

Volleyball drops match to Mt. Hood, falls into first-place tie

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Staff Writer

The Cougars Volleyball Team fell hard last Wednesday in their quest to remain the top team in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Southern Division.

The Cougars lost in three consecutive games to the Mt. Hood Saints, conceding the Oct. 11th match 15-8, 15-9 and 15-9 to the Saints. Mt. Hood set the tempo early in the match by winning the first game 15-8.

"The loss will pull us together more and we will become stable from this," said sophomore middle hitter Jenn Walters.

With Mt. Hood leading 11-7 in the second game, the Cougars scored two points to bring them within range of tying the match. But Mt. Hood pulled away with four unanswered points to win the game, 15-9.

Faced with a shutout, the Cougars took an 8-5 lead in the third match with two service aces by defensive specialist Christine Younglove. But once again, the Cougars' offense shut down in crunch time and Mt. Hood went on to win the final game, 15-9.

The Cougars got off to a slow start against Mt. Hood, but were

able to stay in the match with big saves by the defense. Each game could have gone either way.

"This loss is going to bring us back to reality, Mt. Hood is a very good team and we are beatable. But, we're as good as they are," said Clackamas coach Kathie Woods.

"My main concern is league play," Woods said. "We are on the road every other game, but it should be a challenge."

The Cougars participated in the Spokane Crossover Tournament last Friday and Saturday in Spokane, WA. The Cougars placed third in the tournament, winning five of seven matches. But like strange *deja vu*, Clackamas lost to Mt. Hood again and Spokane, who went on to place second and first, respectively.

The Cougars are now in a first-place tie with Mt. Hood, sporting a league record of 6-1, and an overall record of 34-4.

The Cougars next matches will be tonight at Lane Community College in Eugene and Friday night at Umpqua CC in Roseburg. Both matches begin at 7 p.m. Clackamas will travel to Southwestern Oregon CC in Coos Bay on Saturday for a 3 p.m. league match.



photo by Josh Kehler
Clackamas' Melanie Sharp smashes the ball over a pair of Mt. Hood blockers. The Cougars lost the Oct. 11 home match to the Saints, which dropped Clackamas into a first-place tie with Mt. Hood in the Southern Region with a 6-1 league record.

Men's cross country loses number one runner due to illness, hangs on for seventh at PLU meet



photo by Josh Kehler

The men's cross country team suffered through the loss of their number one runner, Travis Armstrong, due to illness, but came away with seventh place at the Pacific Lutheran Invitational on Saturday. The women's team placed eighth behind gutsy performances by Jaime Fairchild, Jenny Newell and Mishe Simantel.

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Pacific Lutheran Invitational in Tacoma on Saturday turned out to be a different experience than Clackamas cross country coach Mike Hodges had expected.

The Cougars were without Travis Armstrong, the number one runner on the men's team, because of illness and the women's team turned in a performance that wasn't up to par for this point in the season, according to Hodges.

The Clackamas men finished seventh in a field of 17 teams. Armstrong was unable to compete when he developed monocleosis, also known as mono. Armstrong's availability for the Southern Regional meet on October 28 at Pier Park in Portland is not probable. Hodges believes that the men would have moved up one or two spots with the addition of Armstrong.

Ryan Burck finished first for the Cougars with a 28th-place finish in 27 minutes, 26 seconds. Jon Cox was 31st in 27:31, followed by Dean Rowell in 39th (27:45). "He's continuing to make the improvement that we expected from him," Hodges said of Rowell.

Evan Goin was 56th for Clackamas in 28:10, with Juan Sanchez in 64th (28:28) and Scott Bills in 90th (29:21).

"I felt like we were a little tentative in the beginning and people came on at the end, but they've got to be a little more aggressive," Hodges said of the men's team. "Unfortunately, we were a little further back in the pack than we would like to be."

The men finished the regular season with a record of 34 wins and eight losses against community colleges and small four-year schools.

The Clackamas women placed eighth overall in a field of 17 teams led by standout Jaime Fairchild, who took 12th in 19:23. Fairchild's time was a 22-second improvement over last year on the same course. She also improved her placing by nine spots.

Jenny Newell was next for the Cougars with 32nd in 20:26, trailed by Heather Peterson in 53rd (21:04), Becky White in 68th (21:49), Shannon Henley in 75th (22:07) and Misha Simantel in 77th (22:15).

"We just got spread too far apart," Hodges said of the women's placings. "I felt like Jaime and Jenny ran particularly well, and Misha did too. The others were a little bit down compared to what we've done recently."

Clackamas will take this week off before competing in the regional meet in two weeks.

Hodges expects the women to qualify for the NWAACC meet on November 11 in Eugene with a top two finish at the regional meet.

The men's finish is still up in the air with Armstrong's availability still uncertain. The men could be in contention for the regional title if Armstrong competes.

The men's team hopes to defend the NWAACC title, which it has won for four years in a row.

The co-ed title could also be on the line at the NWAACC meet, which Clackamas has won for six straight years.