

Women look forward to upcoming hoops season

by Melissa Baughman
Staff Writer

The talent on the Lady Cougar Basketball team may be the best kept secret in the league. Coach Kim Spaulding prefers it this way.

"I think a lot of schools don't realize that I had a pretty good recruiting year," the second year head coach explained. "We've got some freshman who can play!"

Jenny Topham, Wendy Nielson, Brandy Toivonen and Jill Warrington are all returning from last year's team, which finished sixth in league.

"I think this year we have a stronger sophomore base and our freshman group is really talented," the sole returning starter, Topham, said. "The key to our success this year will be our defense."

Another key to the success of the women's basketball team may be the appointment of the new Assistant Coach, Trev Kiser. Coach Spaulding is very excited about her new assistant. He has proved to have a lot of valuable input.

"He brings a new perspective, which works well," Kim said. According to the coaches, the 12 girls are working extremely hard during the preseason and Spaulding is very happy with the way things are going. They are practicing five days a week and concentrating on getting in shape. The girls have come together as a team early on.

"There is no reason we shouldn't finish near the top," Spaulding said. "With four returners and the freshmen, look for a very successful season in league and beyond."



photo by Nolan Kidwell
Coach Kim Spaulding watches attentively as two freshmen basketball players work on quick drives and defense at a recent practice.

Men's basketball squad strives to be competitive



photo by Nolan Kidwell
Sophomore guard Brent Johnson relays a pass to a teammate in a recent practice. The men's team begins league play on Jan. 6 against Portland Community College.

by Jason Eck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College men's basketball team is looking to be a tough competitor in the coming season.

Coach Royce Kiser has several returning players this season. They include: Dan Conover, a 6'2" guard; Brent Johnson, a 6'2" guard; Brian Peterson, a 6'4" wing; Jon Dahlin, a 6'3" wing; Jeff Lauritzen, a 6'5" post; and Jake Petersen, a 6'5" post.

After a respectable 20-win season and a third place finish behind Lane and Chemeketa Community Colleges, Coach Kiser feels that this year, "Every team's a contender." He fears that each team in the NWAACC will be tough, but specifically said, "The strong contenders will be Umpqua, Chemeketa and Lane." He went on to say,

"Whoever comes out of our league usually wins the NWAACC championship." That has happened five out of the last six years, with Clackamas capturing it in 1987.

"Overall, we should be better," Kiser said of the coming season. He based this observation on two factors. First, he commented that the Cougars have a better starting five this year. And secondly, he said that they have better depth in their lineup. He also said that Glen Kiser, a 6'7" standout player, would be missed. He played for Clackamas last year and was selected as a first-team, all-league member.

The Cougars open the season when they travel to Longview, WA., to play in the Red Devil Tournament on Nov. 27-29. The men begin league play when they play host to Portland Community College on Jan. 6.

Wrestling team boasts depth

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

"For the first time, we should be strong from top to bottom, not just in the middle weights," commented Head Wrestling Coach Jim Jackson when describing his team for the upcoming season.

Seventy wrestlers turned out for the opening practice on Oct. 5 and according to Jackson, "We have 50 or so of those guys who could make a real impact on our team, no question." In fact, this team may be so strong, that "it might be easier to focus on our weak points because we have such a strong group," Jackson said.

Fifteen wrestlers are back from a successful season last year, in which Clackamas sent five individuals to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) championships. Included among those returning grapplers this year are Blake Tompkins from Boise, ID, who was a Region 18 cham-

pion and also placed 8th at Nationals last season, Travis Bonneau, from Portland, who was a Region 18 champion, and also went to Nationals last season but did not place, and David Evans, from Bandon, who last season defeated all 3 of the wrestlers who qualified for the National meet.

Jackson was disappointed to find out that Brian Kiley, who was a Region 18 champion last season and placed fourth at Nationals, decided not to return to school this term.

The loss of Kiley, however, will not detract from the impact that the new wrestlers will have on the program. "This is the best recruiting class that I have ever had here at Clackamas," Jackson said. "Not only in the quantity, but in the quality of people." Among the new people are 16 who finished in the top 4 in their weight classes in their respective high school championships, including four state champions.

"We also have four wrestlers that transferred from other col-

leges, including Tommy Doman, from Woodburn, who went to Ricks College (in Rexburg, ID) and placed third at the National tournament last year," Jackson commented.

The Cougar wrestling season opens with the CCC Take-down Tournament on Sat., Nov. 7. Junior, high school and college wrestlers will participate in this annual event. The regular season opens with a triangular meet with Highline Community College and the Oregon Thunderbolt Wrestling Club on Wed., Nov. 18.

"This is one of the strongest teams that we have ever put on the mat," Jackson said. "We would like to take eight or more guys to the National meet in Bismarck, ND, something we haven't done in a long time."

"We are just trying to hold the excitement down and let the season come. Just let the chips fall where they may, but I think that we will be all right," said Jackson.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Blake Tompkins

SPORT: Wrestling

YEAR: Sophomore

HEIGHT: 5'8 1/2"

WEIGHT: 134 lbs.

PREVIOUS

SCHOOL: Centennial High School in Idaho

MAJOR: Health Education

FUTURE PLANS: To attend Boise State University and possibly earn a degree in Health Education.



FAVORITE ATHLETE:

John Smith (a three-time Olympic champion)

IF YOU COULD BE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

An Olympic champion

SPORTS BRIEFS

The Fellow Christian Athletes (FCA) is holding a meeting tonight at 5 p.m. in Randallk, R003. Any questions? Contact Kathie Woods at ext. 2418.

Come and join the fun! Intramural Flag Football begins a Round Robin tournament. Games are on Tues. and Thurs. at 12:30 p.m..