

# Track teams start season with strong performances

by Paul Valencia  
Staff Writer

The men extended their winning streak to 44, while the women took their 28th straight meet Saturday at a track meet at Chemeketa Community College.

The men, who have not lost since March 1990, scored 104 points, crushing Linn-Benton, 43, and host Chemeketa, 37. The women also had easy victories by scoring 77 points to Chemeketa's 51 and Linn-Benton's 34. The Lady Cougars have not lost since March 1991.

Saturday's meet was the first official meet of the year for keeping team standings, according to Head Coach Mike Hodges. "This is the first time we put it all together and took someone on in

head-to-head competition," he said. "This gives us a better idea of what results we should expect at the end of the season."

After winning so many in a row, it wasn't a surprise to Hodges that the Cougars started 1993's team schedules with two victories. "We expected to win, but one of the important things to be learned is how to change expectations into reality. We showed the kinds of things we needed to show to know that we could be a good team," he said.

Hodges explained that individuals want to win for themselves, but they also must do what is necessary for the team to come out in front. A team must know where its advantages are to prepare for a scoring meet, he said.

"We showed good signs of being that kind of a team."

To date, 46 Cougars have already qualified for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges track and field championships. The Cougars lead the entire Northwest in eight men's events and seven women's events. "We're on track to being one of the team's in the final hunt," Hodges said.

Some of the key Cougar performers Saturday were:

Dave Island, who won the javelin with a throw of 181 feet, 9 inches. "He is the number one thrower in the Northwest this far," Hodges said. "He has dominated community college competitors in all meets so far."

Scott Willhite tasted the thrill

of victory three times, winning the 400-meter dash, the 200 and also winning as a member of the 1,600 relay team.

Chris Long took first in the shot put, but more impressively, according to Hodges, he finished fourth in his first competition ever in the hammer event. His throw of 124-6 is number nine on Clackamas' all-time list.

The Cougar long-distance runners dominated their part of the meet. Mike Hickey won the steeplechase. That event saw Cougars as the first four finishers. Brian Buckingham took the 1,500 run, leading a one-two finish.

The 800 and the 5,000 saw one-two-three finishes for the Cougar cause. Wilfredo Elenes

took the 800, while Oscar Bauman won the 5,000.

On the women's side, Ilene Penas won the shot put -- she is the leader in the Northwest in the event -- and also took second in the discus.

Vickie Robbins won the triple jump, the 200 and finished second in the 100.

Erin Hansen finished second in the javelin and shot, and fourth in the discus.

Chris Weersing won the 400 hurdles and was a member of the winning 1,600 relay team.

This week, the Cougars are preparing for their first home meet, scheduled for Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

Hodges said he would love to see some support for his squads.

## Coach Fiskum looks for improvement in defense California trip disappoints players

by Frank Jordan  
Staff Writer

The Clackamas softball team endured a tough spring break in California to open up the 1993 season, going 2-3 on the long road trip.

The Lady Cougars opened up the campaign against Southwestern College of San Diego. Southwestern, as described by CCC Head Coach Paul Fiskum, is "a good team. They were second in their league when we faced them." Too good for the Cougars as it turned out. Southwestern turned CCC back by the tune of an 8-0 score.

"We did not play very well," Coach Fiskum said. "We had a lot of problems timing their pitcher, and our defense was shoddy."

The second game of the scheduled doubleheader was canceled for reasons still unknown to Fiskum. There seemed to be a breakdown in communication between Southwestern College and the umpires hired to work the games. Fiskum was not a very happy man when all was said and done.

"I have no idea what or why it happened. To think that we traveled all that distance to play just one game with that school is unbelievable. Thank goodness I knew that we had two games scheduled the next day," he said.

The two games the next day were against San Diego City College. Clackamas tore the cover off of the ball early and often in route to a 12-2 and 22-1 doubleheader rout of SDCC.

"San Diego City College is not a very good team right now, and it showed with the way we pounded the softball," Fiskum said. "We hit the ball extremely well, and the rest of our game looked the best all season."

The last two games of the California trip saw Clackamas take on the number-one ranked team in the state, Palomar College. Palomar sent the Lady Cougars back to Oregon with 6-0 and 12-0 losses in the doubleheader.

"Palomar is definitely the best junior college team that I have

ever seen," Fiskum said. "We were pretty demoralized. We only got two base hits all day, and we struck out something like 35 times. I think we will chalk this one up to poor scheduling."

Clackamas returned to the Beaver State March 31 and took on Lewis and Clark College. The Lady Cougars survived a late rally by the Pioneers to post an 18-12 victory.

"The day was wet and cold. The playing conditions were very borderline," Fiskum said. "I think the cold hurt the pitchers more than anyone else; they were really serving it up."

Fiskum, along with assistants Merry Ferguson and Bob Rapp, still have some questions about their current team.

"It will take a couple of weeks to figure it out. Every player on this team could start and do a good job. But I think the real challenge will be the defense. We have to improve our defense to become competitive in our conference," he said.

The Lady Cougars' first home game of the 1993 season is today at 3 p.m. against Chemeketa CC. CCC also plays at home Saturday against Pierce College starting at 2 p.m.

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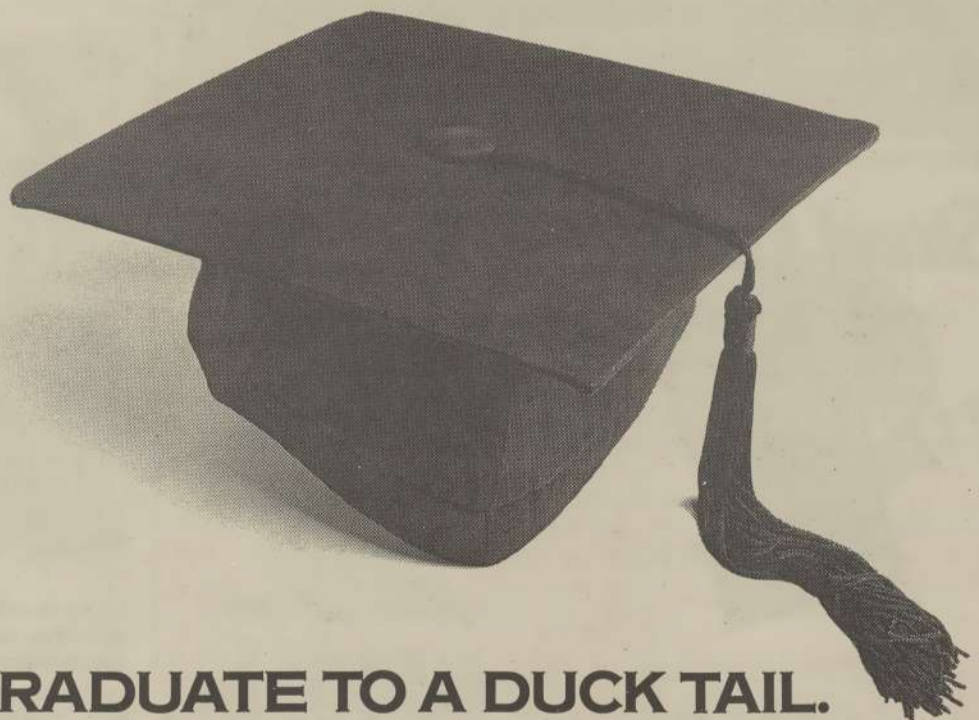
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