

Softball takes division title, collects six wins in week



photo by Josh Kehler

The Cougar softball team claimed the Western Division title and a spot in the NWAACC Championship with a pair of wins over Southwestern Oregon last Saturday.

by Brendon Neal and
Lora Wahrgren, Staff Writers

The Clackamas softball team clinched the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Western Division title on Saturday with two wins in a doubleheader against Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC). The two victories left Clackamas with a 6-0 record over the last week.

Brenda Ruppel pitched a two-hit shutout in the first game as the Cougars won easily, 6-0. Clackamas had six runs on nine hits. Megan Thompson got two RBIs on two of three hitting while Rachel Kidder scored two runs, and also going two for three.

Clackamas won the second game of the doubleheader, 1-0. Candee Stanley threw a two-hit shutout, collecting six strikeouts and walking one. Maja Anne Wirkkla singled in the sixth inning and then stole second base. Wirkkla scored the only run of the game on a failed attempt to pick her off at second by the SWOCC catcher. The catcher overthrew second base and the center fielder fumbled the ball, allowing Wirkkla to score.

On May 10, the Cougars took both games against Lower Columbia College in a doubleheader at Longview, winning the first game, 2-0, and the second game, 6-4. Ruppel pitched a two-hit shutout against a Lower Columbia team that is considered to be

one of the best hitting teams in the league. Dawn Beard hit an RBI triple in the second inning, scoring Brandi Kamrath.

Beard started the second game on the mound and got an RBI in the second inning. Ruppel hit a double with the bases loaded in the sixth inning, scoring three. Ruppel finished the game for Beard and picked up the win. "That was the most exciting game of the year," said Head Coach Paul Fiskum.

On May 9, Clackamas beat third place South Puget Sound at home, 5-2 and 6-4, in a doubleheader.

Danielle Madigan got the first home run of the year in the first game. Ruppel got two RBIs on 2-3 hitting and Beard picked up the win on the mound.

The Cougars came back from a slow start in the second game and scored five runs in the sixth inning for the win. Ruppel picked up the win for Clackamas with a strong performance. Madigan knocked in two runs to give the Cougars the lead for good.

"We just need to work hard and do well and we will earn it (the title)," Kidder said.

"We're excited," Wirkkla added. "It's going to be a lot of fun. We should do really well considering our standing."

Clackamas will play for the NWAACC championship this Friday and Saturday at Erv Lind Park in Portland.

Woods takes pride in Clackamas

by Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

Clackamas instructor Kathie Woods finds herself involved in many activities here at the college.

Woods has been at CCC for 12 years and has taught a variety of classes such as volleyball, racquetball, swimming, softball, field experience, tennis and first aid.

Woods, who is also the head volleyball coach and advisor of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and the racquetball club here at Clackamas, finds pleasure in being involved with the students at the college.

"I really enjoy the students, and getting to know the students," Woods also likes the helpful staff and seeing the students return after each year.

Woods likes the fact that during each term she teaches different classes and gets the chance to meet different students. As volleyball coach at Clackamas, Woods finds it hard to let go of friendships that are developed with athletes after their two years at the college.

Woods always has had a goal of being number one in league in volleyball, but she knows that she has always been able to field a very competitive team on the court.

As far as recruiting athletes into the volleyball program, Woods finds this a tough part of her job.

Woods finds a player that she

would like to have and makes an offer to that athlete and then lets the athlete decide from there.

"Recruiting is a challenge for me," Woods said. "I'm not the kind that goes out and over-commits on the recruiting. I think Clackamas sells itself."

Woods not only looks for a good athlete, but also a quality person. "What we're looking for when we do recruit are top quality people as well as volleyball players," Woods feels her team can be number one with a mixture of both.

Woods mentioned that next year's team will include three top-quality high school graduates along with three starters returning from this year's group.

Woods' involvement in the racquetball club goes beyond just being an advisor. She stays involved in the physical aspect of the club by playing in the various competitions that take place during the school year. Woods has played racquetball for 15 years and has been very competitive in the sport for the last ten years.

She worked her way up several years ago and competed on the Oregon state team.

Woods enjoys the fact that she can play the part as both a coach and a participant in the same sport at the same time. Although, she is disappointed that she can't commit to being involved in racquetball as much as she used to because of her volleyball commitment.

Woods says the club was activated three or four years ago. "It (attendance) goes in peaks and valleys," Woods said. "But right now we're going strong."

The club has between 12 and 15 active members, but has had up to 25 members show up at different times during the year. Woods says the club has a very competitive atmosphere, but is also social.

Woods depends on the club president (Michael Weigel) and vice president (Casie Ireland) to play leadership roles in the club and helping her with the small duties that help the club run smoothly. Although, she wishes there was more time and space to accommodate the students' needs.

Woods finds time in her busy schedule to stay involved in the FCA, a group that is very important to Woods and the student-athletes involved.

"The FCA is a place for Christians to come in fellowship and it's also an opportunity for Christians to witness their faith," Woods said. She also mentioned that it's a place to invite others to so they can also share their faith.

"There's no doubt that from the feedback that we get, that FCA is a positive thing here on campus," Woods says that the club members use their faith to help them become better athletes.

Woods strongest message was evident when speaking of her involvement at Clackamas: "I'm proud to be here."



photo by Josh Kehler

Clackamas volleyball coach Kathie Woods has been an instructor at the college for 12 years. Woods is advisor for the Racquetball Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.