

Road victories put Cougars in second place

by Jason Eck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas men's basketball team is happy to be home after a four-game road trip that took them to Lane, Umpqua, Linn-Benton and Southwestern Oregon Community Colleges.

"Our players really played hard," said Head Coach Royce Kiser. He said he was pleased that his team was able to capture three out of four on a very demanding road trip.

In the game against Lane CC, in Eugene, the men went into triple-overtime against a team of very similar talent, before finally pulling out a gutty 102-101 victory. The leading scorers were Josh Rombach with 34 points and Dan Conover with 27.

"I'm just happy we won it," Kiser said when asked of his feelings after the game. It was a game that featured "two evenly matched teams," he explained. He went on to say it was a situation where whoever happened to be ahead at the last moment of

the game would escape as the winner.

The next stop on the trip was Umpqua CC, in Roseburg. The Cougars went into this game off the emotional high of the Lane game and again had to go to overtime before finally surrendering to Umpqua 92-85. The leading scorer in the game was Rombach with 24 points.

GAMES TONIGHT

Women: 6 p.m.

Men: 8 p.m.

*Both games are against Chemeketa in Randall Gym.

Linn Benton CC, in Albany, was the men's next opponent. The Cougars rebounded from the previous loss and posted an 88-82 win. The game was a make-up contest that was canceled due to bad weather. Again, Rombach led the Cougar attack with 24 points.

The last stop on the trip was Southwestern Oregon CC, in Coos Bay. The men won comfortably 89-77. Brian Peterson led the men with 17 points.

The trip improved the men's league record to 5-1 and their overall record to an impressive 18-2.

The men are currently tied for second place with Chemeketa Community College at 5-1 in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges league.

This sets the stage for a key league match-up tonight between Chemeketa and Clackamas to be played at 8 p.m. in Randall Gym. The winner of this game will earn sole second place in league.

This is a game, if we win, that can put space between us and them, Assistant Coach Troy Merrill said. "We need to get a win against Chemeketa," he concluded.

Saturday, the men will face Linn-Benton CC at 8 p.m. in Randall Gym.

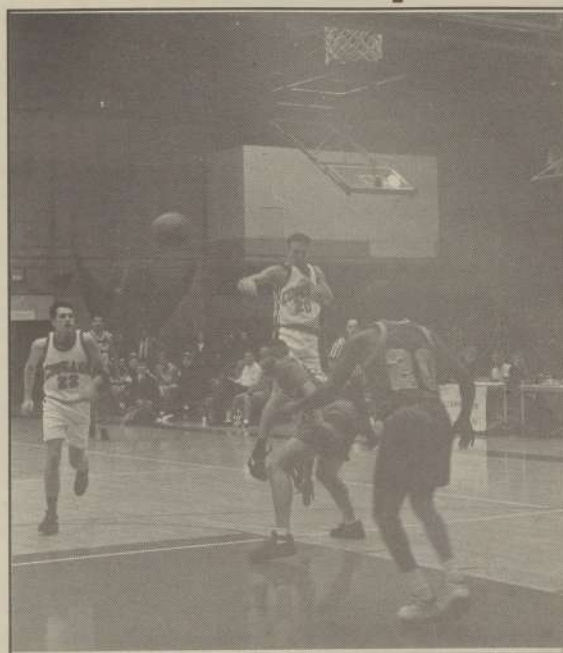


Photo by Anjanette Booth

Jon Dahlin fires a pass to a teammate on the break, while Dan Conover cuts inside in early league action.

Wrestlers show exceptional effort

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

Clackamas' wrestling team had an exceptional last two weeks, despite setbacks on the scoreboard.

The Cougars wrestled in a triangular meet with number two-ranked North Idaho College and number four-ranked Pacific Lutheran University Jan. 15. CCC lost to North Idaho 34-6 and lost to PLU 22-19, but the scores were not indicative of how the matches were wrestled.

"We wrestled exceptionally well," Head Coach Jim Jackson commented. "We lost three matches by only one point, and we lost 12 more points due to forfeits, so all of the matches were contested well."

Chad Westover wrestled "great," according to Jackson. Blake Tompkins won twice and Adam Reese won an overtime match at 190 lbs. against PLU.

The Cougars hosted the annual CCC Open Tournament Jan. 16. The tournament drew more than 170 wrestlers from 13 different schools, which was the biggest turnout ever.

David Evans, at 150 lbs., and Nathan Sullivan, at heavyweight, led the Cougars by each placing third in their respective weight classes. Doug Maddux placed fourth at 158 lbs., Jason Baurer ended up fourth at 190 lbs., Tom Doran finished fourth at 177 lbs., Tompkins placed fifth at 134 lbs., Westover finished fifth at 142 lbs., Sam Federico ended up fifth

at 158 lbs. and Carl Hensley placed fifth at 177 lbs.

Thursday, Clackamas wrestled the Oregon Thunderbolt Wrestling Club in an exhibition dual in the Randall Gym. Although no official score was kept, the unofficial tally showed the Cougars losing 24-15.

"Chad Westover wrestled exceptionally well, as well as Dean Roth," Jackson said. "Both guys are improving so fast as the season goes on, they will be tough at the end."

Federico lost an "exceptional" match at 158 lbs. to a tough wrestler who used to compete at Portland State. Hensley probably had the match of the night, pulling out an overtime victory at 177 lbs.

Friday, the Cougars traveled to Longview, Wash. for a match against Lower Columbia Community College, and came back home with a 26-16 win.

"Every single man wrestled exceptionally well," commented Jackson. "We only lost one match, and that one was a close one. We gave them 12 points on forfeits, so the score is not indicative of how we dominated them."

At 158 lbs., Maddux of CCC defeated last year's national Greco-Roman champion and a former national junior college champion, Paul Troup, in sudden-death overtime. Reese, at 190 lbs., defeated a wrestler who had beat him twice before this season, and Jason Weston moved up a weight class, to heavyweight,

and beat a much bigger opponent.

Continuing with its string of matches, Clackamas traveled to Yakima Valley Community College Saturday and lost a tough match 23-19. Again, the Cougars gave up 12 points to forfeits, so they fought an uphill battle from the beginning.

Hensley lost in overtime at 177 lbs. and Tompkins lost a close match at 134 lbs. that Jackson felt could have gone his wrestler's way.

"Blake wrestled real tough, and not to take away anything from his opponent, but I felt that the officiating was questionable, to say the least."

Travis Bonneau won a tough match at 167 lbs. and Nathan Sullivan won an overtime match at heavyweight.

The Cougars are gearing up to face national power Lassen College down in Susanville, Calif. Saturday. Then Clackamas will get ready for the Northwest Community College Dual Meet Championships to be held Feb. 5 and 6. This week and next, the team will have wrestle-offs to help determine the lineups for the Dual Meet Championships and the upcoming Region 18 championships. Jackson is confident about his team's chances.

"We are feeling very confident about the regionals. We are in a good position heading for the stretch run. I believe that all of our guys are ready, and the wrestle-offs should be very interesting."

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Erin Elder

AGE: 23

OCCUPATION: CCC Athletic
Trainer/ Asst. Volleyball Coach

CURRENT SCHOOL: Pacific
University in Forest Grove

PREVIOUS SCHOOL: CCC

MAJOR: Biology

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ENTAIL? Treating and rehabilitating athletes' injuries and referring them to seek medical attention when necessary.

WHY DO YOU ENJOY YOUR JOB SO MUCH? Because I was an athlete once and I know the dedication and special attention it takes to overcome an injury. I also like getting to know the athletes in general.



Erin Elder

Photo by Kathie Woode