

Clackamas loses semifinal, takes third place from Chemeketa

by Jesse Sowa
Sports Writer

The Clackamas Community College Men's Basketball team fell just short of their goal of repeating as NWAACC champions last weekend as they brought home the third-place trophy.

The Cougars defeated regional foe Chemeketa CC 95-86 in the third-place game on Saturday after falling to eventual runner-up Everett CC by a score of 75-74 in the championship semifinals on Friday night. Clark beat Everett to take home the title.

Clackamas got by Eastern Division runner-up Big Bend in the first round by a 96-75 margin.

In the game against Chemeketa, Clackamas got off to a hot start as all five of the Cougars' starters scored within the first four minutes of the game as Clackamas built a 15-8 lead.

Jay Moore, Aaron Pearson and Nate Williams all hit from beyond the three-point line within a two-minute period as the Cougars extended the lead ten at 32-22 with eight minutes remaining in the half.

Chemeketa got back in the game just before the half as Clackamas missed some easy shots under the basket. The Chiefs made some big three-pointers in the last minute of the half to cut the Clackamas lead to 45-41 at the break.

The Cougars came out strong in the second half and built the lead to 14 at 65-51 as Moore completed a four-point play and Jay Lassen and Matt Stahl controlled the boards on both ends of the floor.

After a driving lay-in by Stahl that gave Clackamas a 70-57 advantage with 12:50 to go, the Cougars scored just seven points in the next nine minutes. Clackamas trailed 77-75 before Stahl hit two free throws with 3:56 remaining.

During the last minutes of the game, Clackamas was able to control the tempo of the game and get some easy looks at the basket.

Ryan Valley scored on a turnaround 10-footer with 50 seconds left for an 87-83 lead. Pearson then stole the ball on the next Chiefs possession and dished to Stahl who was fouled, but made two free throws to put the game out of reach.

Clackamas converted on 8 of 10 foul shots during the last minute as the Cougars defeated Chemeketa for the fourth consecutive time. Chemeketa was ranked #1 in the NWAACC Coaches Poll at the end of the season.

Moore led Clackamas with 25 points and 11 rebounds.

"It's tough to get up for a game like that when you just lost a one-point game, when you should be playing for the championship and you have to play for third," said second-year player Matt Stahl of the game against Chemeketa. "It doesn't feel as good as the championship, but third is better than nothing."

Clackamas opened tournament play on Thursday with an impressive 96-75 win over Big Bend CC.

The Cougars scored early and often against the Vikings. Clackamas led 21-11 after consecutive three-pointers by Pearson. Three lay-ins by Valley gave the Cougars a 31-18.

Clackamas led 40-33 at half-time and built on the lead from there.

Valley and Stahl provided the offense, while Jawanza Hadley came off the bench to provide a spark and help control the boards as the Cougars out-rebounded Big Bend 46-37.

Stahl scored seven quick points along with a 3-point play by Moore that put the game away at 86-64 with 3:40 remaining.

Brian Brutke and Jeremy Armstrong came off the bench in the late going to help mop up the win.

Stahl led the Cougars with 21 points and five assists, while Valley added 16 points and 8 rebounds. Pearson scored 12 points, all on 3-point shots.

The game against Everett CC on Friday proved to be frustrating for Clackamas.

The score remained close during the entire first half as neither team led by more than four.

Williams and Stahl connected on two three-pointers apiece and Pearson added another in the first twenty minutes as Clackamas led 37-33 at the break. Poor rebounding and bad shot selection led to Clackamas' inability to take and hold a sizable lead in the second half.

Leading 49-40 after long bombs by Williams and Moore, the Cougars were unable to hold off the Trojans who tied the game at 51-all with 10 minutes to go after Clackamas was slow to get back on defense several times down the floor.

Everett then took a small lead over the next seven minutes, controlling the tempo and making the Cougars force some bad shots.

With three minutes remaining, Clackamas stepped up on defense and took the lead at 72-70 on two free throws by Pearson with 1:40 to go.

Leading 73-72, the Trojans missed three free throws in a row during the last minute before Clackamas was called for an over-and-back violation. Clackamas fouled to gain possession and an Everett player missed the front end of a one-and-one.

Williams then scored on a 15-footer to give Clackamas a 74-73 advantage before Chad Baransky got free under the basket and scored with five seconds to go. Clackamas called timeout, but was unable to get off a good shot before the buzzer sounded.

Moore led Clackamas with 22 points and four assists, while Stahl added 12 points and six rebounds.

Moore was named to the All-Tournament team, along with Desi Szechenyi and Jason Creek of Everett, Gabe Matthews of Lower Columbia and Heath Biddix and tournament MVP Andre Galston of Clark.

Head Coach Royce Kiser believes the keys to the game were

Clackamas' inability to keep Everett off the offensive glass and to control the tempo of the game.

The Cougars finished with a 23-7 record. Under Coach Kiser during the last three years, Clackamas has brought home one NWAACC title and two third-place finishes.

Matt Stahl and Nate Williams were selected to the Southern Division first team, while Jay Moore made the second team.



Photo by Jesse Sowa

Matt Stahl (#44) gives Everett's Desi Szechenyi (#20) a lesson as he drives to the hoop in an Air Jordan manner. Stahl finished the semifinal game with 12 points and six rebounds.

CLASSIFIED ADS

➡ House to Share - Secluded home on 5 acres in the Estacada area. \$285 per month and 1/3 utilities. Call Julie at 630-3704.

➡ 1978 MG Midget Convertible - Fixer upper for collectors. \$1100 obo. Call Amy at 630-2832.

➡ Student Assistant Position: 4-H leadership club is looking for one temporary student assistant. Must be at least 18 years old and interested in working with teens age 13-17. Must be willing to make a 6 month commitment. Approximately 5 hours per week at \$5.00 per hour. For more information contact Patricia Welk at 655-8635.

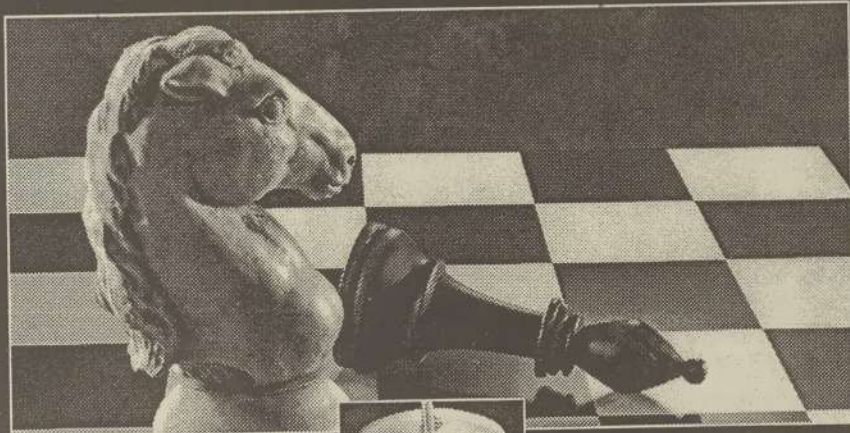
➡ Student who is willing to type reports for a reasonable rate. Will pick up drafts for a flat \$3 charge; subject to location. 1-5 pages - \$2 per page; 6-10 pages - \$1.75 per page. Call Daniel at (503)241-8908, leave message and number.

➡ For Sale! Portable Electric Typewriter, Mark V Smith Corona. \$40.00 Call 657-8233, after 2:30pm.

➡ Shotgun For Sale! Mossberg mdl. persuader, pistol-grip, 20 inch barrel, holds 7+1. Excellent Condition! Asking \$190.00 cash. Call 625-7522, ask for Eric.

Classified Ads Get Results!

THE SHARPEST MIND ADVANCES.



WHEN FACED WITH THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE, IT TAKES MORE THAN STRENGTH ALONE TO CONQUER SUCH ADVERSITY. IN A BATTLE OF WITS, IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE STRONGEST MIND WHO WINS. IF YOU WANT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MIND AND BODY, THERE IS A PLACE WHERE



THE MUSCLES ARE FORGED AND THE MIND SHARPENED. WHERE A PROUD FEW WITH THE ABILITY TO LEAD WILL RECEIVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM OF OVER 200 YEARS. TO CAPTURE YOUR POTENTIAL AND BECOME AN OFFICER OF MARINES, CALL 1-800-MARINES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MARINES CALL SSGT. CHRIS BROWN AT 653-9012.

Marines
THE FEW. THE PROUD. THE MARINES.