

# Softball takes NWAACC title with two wins over Lower Columbia after strong defensive stand

by Jesse Sowa, Sports Editor  
and Brendon Neal, Staff  
Writer

The Clackamas softball team defeated Lower Columbia College in two consecutive games last Saturday to win the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship.

The Cougars were forced to play 34 innings in the double elimination format on Saturday due to losing to Lower Columbia in the semifinals, which pushed them into the consolation bracket. Clackamas then had to beat Spokane in order to return to the championship bracket.

Cougar pitcher Dawn Beard collected three wins on the mound for the Cougars and was named the Most Valuable Player for the tournament.

"A totally tough, gutsy performance," said Clackamas Head Coach Paul Fiskum of Beard's play in the two-day tournament. "Believe it or not, she was ready to throw some more."

Clackamas players on the all-tournament team included third baseman Danielle Madigan, first baseman Korrine Wellin, center fielder Rachel Kidder, and pitcher/outfielder Brenda Ruppel.

Fiskum was named NWAACC Coach of the Year, but

he would rather give the credit to assistant coaches Bob Rapp and Denise Nasuta.

Fiskum gave credit for the title to the team defense that Clackamas showed, especially in the final two games.

Clackamas defeated Lower Columbia, 2-1, in the final championship game to take the tournament title for the fourth time in the last five years and the fifth time in the last seven years.

Cougar catcher Michelle Kolbo knocked in Kidder in the third inning to score the first run in the final game. The Red Devils tied the game at 1-1 in the sixth, but the Cougars came back in the bottom of the seventh and scored the winning run on an error by Lower Columbia third baseman Angie Coleman on a failed pick-off play with two outs.

"The girls never lost faith that they could come back and win the thing," Fiskum said, pointing to the fact that the three league losses the Cougars had this year were in the first game of doubleheaders. He mentioned that after every loss, Clackamas would come back and play much better than they had before.

Fiskum said this year's team had the best overall attitude and leadership of any team he has had. He believed that the close games during the regular season helped

them in the tournament.

In the first championship game, both teams were held scoreless for 11 innings before Clackamas exploded for seven runs on seven hits in the top of the twelfth to win 7-0.

Five consecutive hits by right fielder Alicia Scott, second baseman Maja Wirkkila, Kidder, shortstop Holly Lorenz and Kolbo scored four runs to put the game out of reach for the Red Devils. Wellin hit two doubles and two runs batted in in the twelfth.

In the 2-1 consolation win against Spokane, Lorenz singled and knocked in Wirkkila in the first inning and Beard scored Kidder with another single as the Cougars scored their only runs of the game. The Sasquatch got their single run on a score by pitcher Julie Fountain.

Against Lower Columbia in the semifinals, Ruppel gave up only one run on six hits, but the Cougars' bats went cold and Clackamas lost, 1-0.

Clackamas defeated Edmonds CC in the quarterfinals, 4-0. Ruppel picked up the win on the mound in leading the Cougars to victory. Clackamas scored four runs in the second inning that led to a 7-1 win over Skagit Valley CC. Beard gave up the only Cardinals run on a walk in the fourth inning.

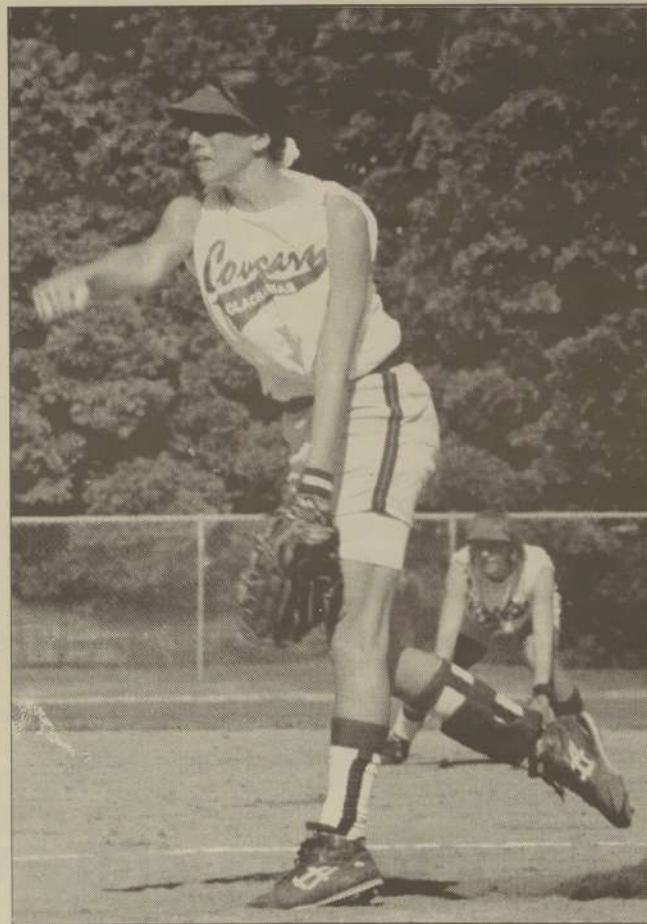


photo by Chad Pattersen

Clackamas pitcher Brenda Ruppel throws in the NWAACC quarterfinal game against Lower Columbia College last Saturday. The Cougars lost the game, but went on to win the regional title with two consecutive wins over LCC.

## Cougars ready to battle at final meet

by Jesse Sowa  
Sports Editor

Clackamas Track and Field Coach Mike Hodges expects some great individual performances by his teams this week at the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Meet at Spokane Falls CC.

Hodges is uncertain though of the team placing at the meet this Thursday and Friday. Hodges believes that both the men and the women can finish as high as third, but he knows that those placings will be tough to accomplish.

The Cougars will be led in the distances by both the men's and women's teams. The men should also get quality scoring from their field event competitors, while the women will try to rely on their relay teams.

Individual winners for Clackamas could include men's team members Leo Sanders (1500 meters), Craig Connors (pole vault), Corey Brizendine (javelin), Mike Thompson (400 hurdles, 400- and 1600-meter relays) and Brent Roeger (3000 steeplechase).

Sanders will also compete at 800 meters and the 1600-meter relay. Mike Thompson will also take part in the 110-meter high hurdles and Roeger in the 5000.

Other men's competitors will be Ryan Burck, Dean Rowell and Randy Voight (5000

and 10,000 meters), Brian Clement, Carl Crowe, Bill Hurford, and David Privratsky (pole vault), Scott Bills (1500 meters), Jon Cox (3000-meter steeplechase, 5000), Jon Gotchall (3000 steeplechase), Jim Hagemann (javelin), Will Haskins (1500, 5000), Jamie Jansen (triple jump, both relays), Jim Miller (shot, discus, hammer), Quinton Moffitt (triple jump, alternate for both relays), Les Pudwill (1600-meter relay) and Quinton Robinson (200, 400, both relays).

Women's champions could include Wendy Johnson and Rebecca Graham (3000 and 5000), Jaime Fairchild (5000 and 10,000) Annie Boitano (10,000) and Marea Crowe (400). Johnson will also compete at 1500 meters and Crowe in both relays.

Other women's competitors will include Casey Easlick and Misty Forgey (high jump), April Lohrey (400, 1600-meter relay), Kami Sisk (100, 100 hurdles, both relays), Kathy Shuey (400 meter, both relays), Christie Wells (400-meter relay) and Becky White (1500, 3000 meters).

Hodges expects the men's relay teams to be in the top five and the women's teams in the top three. Spokane CC and Highline CC will be tough men's teams and strong women's teams will be Bellevue CC and Spokane CC, along with the top teams from the regionals.

## Baseball makes first trip to regional tourney in Clackamas CC history

Brendon Neal  
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College Baseball team will compete in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Tournament for the first time in school history.

The Cougars will travel to Walla Walla, Washington, where they will face either Lower Columbia College or Green River CC in a first round game on Thursday. The tournament runs through Sunday.

Since May 6, the Cougars have moved from fifth place to second place and an NWAACC birth. The change started with two wins May 6 in a doubleheader against Linn-Benton Community College. CCC won by scores of 11-5 and 7-3.

The First Annual Jump-Set Volleyball Classic will be held on June 3-4. The tournament is open to all ages and awards will be given to the top teams.

The men's and women's matches will be played on June 3 and the 4-man Co-ed matches will take place on June 4. Reverse co-ed rules will be used in which the men must hit from behind the 10-foot line.

Cost for one day is \$15 and \$25 for both days. All proceeds go to the CCC volleyball program. Entry forms are available from Kathie Woods in room R003. For more information, contact Woods at ext. 2418.

The next day, the Cougars split a doubleheader with Linn Benton, winning the first game 4-3, but losing the second game, 8-6, in extra innings.

On May 13, Clackamas played Chemeketa CC in another doubleheader. Cougar pitcher Jeremy Palki threw the first game and got the victory, but Clackamas lost the second game 3-0.

Clackamas played a 10 inning contest against Lane CC on May 16, with the Cougars scoring two runs in the 10th to grab the 9-7 win.

Clackamas beat league champion Mount Hood on May 17 by a score of 15-10.

Last Thursday, the Cougars wrapped up second place in the standings in the Southern Division with a 10-1 win over Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC), a win that guar-

anteed the Cougars a tournament birth.

Clackamas pitcher Jeremy Palki finished the regular season with six wins and one loss. Allan Coyle pitched his way to six wins and three losses with three saves.

Outfielder Tyson Vermillion finished the year with a .463 batting average and stole 30 bases. Steve Guiszler, center fielder, finished at .378. Jason Mann, third baseman, and Brian Itami, first baseman, finished at .307 and .308, respectively. Justin Henderson, second baseman, finished with a .327 average.

For more information about times of the tournament games and directions, contact Head Baseball coach Robin Robinson in room R002 or at ext. 2589. Info can also be attained from the Clackamas Athletic Department office at ext. 2291.

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