

Cougars roll into playoffs with division title

by Jason Eck
Staff Writer

The number-one spot in the Southern Division of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges belongs to the Clackamas men's basketball team, after they clinched it with a 79-73 win against Chemeketa Community College last week.

The Cougars traveled to Salem Feb. 17 to play Chemeketa, one of the top teams in the division, and the team Clackamas beat in an overtime game earlier this season.

The Cougars led the game from start to finish, but had to play tough to hold off the league foe. The Cougars' defensive attack was strong in the first half, carrying Clackamas to a 10-point halftime lead 34-24.

"We played extremely good defense in the first half," Head Coach Royce Kiser said.

The star of the game for the Cougars, Tyrone Miles, had 19 of his 24 points in the second half to lead the men to the win and the Southern Division title. Miles

was on target all night. He was 9 of 11 from the floor and 6 of 8 from the line.

"Tyrone was very tough in the second half," Kiser said of his 6-foot-7 talent.

"Wheeler had a tremendous game rebounding," he said. He grabbed a team-high 12 rebounds, to go along with 12 points, 10 of the 12 in the second half.

Other contributors in the game included Jake Petersen with 11 points, Josh Rombach and Kyle Dixon with 10 a piece, and Dan Conover with nine.

The men returned to their homecourt Saturday for their final regular season contest of the year. It came against the Lakers of Southwestern Oregon Community College, the team in the cellar of the division, winners of only two league games.

Clackamas jumped to an early lead at 14-6 before the Lakers went to work, scoring many points inside, as the Cougars' defense could not stop the Lakers inside attack. Late in the first half the Lakers took a 33-32 lead. That proved to be their only lead, as

the Cougars closed the half with an 8-4 run to take a 40-37 halftime advantage.

In the second half, the Cougars played tougher defense that led to Laker turnovers. This enabled Clackamas to get into their running game, the one they excel at. Midway through the half the Cougars outscored SW Oregon 27-14 to take a commanding 67-51 lead.

The Lakers got within six points a couple of times down the stretch, but Clackamas made the plays down the stretch to win 91-82, their ninth consecutive win. Jon Dahlin led the men with 24 points, Conover added 21. The Cougars won the game, but did not look like the team Clackamas' fans have come to know this season.

Wheeler was quick to point out that the team did not play its usual type of ball.

"We were out of synch," he said of the team's unusually poor performance. Wheeler said he was not surprised at how close the game was. He also pointed out that the team had too many

days off from practice and that that could have affected the team's play.

Kiser noticed the sub-par performance of his team as well. "Our guys have to be ready to play, and they weren't (tonight)," he said. Kiser specifically pointed to the poor rebounding performance, especially in the first half. The Cougars were out-rebounded 30-18.

"If we don't get back to rebounding, we're in trouble," a concerned Kiser said.

Despite the Cougars performance in their last game, the win gave Clackamas a spectacular season record of 26-2. They finished league play with a top record of 13-1, their only loss coming to Umpqua Community College.

In a recent poll, NWAACC coaches ranked the ten top teams. Four Southern Division teams are included: second-ranked Clackamas (26-2), fourth-ranked Chemeketa (20-7), fifth-ranked Lane (22-5) and tenth ranked Umpqua (16-11).

Kiser said the Cougars had

better be ready Thursday, when Clackamas hosts its first regional playoff game to determine seedings for the NWAACC tournament. Clackamas plays Umpqua, the fourth-place finisher in the division. Because Clackamas finished first in the division, they are automatically in the tournament. If Clackamas wins Thursday, they would play the winner of the second/third place game at Clackamas for the right to go as the first seed.

On the other hand, if Umpqua were to win Thursday, Clackamas would be the second seed, and the winner of the second/third game would play Umpqua for the first seed spot. The second place team, Chemeketa plays the third-place finisher, Lane.

When the division playoffs are completed, the tournament of eight teams -- two from the Southern Division and two from the three other divisions in the NWAACC -- will take place at Skagit Valley College, in Mt. Vernon Wash. Tournament passes may be purchased in the athletics office, in Randall Hall.

Half-court three-on-three tournament to be held

Attention all basketball lovers! Last year the Chrysler Corporation sponsored the Regional Collegiate intramural half-court three-on-three basketball tournament and three CCC students made it to the nationals. If they would have defeated Yale University's team, they could have continued on to win the whole tournament.

This year, the tournament will be held Mar. 16 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Smith Memorial Center, which is part of Portland

State University.

If you are interested in playing, contact Intramural Activities Director Kathie Woods at ext. 2418.

Entry forms, along with a \$25.00 entry fee, must be turned into the Half-Court Three On Three Basketball Association by March 5.

The tournament is for men and women who attend CCC, but no intercollegiate basketball player who has practiced or played this year may not enter.

Hodges pleased with tracksters' performances at Oregon Indoor

by Paul Valencia
Staff Writer

Those Clackamas Cougars who showed up and competed at the 1993 Portland Indoor track meet fared well in their individual events, according to Head Coach Mike Hodges.

"We did very well, considering half did not show up because of the snow," he said. Still, there were many accomplishments at the final indoor meet of the season.

Most noteworthy, according to Hodges, were the performances of Jason Mottaz and Chris Hale.

Mottaz finished second in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 8 minutes, 49.3 seconds, a personal best by more than 11 seconds. "That's difficult to do indoors because there are so many laps and tighter curves," Hodges explained.

In the pole vault, Hale

cleared 15-feet, six-inches, shattering the old Clackamas record by six inches.

Other competitors did well, too.

Mike Brady vaulted 14-6 and Eric Fifele cleared the 14-foot mark.

Also, in the 3,000, Oscar Bauman finished at 9:14.3, beating his brother, Ahrlin, by almost three seconds.

In the 1,500, Brian Buckingham finished third at 4:07.2, only a second-and-a-half off of his personal best. Mike Bryant, at 4:25.6, and Corey Grogan, at 4:26.9, also competed in the event.

In the women's 1,500, Leah Guilford finished fifth and earned a personal best with a time of 5:05.5. Elizabeth Ribbeck came in eighth at 5:39.7.

Sean Brandel leaped 6-3 in the high jump.

In the women's 400, Chris Weersing finished fourth.

She came in at 1:06.

In the men's 600, Kevin Bartholomae finished second at 1:27.5, while Pat Lynch ended up fourth at 1:28.8.

Misty Makin finished fifth in the women's 55 hurdles with a 9.2 time.

Walter Boyd, 6.52, and Toby Anselmo, 6.70, competed in the men's hurdles.

In the 55-dash, Scott Daugherty finished second at 6.42.

Vickie Robbins leaped 33-5 in the triple jump.

Hodges was hoping more could compete, but Mother Nature had other ideas. "It's unfortunate about the weather," he said, "because we had a bunch of others ready to compete. But that's the way it goes."

The Cougars have their first official outdoor meet March 6 at Lewis and Clark College. "We're progressing very well toward that," Hodges concluded.

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