 wins in 66 plus innings of work while amassing 71 strikeouts.

Coach Robin Robinson felt that Lesch would have a good chance of establishing himself within the Ranger organization.

"He's got a good shot at it, we'll see J.R. playing some baseball for a few years."

Lesch will report to Rookie ball in Butte, Montana after finals week.

Eric Nielson and Cody Nielson also garnered first-team selections.

Nielson led the team with an on-base percentage of .535 while hitting at a .351 clip with 21 stolen bases and 36 runs scored. The Cougar shortstop solidified the middle of the defense with a .942 fielding percentage with 115 assists.

Nielson put some pop in the offense from the clean-up position, cranking a team-leading four home runs. The big DH also hit for an average of .349, third-best on the team.

Tim Ensley, Mike Christman and Brandon Bittner received second team all-league honors.

Ensley led the team with a .366 average and a .554 slugging

percentage. He also led the team in RBI's and hits, driving in 36 runs with 41 hits, 15 of them for extra bases.

Christman a second-team selection in the outfield, hit a solid .316. He filled the gaps in the outfield with a .992 fielding percentage with 126 putouts.

Bittner had 104 assists from his second base position while committing only three errors. He hit .288 while stealing 14 bases in 16 attempts. Bittner and Nielson teamed up to provide the Cougars with one of the best, if not the best, double-play combinations in the league.

Baseball-regular season stats

	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB
Tim Ensley	.366	112	21	41	11	2	2	36	5
Eric Nielson	.351	114	36	40	8	2	1	23	21
Cody Nielson	.349	106	18	37	6	0	4	20	3
David Blevens	.333	42	9	14	1	0	0	6	1
Mike Christman	.316	76	10	24	3	0	1	17	8
Brandon Bittner	.288	111	19	32	5	1	1	14	14
Jon Bukowski	.232	82	16	19	2	1	0	6	22
Jim Robertson	.230	87	17	20	3	0	0	9	7
John Bramlett	.207	82	11	17	1	0	0	11	9
Obie Simonis	.242	62	10	15	0	0	0	4	10
Ben Nichols	.242	46	3	11	0	0	0	4	0
Team	.286	1080	193	309	40	8	10	171	115

	ERA	W	L	SVS	IP	R	ER	H	BB	SO
J.R. Lesch	2.31	4	3	0	66.1	30	17	49	28	71
Greg Grace	2.72	3	3	2	36.1	26	11	37	28	25
Scott Timms	3.44	1	4	0	49.2	33	19	42	14	32
Bill Beck	4.53	3	2	0	47.2	34	24	50	18	29
Matt Avery	5.72	3	4	1	45.2	40	29	58	26	32
Team	3.82	15	22	6	297	203	126	284	149	226



Ilene Penas competes in the Clackamas Invitational prior to this week's NWAACC championships.

Clackamas track teams to compete on campus in NWAACC championships

by Lane Scheideman
Sports Editor

Clackamas Community College will be the host of the 1992 NWAACC championships tomorrow and Friday.

The men's team is the two-time defending champion while the women have never won a championship.

Last year, the women's team had its highest finish ever in the NWAACC championships (fifth place), but this year they are the favorites to win.

"We've been really excited that our improvement has soared this much," said Coach Mike Hodges. "Bellevue will be our toughest opponent even though we're the favorites."

The men will be up against 13 other teams including Spokane, who will be Clackamas' chief competitor.

"It's going to be a wire-to-wire battle," commented Hodges. "That will make it more fun."

The events will start at 1

p.m. Thursday, and noon on Friday.

"I would like to see a large turnout of students, faculty and staff at the events," stated Hodges.

For those planning on attending be sure to look for these competitors for Clackamas:

Mike Hieb, school record holder in the javelin.

Ryan Parshall, school record holder in the hammer throw.

Alicia Smith in five events.

Pam Raade in the 200 and 400 meter relays.

Juha Tuominen also in the 200 and 400 meter relays.

Darwin Arnold in the hurdles and relays.

Dean Jolley in the long jump, triple jump and relay events.

Heidi Spillum in the 800, 1500, and 3000 meter runs.

Gene Branderhorst in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter runs.

Billy Borkus in the steeplechase and 5,000 meter run.

Ilene Penas and Jill Warington in the throwing events.

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