

Cougar Tracksters 'never say die' under pressure

by Jesse Sowa
The Print Staff

They went in as the underdogs and came away with the hardware. The Clackamas track and field teams went into the NWAACC Southern Regional Track & Field Championships trying to remain respectable and ended up with the regional titles and a "never say die" attitude.

The men won a close points race with Clark by a score of 198-182, followed by Lane (125), Mt. Hood (44), Chemeketa (31), Blue Mt. (21), Southwestern Oregon (20), Linn-Benton (19) and Umpqua (7). The women took a commanding lead on the first day of the two-day meet and were never challenged thereafter. They scored 167 points followed by Lane (132), Clark (114), Mt. Hood (85), Chemeketa (55), Blue Mt. (12), Umpqua (12), Linn-Benton (9) and Southwestern Oregon (1).

Head Coach Mike Hodges was most impressed the way his teams continued to compete at a peak level even when the other teams put on the pressure. "We were focused on getting the job done and we got it done. This was a total team effort."

Evan Vuksich had the biggest performance for the men, setting personal records in both the triple jump and long jump. Vuksich took second in the long jump (22'9") and first in the triple jump (46'7"). Kris Long once again won the shot put and the

hammer throw with tosses of 49'10-3/4" and 159'10". Craig Connors won the pole vault with a leap of 15'6".

Leo Sanders (9:30.8),

second with Thompson setting a personal record. Thompson beat Clay in the 400M Hurdles, taking second in a time of 55.25 while Clay took third in 55.72 seconds.

(15:46.68), Hickey (15:47.24), Kevin Bartholomae (15:49.55) and Brian Buckingham (15:57.92) took the third through seventh places in the 5000. The men's

Kami Sisk had another solid meet for the Cougars, taking second in the 100 meters, third in the 200, fourth in the 100 meter hurdles and a spot on the fourth-place 400 meter relay team. Skarberg came through big with third place in the discus (119'11") and a first-place in the shot put (37'11").

Vickie Robbins broke her own school record in the triple jump with a first-place leap of 37'0". She also took third in the long jump with a jump of 16'8". The distance races proved to be a strong area for the Clackamas women. Johnson won the 1500, Johnson and Keene took first and second in the 3000, Keene won the 5000, while Keene, Elizabeth Ribbeck and Annie Boitano swept the top three spots in the 10,000.

Five more spots were set for the both the men and the women for the NWAACC meet on May 26-27 at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, bringing the final total to 47 spots for the men and 37 for the women. As his teams prepare for the upcoming meet, Hodges believes that they will be just as focused as they were going into the meet this last weekend. Although there will be several other teams added to the mix for the conference title, Hodges still believes that his teams have as good a chance to win as any other school.



Kristie Preiskorn scores 27 points at the NWAACC Southern Regional Championships to lead the Cougars past Lane CC. Cindy Keene scores 28 and Wendy Johnson puts the icing on the cake with 26.

Mike Hickey (9:36.1) and Brent Roeger (9:52.3) grabbed second, third and fourth places in the 3,000 Meter Steeplechase for the Cougars. Ryan Clay (15.2) and Mike Thompson (15.3) took first and

Jason West (not Adam W.) placed second in the 800 in a time of 1:54.78.

Dave Island won the javelin with a throw of 207 feet. Jason Mottaz (15:33.98), Sanders

1600 meter run placed second in a time of 3:23.64.

The women were led by Cindy Keene, Kristie Preiskorn and Wendy Johnson, who scored 28, 27, and 26 points respectively.

The NBA's newest ring master, Dennis Rodman

by Jeff Adams
The Print Staff

During the past five years, the NBA has turned into a hero vs. villain act. Some of the heroes being, of course, Magic, Michael and Larry. The villains being primarily the Bad Boy teams of Detroit. The leader of the bad boys and most hated of the players was Bill Laimbeer, but now Laimbeer has gone the route of Magic, Michael and Larry. So who's to step up and take his place? Well this one is obvious; it is former teammate and current San Antonio Spur Dennis Rodman. People love him and people hate him, yet I am in the middle.

Rodman has won two world titles with the Pistons. He has been named defensive player of the year, and he has led the NBA in rebounding the last three years. Some people say he is the greatest rebounder of all-time. I don't know about that, but I will admit that Dennis Rodman is a "good" basketball player. If the man would just go out and play ball, and maybe put in some work in the off-season, he would become a "great" player. Like I said, I am in the middle of this whole Dennis Rodman mess. Half of me likes him and half of me doesn't. Half likes the tenacious rebounding, attitude and winner-take-all style of play. But then again, half of me does not like the cheap shots, tatoos, hair colors and total disrespect for the league.

Rodman never ceases to amaze me. During the regular season, Rodman led the league in technical fouls, ejections and fines.

His display during the Utah series was totally uncalled for. His flagrant forearms, undercut of Tom Chambers and deliberate tripping of John Stockton all go beyond the limit of aggressive play. Those are things that could injure someone or even end a player's career. Those actions resulted in a one-game suspension and a \$10,000 fine. His one-game suspension resulted in a 30-point Jazz blow-out in game three, which shows the importance of Rodman to the Spurs. But the man needs to know how far to push it. With all his technical fouls and ejections, he has almost hurt his team more than helped it.

During the regular season, NBA commissioner David Stern had a one-on-one meeting with Rodman. The meeting was basically shape-up or ship-out. This didn't seem to affect the worm. His play hasn't changed since the meeting. Maybe the NBA does need to kick Rodman out of the league. But for some reason, I don't feel that will affect Rodman either. He'd probably just go to Italy and play for \$10 million a year or something. Nobody really knows Dennis Rodman. And lets put it this way: he has more friends than enemies. I recently spoke with Houston Rockets player Earl Cureton, who used to play with Rodman. He said that he used to defend Dennis from his critics, but with all of Rodman's actions of late, Cureton doesn't even bother anymore. In a recent interview with Roy Firestone, Rodman talked of his divorce and the lack of time that he gets to

spend with his daughter, Alexis. He spoke of all of this while literally crying his eyes out. Now is this the same man who threatened to kick his coach's butt? Nobody really knows. Rodman has gone through four different hair colors this year, and has filled both his arms with tatoos. And now there are rumors that he is dating Madonna. When asked by a reporter about the Madonna situation, Rodman replied, "Do you want to know if we're sleeping together, or what?" Maybe being around Madonna explains all the hair changes. I'll give you one thing

Dennis, at least you have good taste in women.

When it comes right down to it, Rodman is just another act in David Stern's big circus that we call the NBA. But if Rodman

continues his reckless and abusive play, the NBA does need to kick him out. But that will never happen because Dennis Rodman sells tickets. Sorry sports fans, that is what the NBA is all about.

Cougar Calendar

Cougar Baseball
Thursday, May 19
Chemeketa CC
(Home) 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 21
League Playoff Game
Time & Site TBA

Thursday, May 26-
Monday, May 30
NWAACC Championship
Tournament

Cougar Softball
Friday, May 20-
Saturday, May 21
NWAACC Championship
Tournament
12 p.m. Yakima Valley CC
Yakima, WA

Cougar Track & Field
Practicing for
NWAACC Championships

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