

Pitching, defense please Fiskum

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

The Clackamas softball team rolled through another week of games, splitting doubleheaders with Pierce College and Green River CC and sweeping a twinbill from Olympic CC.

"Our pitching and defense has been outstanding for the last month," commented Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "We know that we have one of the best hitting teams in the conference, but our defense is catching up, and our pitching is becoming more dominant."

Clackamas started the week with a doubleheader split with Pierce College, taking game one by a 6-0 count, while losing the nightcap 3-1.

Jennifer Hefflinger continued her hot streak on the mound in game one, throwing a three-hitter and striking out a career-high 13.

"Hefflinger is the most dominant pitcher in the NWAACC right now," Fiskum said. "She

has allowed no more than one earned run a game since early in the season."

Pierce came back from the first game whitewash to shut down the Cougars in game two. Becky Cordill pitched very well for Clackamas, giving up only three hits, while striking out five.

"Cordill is throwing very well as of late," Fiskum commented. "She has been getting a lot more work lately and it is really paying off. She had some tough luck against Pierce, but that is not indicative of how she has pitched."

The Cougars faced Green River CC on Friday, splitting a doubleheader with a 2-0 win in game one and a 3-2 extra-inning loss in game two.

Hefflinger threw a one-hitter in game one, striking out eight and walking only two. Tracy Parnell was the star at the plate, going 2 for 3, with a run scored and an RBI.

In game two, GRCC scored on a one-out single in the bottom

of the eighth inning to post a 3-2 win against the Cougars.

"It just goes to show you, Green River is in the middle of the pack in the division, but the way the league is this year, any team on any day can jump up and bite you," Fiskum said. "Nobody is giving anything away this year, which should make the stretch run very interesting."

The Cougars finished off the week with a 2-1 and 10-1 doubleheader sweep of Olympic CC on Saturday.

Hefflinger gave up her first run in her last seven starts, but still threw a one-hitter and struck out four in running her record to 10-4 on the season. Emily Routson went 2 for 3 at the plate, scoring one run and driving in the other in the fifth inning.

In game two, the Cougars pounded out 10 hits in the 10-1 romp. Suzie Burk and Kari Gunderson each had two hits, while every other batter in the lineup had at least one hit. Cor-

dill shut down Olympic on the mound, striking out five and allowing only two hits.

"We are excited about what we are accomplishing at the present time. We have had some tough ball games lately, but that can only help us once the NWAACC tournament rolls around," Fiskum said. "We have four home games coming up this week and we need a little momentum coming down the stretch. I've tended to over-analyze the losses, but I'm extremely happy with the play. I am looking forward, definitely, to the next two weeks."

On the injury beat, Wynta Thompson hurt her knee against Olympic CC and will be out a week. The coach says that she should be ready to play in the games just before the NWAACC tournament on May 28 and 29.

Today, Clackamas travels to Tacoma to take on Pierce College in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m.

Kemp's Korner

by Jeff Kemp
Staff Writer

It's time for our Portland Trail Blazers to make some serious changes. Remember the 80s when the Blazers still flaunted those exotic red uniforms and would lose to the Lakers religiously. Welcome to the 90s Portland, where the attire has gone to black and white and the Blazers' hopes for a championship have fallen by the way side.

Kevin Duckworth will be gone, put your money on that. He will probably be packing his bags for Detroit, which reportedly is in desire of his services. Duck should fit in nicely with the Pistons, who need a center who can provide some inside power. Detroit has relied on Laimbeer and their other aging big men too long.

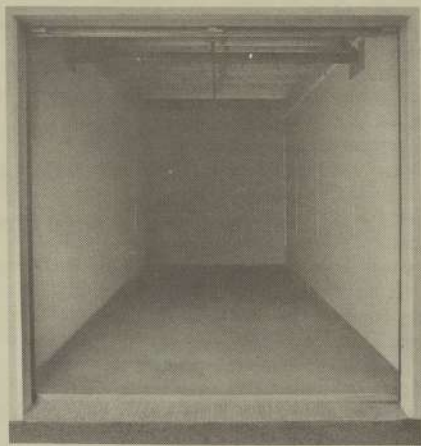
In return for Duckworth, the Blazers will get the absent-minded, suicidal-prone and rebounding king, Dennis Rodman. Rodman will be a key for Portland next year. With Rodman and Williams, who plays well when the rest of the team is, on the boards, the Blazers should be tops in the league in rebounding.

With Rodman coming in, you'll see Kersey heading out. These two stalwarts are essentially the same type of player, which no team really needs two of. It would be ingenious on the Blazers part to give Kersey and Tracy Murray a free plane ticket to Charlotte, who have offered the streak shooting Kendall Gill to Portland. If the Blazers were able to sting the Hornets with a trade like that, they could get a future all-star off guard that can actually shoot.

Clyde Drexler is the best stock the Blazers own. If they were able to find the courage to really shop him around to the highest bidder, they would find that he will draw a high price on the open market. My suggestion to the Blazers: trade Drexler to the team that wins the draft lottery. With the first pick in the draft you can really improve your team. This year is an excellent chance for Portland to get a franchise player. Chris Webber, Jamal Mashburn, Anfernee Hardaway and J.R. Rider are just a few of the big names waiting to make a lottery pick's wages.

Finally, I believe that Rick Adelman has overstayed his welcome in the head coaching position. Let's face it, Adelman is just too nice to his players. He finds it hard to discipline people that he has spent years becoming buddies with. It worked out well for the first few years, but now it seems as though the players are taking advantage of the situation.

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Sports Brief

Come watch the 3-on-3 coed intramural volleyball tourney championships Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the gym.