

Cougars go 2-2 with wins over Olympic, South Puget Sound

by Lora Wahrgren
Staff Writer

The Clackamas softball team split two doubleheaders on the road over the last week.

The Cougars won one game against South Puget Sound Community College and another against Olympic CC

On April 11 against South Puget Sound, Clackamas played well in the first game, but lost 2-1 in 10 innings. The Cougars won the second game, 3-2.

Brenda Ruppel pitched the first game, racking up 13 strikeouts. Ruppel also was two for four with a single and a double. Rachel Kidder was also two for four with two doubles.

Kidder is a strong hitter and batted second that day. Michelle Kolbo is also a strong hitter who batted clean up last year. South Puget Sound, considered one of the top three teams in the region, was led by a good pitching crew in the first game.

Both teams played well in the second game, not making many errors. The key offensive player

was Kolbo, who went two for three and had a total of four hits for the day.

With the score tied 2-2 in the sixth inning, Kolbo hit a triple down the left field line. With two outs, Alicia Scott hit an infield single and that allowed Kolbo to score the winning run.

Dawn Beard threw the second game, allowing only four base hits and two runs. She had eight strikeouts and only two walks. Every batter in the lineup got one hit, except for Kolbo, who had two.

On Saturday, Clackamas played against Olympic CC in Bremerton, Wash. The Cougars won the first game 4-3 with solid defense.

Beard was two for three with two singles and a stolen base. Kolbo had her third consecutive game with two hits and Wellen was two for three with two doubles hit to the outfield fence. Scott went two for three for a Clackamas total of 10 base hits with at least one hit in every inning but the second.

"Ruppel got the win," said Coach Paul Fiskum, with having held the visiting Rangers to four base hits, four strikeouts and one walk.

Clackamas won the second game behind strong pitching by Candee Stanley. Stanley had four strikeouts, no walks and only one run on three base hits. In addition, she went two for two with three RBI's on a single and a double. Kolbo had her fourth consecutive two for three game. She's totalled four hits in two league games. Brandy Kamrath was two for three with two singles and one RBI.

Even though the Clackamas softball season has had five doubleheaders rained out, they are still having a great time. Despite the unpredictable weather, their attitudes are high and they seem to be enthusiastic about continuing playing when they get the chance.

The Cougars' next game will be a 3 p.m. home game Thursday against rival Lower Columbia.



by Chad Patteson

The Clackamas baseball team took one of two games against Chemeketa last Saturday in a doubleheader.

Baseball splits with Chiefs

Brendon Neal
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 15, the Cougar baseball team split a doubleheader with Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

The Cougars won the first game, 8-1. Clackamas' Tyson Vermillion started the game off with a home run.

J.D. Bigalow had three runs and a couple of RBIs as well as four hits. The Cougars had 11 hits against two pitchers whom Clackamas head coach Robin Robinson said are really good.

Clackamas pitcher Jeremy Palki got his first start of the year and got a lot of praise from his coach. "Jeremy Palki pitched a ball game that we have been waiting for our pitchers to pitch," said Robinson.

The Cougars played decently in the second game, however, Robinson said they made two costly errors. Allan Coyle, who Robinson considers their pitching ace, was hit for six runs and eight hits.

Vermillion is the team's best hitter so far this year hitting near .480, while Steve Geiszler is in the .420 range.

Clackamas had a home game cancelled with Linn-Benton CC which will be made up at 1 p.m. Thursday.

"We had a really good prac-

tice week," Robinson said. "We got a lot of things accomplished. I think we made a tremendous amount of improvement."

He felt it showed in both games on Saturday in defense and swinging the bat.

"We are trying to get the players with some confidence," Robinson said. "Right now we just do not believe in ourselves."

"We have good enough talent to win. The guys do not believe in one and another, or in themselves." Robinson attributes this to the fact that they started the season against great teams, and fared o.k.

The Cougars so far have a league record of two wins and five losses and an overall record that is just under .500.

Robinson said two of the pitchers and two of the batters have not been playing as well as he had hoped. He said even though these players are only about 15 percent of the team, they are a large part of their play. He also feels they need the sophomores to step up and lead the team. However, over the past week the sophomores have improved their leadership.

Clackamas played Chemeketa on Tuesday and will take on Southwestern Oregon Community College on Saturday at 1 p.m.

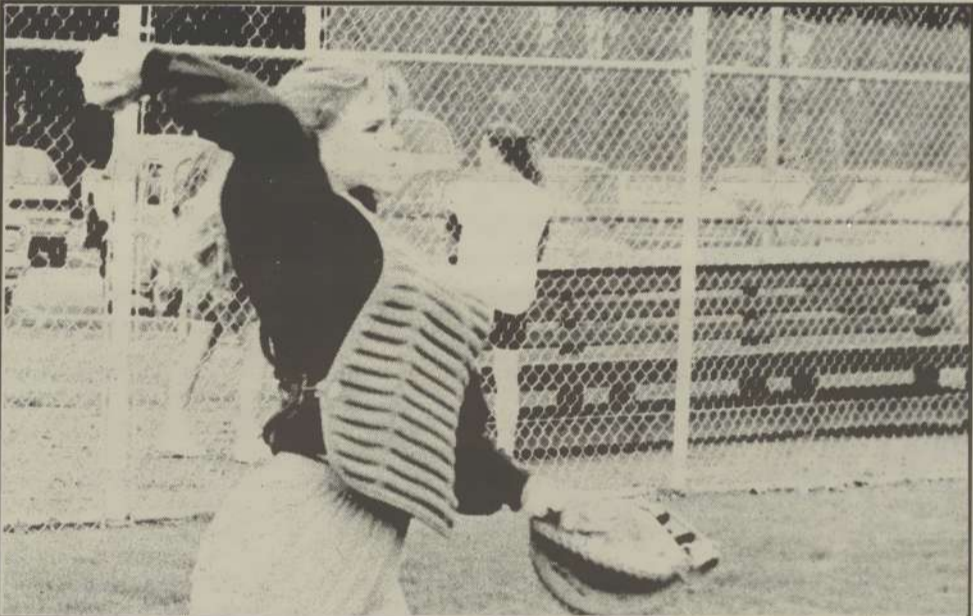
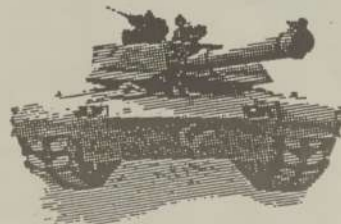


photo by Josh Kehler

The softball team won one game in each of the doubleheaders. Clackamas beat South Puget Sound Community College, 3-2, on April 11 and Olympic CC, 4-3 last Saturday.

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