

Men's track team wins Mt. Hood Relays

by Paul Valencia
Staff Writer

Even without their top three distance runners, the Clackamas Cougars' men's team won their fourth-straight Mt. Hood Relays competition at Lewis and Clark College, Saturday.

The women's squad, gambling to earn more points in the sprints, lost more points in the distance relays and finished third. Still, the two teams won their third consecutive combined title.

For those who are following both teams' long winning streaks in dual meets, don't worry about the women. Their streak is still going. The Mt. Hood Relays, although competitive, do not count in meet standings since the format is different, with many long-distance relays and less events, according to Head Coach Mike Hodges.

That may also be one of the reasons Hodges sent his top three men distance runners to the Oregon Invitational in Eugene. "We have so much depth, we didn't need our three best long-distance runners," he said.

At the Invitational, though, Mike Hickey, Oscar Bauman and Jason Mottaz all earned personal bests against stiff competition in the 10,000-meter run. Hickey, at 31 minutes, 32.18 seconds quali-



Photo by Anjanette Booth

CCC's men and women's track teams have had exceptional seasons so far this year. The men continued their impressive winning streak by dominating the Mt. Hood Relays. The women also hold an outstanding record to date.

fied for the Northwest championships. Bauman and Mottaz qualified earlier in the season, but still had impressive times of 31:54.78 and 32:14.1, respectively.

Back at Lewis and Clark, though, the men were taking care of business. The team won with 151 points, defeating second-place Mt. Hood by 64 points. Bellevue finished in third with 48.

Kris Long led the way in the

field events with two personal bests in the shot put and hammer throw. In the shot, he threw 45 feet, four inches. He threw the hammer 133 feet.

Mike Brown leapt 44'1 and 3/4 inches in the triple jump for a personal record, and Ryan Clay finished the 110 hurdles in 15.96 seconds for another.

The women's team fell to Bellevue, 112 and Mt. Hood, 105. The Lady Cougars mustered 90

points. But it wasn't anything to be down about, according to Hodges.

"We took some gambles," he said, explaining that he put some of his best long-distance runners in the sprints to try to gain some points. "We ended up losing some distance relays which we could have won. It was a calculated gamble that didn't work.

"The women performed pretty well, though," he contin-

ued. Next up for the Cougars is a dual met at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Saturday. This will be the first head-to-head meeting between the Cougars and Spokane, "our strongest competition on the men's side and one of the strongest on the women's side," Hodges said.

Women's success comes from behind the plate

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

The Clackamas softball team continued their winning ways last week, sweeping a doubleheader from Western Oregon State by the scores of 5-0 and 4-3.

The star on the mound for the first game was Jennifer Hefflinger, who struck out four batters on her way to a four-hit shut-out. Head Coach Paul Fiskum was very pleased with Hefflinger's performance. "Her riseball was working great, the opposing hitters were really chasing it. People can tell when it is working by the number of fly-ball outs we had (16 out of 21 outs in the game)," he said.

Emily Routson led the way for the Cougars at the plate, going two for four, with two RBI, as the Cougars scored all of the game's runs in the second inning. Cindy Vance hit a ball almost to the loop for a triple in the middle of the rally that, in the coach's words,

"really shook them (WOSC) up. It was almost a home run, and it broke their backs." Michelle Guertin also had two hits with an RBI for Clackamas.

In the second game, Diana Clift ran her season record to 3-0 by going all the way in the 4-3 victory. Routson connected for a triple in the fifth inning, scoring Jennifer Hinman with the eventual winning run.

"Diana gave up three unearned runs, with WOSC scoring their runs directly as a result of our errors. All of the errors came on difficult fielding plays, so I really can't fault our defense," Fiskum said. "Their hitting was pretty much spaced out, so we did a pretty good job holding them in check.

"Our pitching is finally coming around," Fiskum continued. "Our hitting is right where I thought it would be, and that is what is helping us at the present time. Hopefully, the pitching

and especially our defense will continue to improve."

For the season, Becky Cordill is leading the team in hitting with a .462 average, while Guertin is right behind, batting .433. Category leaders thus far include: Guertin, Keri Gunderson and Holly Rahn with 10 runs scored; Wynta Thompson with 11 RBI; Guertin with 13 hits; Rahn with three doubles; Gunderson with four triples; and Suzie Burk, Routson and Guertin each with one home run.

Clift leads the pitching staff with a 3-0 record and a 1.67 earned run average. Cordill is 2-1, with a 4.90 ERA and Hefflinger is 2-2, with an ERA of 4.08.

Clackamas goes to Wenatchee, Wash. for the NWAACC Crossover Tournament this weekend. The next scheduled home game for the Cougars is April 30 against Green River CC. Game time is 3 p.m.

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