

### NBA all-star selection process corrupted by voting fans, selfish coaches

by Jesse Sowa  
The Print Staff

Why is it that the National Basketball Association continues to allow its fans to vote for the starters of its all-star games? And how do some of the league's best shooters, who aren't necessarily the most popular, get passed up by the coaches who pick the reserves? These are just a couple of the questions that need to be answered by the NBA.

The NBA still finds it necessary to include the fans in the all-star voting. Whether the players in the biggest markets are having great years or the worst of their careers, the fans will still vote them as starters. Most basketball fans are unaware of a player's success during a certain season. Fans vote for their favorites, not always the best players.

The coaches whose teams have the best record in each conference leading up to the All-Star Game are selected as the game's coaches. These coaches select the assistant coaches and a trainer for their teams. All of the NBA coaches vote on the reserve players for the game in their own conference. Sometimes the players that are showing up the rest of the league are past up by these selfish coaches.

The late Drazen Petrovic was snubbed by the Eastern Conference coaches during last year's picking of the reserves. Petrovic was the only player in the top 15 in scoring in the league to not play in the all-star game. He was also keeping the New Jersey Nets in contention with his all-around play and yet the coaches decided that Petro wasn't good enough to play. I'm sure that they now regret this decision.

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What about Rod Strickland of the Trail Blazers? Isn't he the one who single-handedly prevented the Blazers from falling into mediocrity with his outstanding play? Without Strickland, the Blazers would be struggling to stay ahead of the Kings and the Lakers in the Pacific Division. The presence of Clyde Drexler on the starting lineup prevented Strickland from making the team. There is no way that Sonics' coach George Karl and the rest of the Western Conference coaches would have selected Drexler as a reserve.

There are definitely some faults in allowing the fans to select the starters for the NBA All-Star Game. The best decision to make now is to pick the players according to their statistics leading up to the game. This would be more fair for everyone involved. It would eliminate any controversy from the all-star selection process.

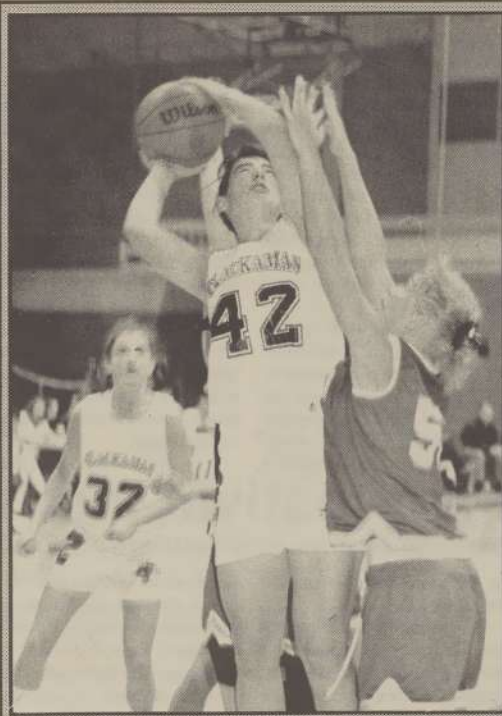


photo by Jason Hunter  
Laura Stahl, 42, shows her stuff against Portland CC defenders in a game on Feb. 2 at home. Your last chance to see the Lady Cougars at home will be tonight at 6 p.m. against Chemeketa in the Randall Hall Gym.

### Free throws cost Cougars in well fought battle with Mt. Hood

by Jason Hunter  
The Print Staff

The Lady Cougars basketball team, doing everything well except free throws, fell short on a comeback and lost a tight one, 65-64 to Mt. Hood, Feb. 9.

"It was one of the best games we've played all year. We beat them in every category except for free throw percentage," said Head Coach Karen Twain.

The area that they got beat in was the most damaging to the Cougars. The Saints were sent to the line 25 times and they converted 17 of the shots. The Cougars went to the line 22 times but only made 13 baskets.

With the Cougars leading 21-17 the Saints went on an 8-0 run with Mt. Hood getting field goals from Tara Gunderson, and Wendy Welch. They also got four points off of free throw attempts from Stephanie Allan and Jennifer Gordon.

Ganine Moses came up big in the final minute with three big assists to pull the Cougars within three. Tanya White was on the receiving side of the ball twice and converted both for four points. Jannell Temple closed out the first half scoring with a

field goal assisted by Moses.

The second half went back and forth with the Saints losing the lead when Temple hit a 3-point shot off of an assist from Moses to close the Mt. Hood lead to three. Kristy Prieskorn stole the ball when the Saint's drove and assisted Olsen to pull them within one. Laura Stahl pulled down a rebound after a missed Allan shot and passed up to Moses who pulled up at the 3-point line and gave the Cougars their first lead of the half with a 41-39 lead. Gunderson would tie it up, but Prieskorn would give them the lead again for quite a while.

Mt. Hood would regain the lead for good when Lori Bohnenkamp made both free throws to pull ahead 57-56. The Cougars made it close at the end of the game with Laurie Gullick and Olsen making their free throw attempts to pull the lead within one. A controversial call was made on the Cougar offense that finished the Cougars hopes of a comeback.

The Lady Cougars finish up their home schedule tonight at 6 p.m. against the number-one ranked Chemeketa Chiefs.

### Men's basketball heads for playoffs after capturing 12-0 league record, division title

■ Scoring leaders Nate Williams and Travis Orrick highlight big wins over Mt. Hood and Umpqua

by Frank Jordan  
The Print Staff

The Clackamas Cougar men's basketball team continued its winning ways last week, wrapping up the NWAACC's Southern Division regular season title with convincing wins over Mt. Hood CC by a score of 106-88 and a well earned win over Umpqua CC by a 94-70 tally.

The Cougars got out of the gate early against Mt. Hood, going on a 24-7 run midway through the first half to overcome an early deficit in taking a 58-51 halftime lead. CCC continued with the pressure defense in the second stanza, eventually opening up a 20-point lead before settling for the 18-point win.

Nate Williams bombed seven 3-point field goals on his way to a game-high 30 points to lead the Cougars on offense. Zach Puent used good free-throw shooting (9-10) on his way to 25 points, while Travis Orrick used four 3-pointers to build his 21 points. Kyle Dixon handed out 11 assists and Jeremy Reinwald led the way on the glass, hauling in 11 rebounds and throwing in 15 points.

Antwine Williams led the Saints with 22 points and Jacob Chena helped out with 16.

"We played pretty well against Mt. Hood, and Mt. Hood has a pretty good ball club," com-

mented Head Coach Royce Kiser. "We played pretty decently in the first half, but we cranked up the defense in the second and ran them out of the gym."

Saturday night, the Cougars made the long trip to Roseburg to take on Umpqua CC. Clackamas shook off a terrible first half to eventually blow out the home team 94-70.

"We played absolutely terrible in the first half. We were playing like we were just going through the motions," said Coach Kiser. "We were playing down to the competition, and for a while there, our hearts were just not in it. At halftime, I over-emphasized this point to the players, and we came out focused in the second half to blow them away."

Orrick led Clackamas in scoring with 23 points, while Puent chipped in 16 points and 5 rebounds. Jay Moore came off the bench to add 14 points, Williams had 10 points and Reinwald had 8 points and 5 rebounds.

Matt Dawkins led Umpqua with 17 points and 8 rebounds.

The Cougars' record stands at 21-2 overall and 12-0 in the Southern Division. The Cougars have wrapped up the division title and await the divisional playoffs to be held next week. The Cougars close out their home schedule tonight with a date with second-place Chemeketa CC. The game will be held in the Randall Hall gym at 8 p.m., immediately following the women's game with Chemeketa.

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