

Softball offense provides football-like scores

by Frank Jordan
The Print Staff

The Clackamas Cougar softball team opened up the 1994 season with its annual trip to the San Diego area and gained a split with two of the better teams in that region.

CCC opened with Grossmont College and proceeded to lose their opener by a score of 4-2. Grossmont took an early 1-0 lead in the second inning on a bloop single that scored a runner from third. The Cougars pulled ahead in the top of the sixth with a single by Danielle Fitzgerald, another single by Maja Wirkkala, an error that scored Fitzgerald and a booming liner by Becky Cordill that scored Wirkkala. But Grossmont came back with three runs of their own in the bottom of the sixth that gave them the victory.

"We thought that we played pretty well, considering

the very good pitcher that we were facing," stated Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "However, we had too many errors (four), and we told the girls this after the game. All in all, it was a good effort by the team to battle back in this one."

The final game of the trip was a see-saw affair with Mesa College of San Diego, and after all was said and done, Clackamas emerged with a 5-4 come-from-behind win.

The Cougars took an early lead in the second, but Mesa came back to tie in the bottom half of the inning. The whole game was the same way, as the Cougars would pull ahead, then Mesa would come back to tie. CCC took the lead for the final time in the top of the sixth, after Michelle Kolbo singled to left, then Korrine Wellin followed with a sacrifice, moving Kolbo to second. A groundout moved Kolbo to third, then Emily Routsom lined a shot to the second

base, who bobbled the line drive for an error, allowing Kolbo to score the game-winner.

"A real interesting game to watch, with the effort by both teams," said Fiskum. "Becky Cordill battled really hard on the mound, getting herself out of the first four innings and really shutting down Mesa in the late going. A real nice game by our ballclub."

The Cougars returned home to battle the elements, like they and all of the area teams do every spring in Oregon. But the team got in some batting practice last Saturday against Grays Harbor College, sweeping the doubleheader by routing the Chokers by scores of 25-0 and 17-0.

"Not really a whole lot to say about the afternoon on Saturday, except we did a good job hitting the ball against relatively easy pitching," commented Fiskum. "Hitting easy pitching is sometimes very difficult, but we

did a great job maintaining our concentration, no matter what the score was."

CCC burst out of the gate in the first game, plating 11 runs to open the scoring parade, and closed it out by scoring eight more runs in the fourth inning. Danielle Madigan and Routsom slammed home runs in the rout, while Wellin had 3 hits and 4 RBIs.

Becky Cordill went the distance on the mound, pitching a one-hitter to pick up her second win of the season and run her record to 2-0.

In the second game, the Cougars one-upped themselves by scoring 12 runs in the first inning in the 17-0 whitewash. Wirkkala capped a perfect day by going 3-3, making it 5-5 on the day; Strouhal went 2-2, with a triple, 3 runs scored and 4 RBIs. Brandi Kamrath went 2-2 with 4 runs scored and 2 RBIs and Routsom went 3-4 with 3 RBIs.

Jennifer Hinman threw a two-hitter to win her first game of the season and even her record at 1-1.

Kolbo, Strouhal, Madigan, Bridget Jones and Keri Gunderson are the top hitters after the first four games, with those five batting over .300. However, Wirkkala is leading the team at the plate, hitting at an .800 clip early on, going 12-15. Her bat "is absolutely on fire at this point on the season, and it has been a very pleasant surprise," said Coach Fiskum.

This Saturday's game against Pierce College, scheduled for here at Clackamas at 3 p.m., has been moved to Erv Lind Stadium in Portland at 5 p.m.

Tuesday's doubleheader with South Puget Sound CC will also be played at Erv Lind Stadium, with the first game beginning at 6 p.m.

Track & field success still going

by Paul Valencia
The Print Editorial Staff

In sports, teams have a tendency to play down to the level of their opponents. Good teams sometimes perform poorly when they are up against weaker competition. Fortunately for Head Coach Mike Hodges, his track & field teams didn't do that on Saturday.

The men's squad cruised to a huge victory, scoring 269 and one-half points. The second place team, North Idaho, managed 117 points.

The women blew their competition away, as well, scoring 202 points. Chemeketa finished second with 93.

"I was very pleased," Hodges said. "We didn't take the competition lightly. Everybody was getting after it."

"One good thing about this meet is that it showed that we are a deep team," Hodges continued. "Maybe that's one of our most important strengths this year. We have a lot of people who can score in a lot of different things."

Four in particular were just elected team captains. Kristie Preiskorn, Wendy Johnson, Kevin Bartholomae and Toby Anselmo each saw the victory line.

Preiskorn took first place in the triple jump with a personal record (PR) 34 feet, five inches. She also won the long jump with a PR of 16' 10". She qualified for the Northwest championships in both events. Preiskorn finished her day by winning the 1,600-meter relay.

Johnson earned a PR and cracked the top 10 all-time at Clackamas in the 3,000 with a time of 10 minutes, 36.7 seconds. She also earned a PR in her first-place finish in the 800 at 2:26.8.

Bartholomae won the men's 800 with a time of 1:58.1.

Anselmo ran a 22.9 200 for a PR and a first-place finish. He also won the 100 at 11.3. Anselmo was another three-time winner, being a member of the winning 400-meter relay team.

Hodges was pleased with his captains and their performances. "They followed up their election with true leadership in

competition on Saturday," he said.

With the amount of points scored, it is easy to believe that several Cougars, not just the captains, contributed to the victories. Mike Thompson was one of those. He earned a PR and was in the top-10 all-time at Clackamas with a 55.2 timing in the 400 hurdles.

"This was our easy beginning," Hodges said of the meet. "But we will be in a battle for the next four weeks."

This week, the team travels to Albany to take on several schools, including one of the league's favorite, Lane CC. Next week, the Cougars will perform in the Mt. Hood Relays. After that, there will be two meets in a row at Clark CC, another tough opponent for the Cougars.

"We're going to find out whether we're any good or not," Hodges explained.

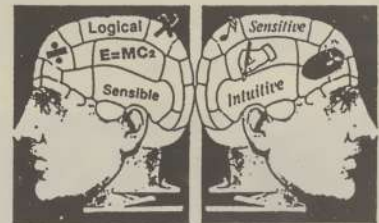
Track and Field note: So far this year, the men's team has qualified 27 spots in the Northwest Championship, while the women have secured 22 spots.



photo by Jason Hunter

The vacuum at first, Terry Phillips, prepares the field after a Mother Nature grand slam on Thursday, which left the Cougar baseball team in the rain. They will have to wait until Saturday to face off with Green River. Each team walked away with a win.

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