

# SPORTS

## Cougar basketball comes out on top after nailbiter with Saints

by Jesse Sowa  
Sports Writer

The Clackamas Men's Basketball team got a much-needed win against the Mt. Hood Saints in Gresham on Jan. 4.

Despite recording only four assists in the game, the Cougars held off Mt. Hood in the league opener with excellent free throw shooting in the final minutes to win 86-82.

Kenny Walker came off the bench for the Cougars to score 17 points, including a perfect five of five at the free throw line. "Kenny Walker played as good as anybody out there," said Clackamas Head Coach Royce Kiser of his first-year guard.

Because Kiser had only nine players available for the game, including Ryan Valley who was ill, he was forced to use Walker and a few other players that haven't found themselves in a close game this year. Kiser credited Jeremy Armstrong for coming in late in the game and doing a fine job.

Kiser found that the Cougars' zone defense didn't work as well as it should have. The zone slowed down the Saints, but didn't stop them from getting open shots as Mt. Hood knocked down 5 of 11 shots from behind the three-point line.

Matt Stahl hit Aaron Pierson for a three-pointer to put Clackamas up 11-7 early in the game. The Saints kept the game close in the first half by getting the ball to their post men and forcing the Cougars' defense to sag toward the middle. This allowed the Mt.

Hood guards to get open outside shots.

Nate Williams got a steal and a basket to put Clackamas ahead 26-22 with 7:30 left in the half. The Saints pulled to within one before Stahl found Williams for a wide-open three-pointer and a 34-30 Clackamas lead. Walker hit a three with under a minute left in the half, to give the Cougars a slim 39-36 lead at the break.

The Saints came out firing in the second half as they scored seven points before Jay Lassen sank two free throws to get Clackamas within two at 43-41. The Cougars regained the lead on a long three by Brian Brutke to put Clackamas up 49-47 with 13:40 left in the game. A rebound and basket by Stahl with 8:25 remaining gave the Cougars their biggest lead at 63-58.

Mt. Hood then went on a 6-0 lead to go ahead by one before Williams hit Lassen for a lay-in and a 65-64 lead. Clackamas went on a scoring run of their own as they scored seven consecutive points, concluded by a 15-foot jumper by Stahl that just beat the 35-second clock to give the Cougars a 72-64 advantage.

After the Saints had closed to within three at 74-71, Brutke nailed a three from the corner to give Clackamas a big lead with 3:30 to go.

Mt. Hood began fouling in order to get possession of the ball. Williams hit four consecutive free throws to give them an 81-75 lead. A driving score by Mt. Hood's Ricardo Lopez and a steal and score by former Clackamas

High School star Phil Johnson pulled the Saints within two at 81-79 with 2:05 remaining.

Mt. Hood was unable to score on their next three possessions while Walker and Williams were able to knock down their free throws to put the Cougars up 85-79.

A three-pointer by the Saints' Kent Jones in the final seconds came a little too late to help Mt. Hood as Clackamas won going away.

The Cougars hit just 29 of their 59 shots while the Saints did little better with a 31 of 64 performance. But Clackamas beat the home team at the free throw line by hitting 26 of 33 as Mt. Hood hit just 15 of 28.

Williams led Clackamas with 23 points and three assists. He also added 10 of 13 free throws. Walker scored 17, while Stahl added 15 points and 10 boards.

On Jan. 7, the Cougars were beaten by a much-improved Lane Community College team that finished 18-7 last year but failed to make the NWAACC tournament. The host Titans defeated Clackamas 91-74 in Eugene after outscoring the Cougars 61-43 in the second half.

John Kromer led the home team with 20 points and five assists. Phil Phelps scored 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. For Clackamas, Nate Williams was only able to get up three field goals for six points, but he finished with a very respectable nine rebounds and six assists. Matt Stahl led the Cougars with 18 points while Ryan Valley added

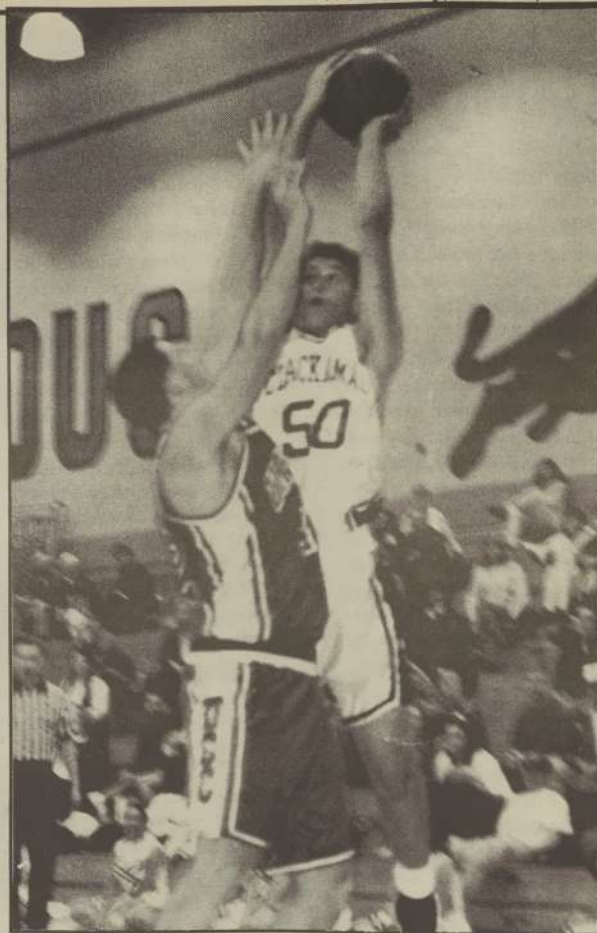


Photo by Chad Pattenon

Ryan Valley (#50) pulls up for a jump shot in the Cougars 111-78 victory over Umpqua Community College.

13 counters.

Even though the Cougars have been on a relatively successful run since the Christmas break, Kiser still sees aspects of his team's play that need to be improved. When he and assistant coaches finally get the players to do one thing consistently correct, it seems that

another part of their game falls apart.

With the improved play of the entire team, the Clackamas Cougars will find their road through the league schedule could just lead them back to the NWAACC tournament.

## !! ATTENTION !!

**AUTHORS NIGHT PRESENTATION  
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, AT 7P.M.  
IN CCC'S GREGORY FORUM.  
THREE RENOWNED WRITERS OF CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE- LINDA CREW, VIRGINIA EUWER  
WOLFF AND MIKE THALER WILL DISCUSS  
THEIR WORKS.**

## TRANSFERRING TO PSU ?

**COME AND GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
PSU MENTOR PROGRAM FOR RETURNING  
WOMEN STUDENTS & THE NANCY RYLES  
SCHOLARSHIP**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH  
12:30 - 2:00 PM  
CC127

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO.,  
CONTACT MARY ANN AT  
725-5471 OR 725-3510

**SELF-REIALIZATION**

"I REALLY DID IT LAST NIGHT, BARRY THOUGHT GOT DRUNK, ACTED STUPID AND WENT HOME WITH..."

"WHO IS THAT?"

"WHAT AM I STUPID? HOW DID I DO THIS? BARRY BEGAN TO WORRY, REALLY WORRY."

WHAT ABOUT AIDS?

THEN HE REMEMBERED, "HEY I'M JUST A CARTOON CHARACTER I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SHOWER."

**GET HIGH, GET STUPID  
GET AIDS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
**1-800-662-HELP**

NATIONAL MENTOR ON DRUG ABUSE / U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES