

Cougar men cruise to Southern track title

by Paul Valencia
Staff Writer

If it were the Olympics instead of the NWAACC Southern Region Championships, and if the Clackamas Cougars' men's squad had a national anthem, the song would have gotten old ... really fast. And the person responsible for raising the Cougar flag would have gotten really tired.

Everywhere you turned at the Lewis and Clark track and field on Friday and Saturday, you saw another Cougar victory. The men scorched their competition, winning their fourth straight Southern title by the second largest margin in league history.

The team jumped, threw and ran for 236 points, just "squeaking by" Clark, which ended up with 85. Umpqua finished third with 78.

"I was astounded at the margin of victory," said Head Coach Mike Hodges. "We didn't figure a form chart ahead of time because it was certain we were going to win, but I had no idea we were going to dominate like that."

The Cougars won all but two of the running events. Hodges calculated that if his distance runners would have been just one team, they would have finished



Photo by Anjanette Booth

The Clackamas track team performed well in the Southern Championships. The men took the title, while the women finished second.

second.

Strong performances at the Southern meet included:

Ahrlin Bauman finished first in the 10,000 meters and third in the 5,000. "Doubling up is not

easy," Hodges said. "That he came back with a PR (personal record) on the second day in the 5,000 shows a lot."

Kris Long came in second in the shot put, but he earned a per-

sonal best by a foot.

The Cougars finished one-two-five in the 1,500. Kevin Bartholomae earned a personal record with a conference-leading time of 3 minutes, 58.18 seconds.

"Kevin just powered away from the field," Hodges said.

Mike Hickey won the steeplechase, marking the seventh year in a row a Cougar has won the event.

In the 110 hurdles, Ryan Clay had a come-from-behind victory. "He's been knocking on the door all season. He was third place after the eighth hurdle, stormed through nine and 10 and out-kicked the last 15 meters to win it," Hodges explained.

The sprinters were also very strong, according to Hodges.

Both relays also performed well. The 1,600 relay easily won by four seconds with a time of 3:21.73, good enough for eighth-place on Clackamas' all-time list. The 400 relay team finished at 42.63, 10th best in school history.

Next up for the men is the Northwest championships to be held at Spokane Falls Community College, May 27 and 28. Hodges said his team should be the favorite (no kidding). The toughest competition for the men should come from Spokane, but earlier in the season when the two teams met, Clackamas doubled their score.

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Women run to second place

by Paul Valencia
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Cougars' women's track squad lost a tight meet to Mt. Hood by six points and finished second in the NWAACC Southern Region Championships. Still, the team is confident it can be among the leaders in the Northwest Championships May 27 and 28.

"I knew it was going to go down to the end," said Head Coach Mike Hodges about the Southern meet. "One of the things that hurt us was Vickie Robbins got hurt and didn't compete. She would have scored in four events."

That could have put the Cougars over the top for a second-straight Southern title, but Hodges wasn't about to use it as an excuse. In such a large meet, he said, "you can't expect 100 percent perfection out of everybody. It doesn't work that way."

"Still, we battled hard and showed a lot of courage and competitiveness," he continued. "We came up short and that happens. It's the second best team

finish since 1978. It is not a failure."

To prove that the team is not a failure, one only needs to look at just some of the strong individual performances. Heidi Spillum scored 30 points by winning the 3,000 meters and 1,500, finish-

"We came up short and that happens. It's the second best team finish since 1978. It is not a failure."
-- Mike Hodges

ing second in the 800 and running a leg on the second-place 1,600 relay team.

Kristie Preiskorn scored 24 points in six events.

Chris Weersing also had a "very fine meet," according to Hodges. She finished second in the 400, third in the 400 hurdles and ran on both relay teams.

Ilene Penas won the shot put title with a 42 foot, 9 and 3/4 inch measurement. "She has never

yet lost to another community college performer in the shot put," Hodges explained.

The women jumped out to a great start in the first event of the meet by finishing two-three-four-five in the 10,000, and scoring 20 points. On the second day, the 5,000 event saw the Cougars score 19 with a two-three-four-six finish.

Those performances, among others, and the fact that anything can happen in a new meet has Hodges optimistic about the team's chances in the Northwest championships.

"We start all over. It's a whole new meet," he said. And he gave no predictions, except that it is an unpredictable meet. With Bellevue being a potential championship team, Spokane with a number of potential champion individuals, and Mt. Hood and Clackamas just coming off of a six-point margin, Hodges said it would be safe to say the meet will be close.

"Win or lose, that's the fun part of athletics," he said.

Cougars suffer losses to Chemeketa

by Daphne Hartt
Sports Editor

As the baseball season continues, the Cougars remain tough on the mound, but have had some hard luck from the plate.

The Cougars took on the Chemeketa Chiefs on Thursday. In the first game, Chad Meadors was 2 for 3 at the plate with a single and a double.

Brian Dustin came out 1 for 3, while Zach Getzinger was 2 for 4.

Allen Aronson took the mound for the Cougars for most of the game. He gave up five

runs and nine hits, but struck out four Chiefs, while walking only two.

For some reason, though, the Cougars were unable to score, thus suffering an 8-0 loss.

The second game proved to be a little more competitive, but the team could not tally up the runs as the Chiefs did.

Jesse Robison did well in the batters' box going 2 for 2. He also scored two runs for the Cougars.

Josh Parker was hot at the plate, also, with one homer and three RBI.

Mike Clark pitched a fairly consistent game, while striking out three and walking two. He also gave up four hits and four runs.

The Cougars, however, could not overcome the Chiefs, and wound up with an 11-5 loss.

The team is currently working on their hitting, but the pitching has been coming along, according to Head Coach Robin Robinson.

"Tucker Hodgen has been working very well for us on the mound. He has been doing a great job," Robinson said.