

Overtime defeat costs Cougars top seed in NWAACC

■ Sluggish offense and lack of trademark Cougar tenacity costs men's B-ball in the end

by Frank Jordan
The Print Staff

The Clackamas Cougars lost a golden chance to help themselves in the upcoming Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges men's basketball tournament by losing a hard-fought triple-overtime game to the Saints of Mt. Hood CC last Thursday by a score of 128-125 in an NWAACC Southern Division playoff game at CCC.

The game was a see-saw affair back and forth throughout the entire game, as the largest lead by either team was a mere six points. The Saints, helped by the hot-shooting of all-conference forward David Harrison, seemed to have the upper hand in the first half, as Clackamas looked sloppy on offense and did not seem to have its usual tenacity on the defensive end. The Cougars made enough of an effort at the end of the half to go into the locker room with a 50-48 edge.

The second half was pretty much the same, although the Cougars made more of an effort when they did not have the ball. Zach Puent hit several clutch shots in the second half on his way to what is believed to be a school-

record 49 points. Puent's 26 second-half points, along with a couple of critical plays by Kyle Dixon and Travis Orrick, helped CCC forge a 98-98 tie to force overtime.



photo by Karen Bingham

From right to left: Ryan Coffee, defended by Jeremy Reinwald and Nate Williams, attempts a pass to teammate Jay Moore.

The score remained tied through two overtime periods before Mt. Hood pulled the game out in the end with some clutch free-throw shooting.

"It was an exciting game,

no doubt, but we did not play like we have been," commented Head Coach Royce Kiser. "To win a game like this, you have to play every possession and we just didn't do it. We weren't focused on

plays in the end, and it cost us the game, pure and simple."

Besides the 49 points from Puent, on 20-40 shooting, including 5-10 from 3-point range, Orrick had 25 points, 7 rebounds and 8 assists; Dixon had 20 points and a game-high 13 assists and Jeremy Reinwald had 13 points and a team-high 10 rebounds before fouling out in overtime. Matt Stahl came off the bench to chip in 9 points and 7 rebounds, while Scott Weiland scored 5 points and handed out 8 assists.

Mt. Hood was led by David Harrison with 35 points and 21 rebounds, while Jacob Cheha and Kevin Groves each scored 29 for the winning Saints.

Clackamas shot 48 percent from the field for the game, hitting 47-98, including 9-27 from 3-point range. Mt. Hood shot 48-102 for 47 percent, hitting 12-27 from the 3-point stripe. Mt. Hood out-rebounded CCC 63-58, although CCC handed out 38 assists to MHCC's 26.

Next up for the Cougars is the Edmonds CC Tritons in the first round of the NWAACC tournament tomorrow at Big Bend CC in Moses Lake, Wash.. Edmonds boast four potential major-college players and is a team that defeated

Clackamas in a second-round tournament game last season.

Edmonds goes 6-foot-8, 6-7, 6-7, 6-6 and 6-1 in their starting lineup, and presents other problems for the smaller Cougars.

"We have absolutely got to contain their fastbreak and we have to control them on the glass. If they get out and start slamming everything through the hoop, we could be in for a long afternoon," stated Coach Kiser. "Our offense has to run smoother than it did last week, and we must step it up on the defensive end. We are going into this tournament with the attitude that anything can happen, and that we are going to do that."

Big Bend, the host school, is a possible second-round opponent, but Kiser is concentrating only on Edmonds.

"We tried to do too many things against Mt. Hood and that is my fault as the coach," Kiser said. "We can't afford to do that against Edmonds. If we do, our season will be over. The kids are ready for the tournament, and so am I. It's going to be fun," he concluded.

Clackamas opens the NWAACC tournament against Edmonds tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Big Bend CC.

Tracksters complete indoor season, race toward spring

by Paul Valencia
The Print Editorial Staff

The Clackamas Cougars track teams completed their indoor seasons with several high marks and are preparing for the outdoor season opener Saturday at Lewis and Clark College.

The Cougars competed in the Portland Indoor and the Vandal Indoor in Moscow, Idaho to finish the winter season.

In Portland, Clackamas had an exceptional finish in the 3,000 meter run, according to Head Coach Mike Hodges. Jason Mottaz and Brent Roeger finished one-two in the event, both earning personal records. Mottaz came in at 8 minutes, 42.3 seconds and Roeger was just behind at 8:50.5.

In the women's 3,000, Cindy Keene finished second with a personal-best 10:32 time.

"It's the first time we've ever won an event like that in the Portland Indoor," Hodges said.

"We need to get some momentum going for the season."

-Track and Field Coach Mike Hodges

The Portland meet has some tough competition, including NCAA Division 1 schools. "For us to go one-two and second (in the men's and women's 3,000) is pretty significant."

Kami Sisk had two impressive performances, as well. She finished second in the 55

hurdles at 8.41, and ended up fourth in the 55 at 7.42.

In the men's 55 hurdles, Ryan Clay crossed third at 8.24.

In the 800, Jason West came in second at 2:02.9, while

Idaho, though.

Long's day wasn't done, though. Although he had never even seen the device used in the 35-pound weight throw, let alone train with it, he entered the event and finished fourth with a toss of 49' and 3". Hodges joked that it was a school record (nobody has ever competed in the event for Clackamas).

In the women's 800, Heidi Babcock finished first at 2:34.7. West and Brian

Buckingham were second and fifth, respectively, in the men's 800.

In the mile, Keene set another personal record with a time of 4:26.4.

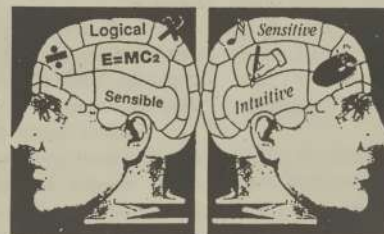
The Cougars next meet is the outdoor opener at Lewis and Clark.

"We're a little thin in some events, but strong in others," Hodges said. "We need to get some momentum going for the season."

Todd Robertson was fourth at 2:04.5.

Kris Long was the team's hero at the Idaho meet. He finished third in the shot put with a personal best effort of 49 feet, one-half inch. Prior to the meet, he never reached the 48-foot mark. He had four throws over 48 feet in

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