

Self-supported Rally squad gains momentum

by Michele Myers
The Print Editorial Staff

Two years ago, an idea was proposed to the Associated Student Government: Rally.

The idea was generated to create student support for activities on campus. The project was researched and it was found that other schools in the Portland area have Rally teams that have been very successful.

The first year, ASG provided the Rally team with only Clackamas T-shirts and shorts. "These four girls were very insistent," said Norm Berney, Rally Club advisor. "They really stuck it out for a whole year."

Despite the fact that the Rally Club was on their own money-wise, they succeeded in raising enough money for their own uniforms, and got together and practiced before their actual season started in December. They were responsible for their own transportation to events and succeeded in developing a first-rate squad.

Last spring, Rally was promoted to local high schools to recruit more members. Tryouts proved successful and six women were selected. With eight total, Rally went on to find the time to make their own routines and started practicing during the summer.

"These girls basically started with nothing. A lot of

money was raised by themselves along with a large percentage of the money that went to uniforms," Berney said. "We've seen a real professional Rally squad develop."

The rally has gained the support of the Athletic Department. "They make a nice addition ... I think they do a good job. They're very talented. We are pleased we can give them a place to showcase their talent," said Jim Jackson, Clackamas' Athletic Director.

Jackson does have a concern, though. "In this day and age the major emphasis is on gender equity. Because of that, why are these women not one of the first to step forward and show support of gender by being the Rally squad for at the women's games also?" he asked.

The rally team supports men's basketball and promotion of different events. Rally is planning on continuing with tryouts for next year in April. Most of the women on this year's team will not be returning.

"A few of the members are interested in going into Rally when they transfer to a 4-year college thanks to the experience they gained here on Rally," Berney said. "They're awesome. They practice and practice."

Rally will be supporting the men's basketball team for their playoff game Thursday night at Randall Gym.



photo by Karen Blingham

Jay Moore shoots over teammate Nate Williams during a Clackamas scrimmage.

Undefeated Men's b-ball makes history

by Frank Jordan
The Print Staff

The Clackamas Cougars men's basketball team completed a perfect conference season this past week, sweeping games from Chemeketa CC and Southwestern Oregon CC.

With a 14-0 Southern Division record, and a 23-2 overall record, Clackamas has earned the division's automatic berth in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's championship tournament. Divisional playoffs will take place tomorrow night with a game at Clackamas between CCC and Mt. Hood, and down in Eugene, with Lane CC hosting Chemeketa. The winners of those two games will meet on Saturday, at the home of the team with the better division of those two winners.

If Clackamas happens to lose Thursday, the Cougars will still go to the NWAACC tournament, but with a lower seeding in the championships. If Clackamas wins tomorrow, they will host the Lane/Chemeketa winner Saturday night.

Clackamas closed out their home regular-season schedule with a convincing 103-76 pounding of Chemeketa. The Cougars got out of the gates very quickly against their opponent, storming out to a 20-6 lead. While trying to keep Chemeketa sharpshooter Scott Tharp in

check, the Cougars kept up their harassing, swarming defense on the rest of Tharp's teammates en route to a 46-32 halftime lead.

The second half was a carbon copy of the first half as CCC rolled up 100 points for the 13th time this season. Zach Puente led the Cougars on the score sheet with 25 points and also grabbed a team-high 9 rebounds. Travis Orrick backed up Puente's effort with 22 points, hitting 4 three-point shots. Nate Williams threw in 19 points, while Kyle Dixon tossed in 12 points and handed out a game-high 12 assists.

Tharp led Chemeketa with a season-high 37 points, hitting 14-19 shots from the floor. Mark Harney followed Tharp's output with 9 points.

The Cougars shot 52 percent from the floor, hitting 26-49 shots, including 12-26 from 3-point land.

On Saturday, Clackamas closed out the regular season with a lackluster performance against Southwestern Oregon CC in Coos Bay. Clackamas overcame a nine-point halftime deficit to defeat SWOCC by the score of 82-74.

"We played really sloppy, like we were kind of tired from the trip," commented Head Coach Royce Kiser. "I think that we were just playing out the string, just waiting for the playoffs to begin. We had better not have the same attitude when the NWAACC

starts, or we will come home early."

Williams led the Cougars with 16 points, while Puente followed up with 14. Jeremy Reinwald helped out with 11 points and 12 rebounds, while Dixon scored 10 points and dished out 8 assists to lead CCC.

With the win over Southwestern Oregon, this year's version of the Cougars became the first Clackamas team to finish the conference season undefeated. Kiser has been pleasantly surprised with the effort and the outcomes that his team has achieved this season, and says that is one of his better teams, including the ball club that won the NWAACC championship in 1987.

"We have done it all season, and I am so happy about the effort that our kids have produced this year. At the beginning of the season, I had some serious doubts, but they all have been wiped away. As long as we keep working hard at the defensive end, we will be successful in the tournament."

The NWAACC men's basketball championship tournament will be held March 3-4-5 at Big Bend CC in Moses Lake, WA. The team hopes to see some fans come up to the tournament to help root the Cougars on as they go for their second NWAACC championship.

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UNBELIEVABLE

Coach Robinson eager to start baseball season with three returning All-conference players

by Nate Clark
The Print Staff

Clackamas Cougar baseball coach Robin Robinson is going into the 1994 season with an optimistic view. "We are excited about the upcoming season. We have all the elements that could lead us to a championship," he said.

The main competition comes from Mt. Hood, which has three pitchers who have been drafted by Major League team. The Saints may have pitching, but the team will have to overcome the loss of 17 of its 22 players to graduation last year.

Linn-Benton has a good team according to Robinson. They have experienced players and they

are the team to beat.

Robinson said Chemeketa is also a competitive team because of its excellent recruiting year.

Clackamas returns three All-conference players, pitchers, Eric Filla and Mike Clark, and first baseman Terry Phillips. Returning are starting shortstop Brian Dustin and outfielder Jesse Robison. Top recruits include freshman third-baseman Will Cole, sophomore outfielder Kyle Misener, freshman outfielder Ian Roberts, and freshman pitcher Brent Yarrow.

"Several of our freshmen are older, 21-24, and are hungry to play after being out of the game for a while," Robinson said. "Our

squad is a split on experienced returning players and good freshmen.

"We have more balance than we've ever had. We have got a super pitching staff -- they led the NWACC in pitching last year. Good catching, tremendous speed, good power in Cole, Misener, and Andy Osborne, and good speed in Roberts, Vermillion, and Robison. We have had good power and good speed, but we've never had them in the same year," Robinson said.

"We're looking forward to a good season, we need to take all that talent, mix it in a bowl and come out with the chemistry we need to take the championship," he concluded.