

Lady Cougars end tough season with loss

by Melissa Baughman
Staff Writer

The Clackamas women's basketball team closed their season last week with a win over Chemeketa Community College and a loss to Lane Community College.

The Cougars hosted Chemeketa on Feb. 23. The two teams were tied for third place going into the game. Clackamas beat Chemeketa 69-56.

Sheri Wehling earned high scoring honors with 20 points. She was 5 of 10 from the field and 6 of 11 from the foul line. She was also 50 percent from the three-point line where she hit 4 of 8.

Jenny Topham continued her tough play and scored 19 points, collected 14 rebounds and handed out five assists. Kristie Preiskorn hit for 11 points and Shawna McComb had 10.

Head Coach Kim Spaulding

was very happy with the win. "We played well. We really wanted to beat them since they beat us last time," she said. "We put everything together and we looked good."

The women traveled to Eugene on Thursday to meet Lane Community College. Both teams needed a win to continue their season and earn a trip to the NWAACC tournament. Clackamas lost by 17 points.

"It was never close. We were down by 20 at the half," Spaulding explained. "We just fell apart. We were never really in the game. Lane is a very good team."

Topham saved one of her best performances for the last game. The sophomore scored 31 points, had 11 rebounds and six steals. Wehling finished the game with 11 points.

"Jenny finished up at Clackamas with a career high," Spaulding said.

The coaches of the teams in the league recently voted on 1st team, all-league selections. Clackamas was the only team to have two players make the list with Topham and Wehling. Topham was also voted Most Valuable Player of the league.

The Cougars held their team awards banquet on Tuesday where three awards were given out. The team voted on each award. Topham earned the Most Valuable Player award, Preiskorn was voted Most Inspirational Player and Jill Warrington was voted the Most Improved Player.

The Lady Cougars ended the season with a 10-4 league record and a 15-14 overall record.

"We had a good year. The girls improved each week and each day," Spaulding said. "I'm sad to see the sophomores go. They were good leaders. They are a good group of kids."



Photo by Sandy DeBarber

Chemeketa players look to rebound after freshman Shawna McComb fires a shot during a recent home game.

Congratulations Top Guns!

Top Guns defeated the Regulators 82-70 in Tuesday's championship game. Although the score remained close throughout the game, Top Guns came out on top as the new intramural basketball champions.

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Bonneau, Evans, Tompkins named NJCAA All-Americans Wrestlers place 10th at nationals

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

Another outstanding season of CCC wrestling came to a close last weekend at the National Junior College Athletic Association championships in Bismarck, ND, which saw the Cougars finished in 10th place overall.

Clackamas had four wrestlers qualify for the national tournament, and three of those men placed to become NJCAA All-Americans.

"To make you realize what we were up against, 18 of the 30 wrestlers who placed at the Region 18 tournament (CCC's region) also placed at the national tournament," Head Coach Jim Jackson said. "We finished 10th out of the 56 schools represented there, which I think speaks highly about the program that we have here at Clackamas."

Blake Tompkins, for the second year in a row, became an NJCAA All-American by placing second in the 134-pound weight class. He lost in the finals to the undefeated, number-one ranked wrestler in the nation from Colby CC in Kansas, by a 7-5 decision that went down, literally, to the final buzzer.

"Blake almost, almost secured a takedown in the final seconds that would have tied the match," Jackson commented. "He wrestled superbly, but in our opinion, and we made it clear to him afterwards, he simply ran out of time."

Jackson said that Tompkins' semifinal match was probably the match of the tournament.

"He was behind most of the way, but he finally did what he had to do to make up the deficit and pull out the victory. It truly was a great match."

Jackson also had glowing comments about Tompkins' season and what his future may hold for him.

"Blake is a sophomore, and he will probably move on to Boise State University in Boise,

ID, which is his hometown. Other schools have inquired about his availability, and Blake certainly will have his choice about where he wants to go to finish his education. I wish he could stay. He is the kind of guy that makes coaching worthwhile. Replacing him will be tough."

Travis Bonneau capped off an outstanding season by finishing third in the 167-pound weight class at the NJCAA's. Bonneau had to beat Jeff Gotcher of North Idaho College, a man who had beaten him three previous times this season. Bonneau had the upper hand in the semifinal match, but lost in the last nine seconds on a takedown.

"Travis had an outstanding tournament. His semifinal match was one of the best of the tournament. He wrestled the whole seven minutes. He just got beat by a better wrestler. But that does not diminish what he accomplished this season. He just had a tremendous season, and has a very bright future ahead of him," Jackson said.

Bonneau, an art major, will probably head off to another Oregon school to complete his education. Other schools from around the nation have expressed an interest in Bonneau, including Eastern Michigan, but he is still undecided as to where he would like to get his degree at.

David Evans had a "great tournament" to finish sixth in the 150 pound weight class at the national tournament. Evans actually made the semifinals of his class, but lost a close match in the semis, and "kind of got disheartened after the loss," according to Jackson, and "it kind of hurt him after he dropped into the consolation bracket."

"David had a tremendous season for us. Considering that he only wrestled the second half of the season for us, what he accomplished was even more special," Jackson said. "He was very strong at the end of the season and it carried over into the

postseason."

Evans, a sophomore, is undecided as to what he will do after he leaves CCC.

Carl Hensley lost an overtime tie-breaker on a penalty point in a consolation match and was eliminated from the tournament at 177 pounds. Jackson is still baffled as to what happened to his wrestler.

"In our judgement, the call that the official made (to call the penalty point) was not understood very well by the scorer's table. Everyone was confused as to what was called. I just don't understand it. We protested the match, but it was later denied. There just seemed to be too much confusion between the officials and the scorers. If Carl had won that match, he probably would have gone on to place in the tournament."

Hensley will be back for another season on the Cougar mats. "We haven't decided to let him wrestle next year, or give him a redshirt year. That decision may be entirely up to him. Carl had an outstanding season, and if he wants to wrestle next year, then he could be coming back to the nationals," Jackson said.

North Idaho College won the NJCAA championship, while Lassen College of Susanville, Calif. finished second and Ricks College of Rexburg, Idaho ended up third. Jackson was pleased with the results of his team.

"It just goes to prove that our region (Region 18) is one of the toughest in the nation. We had three of the top 10 junior college teams in the United States come from this region (North Idaho, Ricks and Clackamas). And Yakima Valley CC finished 15th at the tournament. This just helps us to recruit more and more easily. We tell high school wrestlers that if you want the tough competition, then come wrestle for us. You will definitely get the competition," said Jackson.