

Volleyball ready to take shot at regional title

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College Volleyball team survived a tough week of competition despite the loss of a starter in its starting lineup.

Clackamas was without starting setter Katie Holdorf last week due to illness. But, through this adversity, they were able to remain strong and continue to win.

The Cougars are now within grasp of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Southern Division title. Mt. Hood CC, who is currently one-half game behind the Cougars for first place in the NWAACC Southern Division, must defeat Linn-Benton CC tonight in Gresham to tie Clackamas for first place. A tie would force a one-match tiebreaker match at Chemeketa CC in Salem this Friday at 7 p.m.

Should Mt. Hood lose tonight or if the Cougars win Friday's match, Clackamas would win the Southern Division title and begin NWAACC tournament play at Mt. Hood CC on Friday, Nov. 16

at 11:30 a.m. against the winner of the match between the West Division's #2 team and the East's #3. If Clackamas loses this Friday, they will play on Nov. 16 at 4:30 p.m. in Gresham against the North Division's #3 team.

The Cougars played without Holdorf at the Shoreline Cross-over in Seattle on Friday and Saturday, but still came away with the consolation trophy.

"Stacy Iverson, Denise Haselwood, and Jennifer Walters filled in for Katie," said Clackamas Coach Kathie Woods.

Iverson, a freshman all-around player and a Tualatin High School graduate, was named Cougar player of the week.

"Stacy Iverson was outstanding and gave us a real jump. She's developed into a really good backup," said Cougars' Assistant Coach Brad Swayne. "She's an all-around player. We never thought of her as just a setter."

The Cougars continued their success in Southern Division play as Clackamas soundly defeated Chemeketa CC in Salem on Nov. 1. The Cougars won the match in

straight sets, 15-12, 15-8 and 15-9. Melanie Sharp led the team with 19 kills. Casie Ireland served three aces and Misti-Kae Filley had 12 digs.

Clackamas started the Shoreline tournament successfully on Friday, defeating Shoreline CC and Everett CC. The Cougars beat Shoreline 15-7, 15-4, and Everett 15-7, 15-7.

The Cougars then fell out of the championship bracket after losing to Mt. Hood and Columbia Basin CC. Mt. Hood defeated Clackamas 15-10, and 8-15, while Columbia Basin got by the Cougars, 15-12, 15-10.

Clackamas defeated Clark CC in straight scores, 15-8, 15-8 and got by Shoreline CC, 15-9, 15-8, to win the Shoreline consolation trophy.

Sharp, a sophomore all-around player, was selected to the all-tournament team. Ireland had 15 aces for the tournament.

"The team is excited we're going to the NWAACC championships as underdogs," Ireland said. "There is no doubt we are going to Disneyland!"

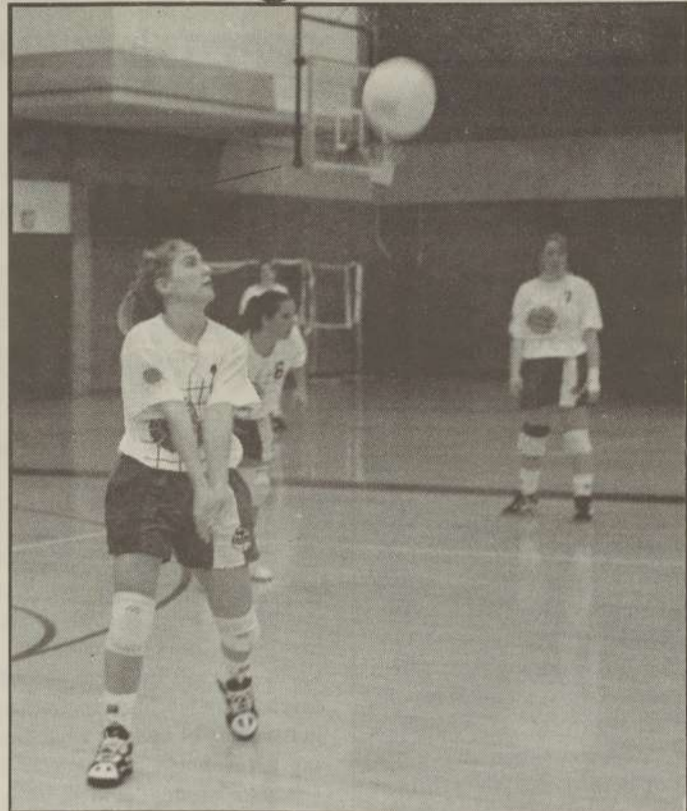


photo by Lora Whargren

The Clackamas volleyball squad readies for a probable tiebreaker match against Mt. Hood CC on Friday at Chemeketa CC in Salem.

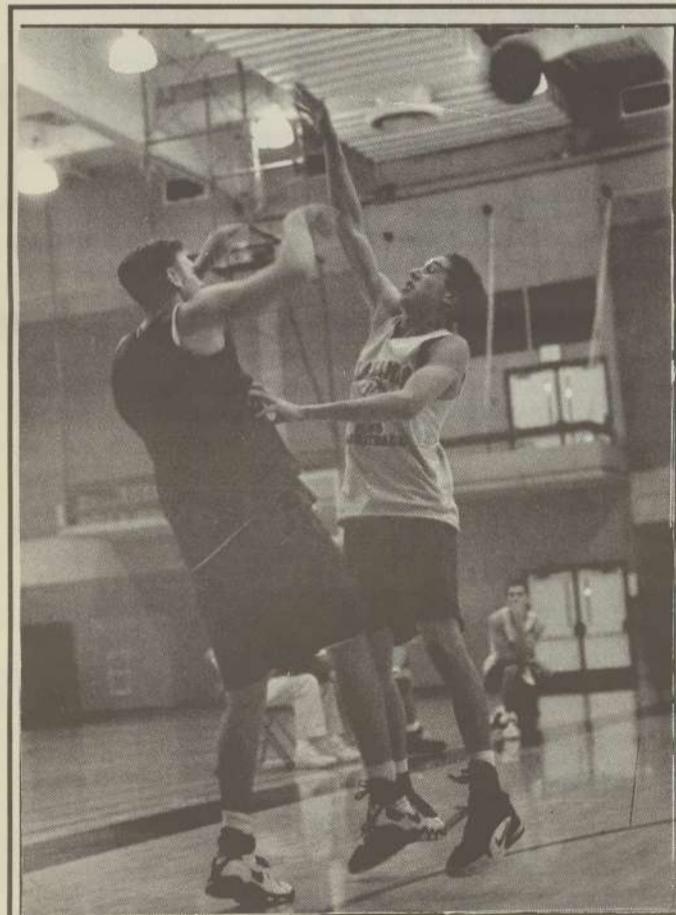


photo by Josh Kehler

The Clackamas men's basketball team prepares for another strong season. Last year, the Cougars took third in the Northwest after winning the title in 1994.

Cross country teams prepare for big challenge at Northwest meet

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Community College cross country teams are preparing for the final and biggest meet of the year with confidence and a competitive spirit.

The Cougars have reached their peak near the end of the season and will test their strengths at the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Cross Country Championships on Saturday at Lane Community College in Eugene.

"I feel like we've peaked at the right time," said Clackamas coach Mike Hodges. "Our athletes are very competitive."

Clackamas had a good stretch of preparation last week as the teams worked hard to put in their best performance at the Northwest meet. "We had some good results," Hodges said.

Hodges believes that his teams have a "sense of confidence" going into the most important races of the year.

The Clackamas men's team will go into the meet as the darkhorse behind favorite Clark College. Clark narrowly defeated the Cougars at the regional meet, 33-51, at Pier Park in Portland on October 28. Clackamas hopes to close the gap on Clark and defend the Cougars' Northwest title.

"We really want to see if we can repeat as champions," Hodges said.

Clackamas will likely be without their number-one runner, Travis Armstrong, who is still out of action due to a light case of mononucleosis, or mono. "Armstrong is doubtful, but other than that, we're in reasonably good health," Hodges said.

With Armstrong out, Ryan Burck should once again lead the Cougars, as he did at the regional meet with a second-place finish.

Clackamas and Lane CC will be among the teams challenging for the team title.

In the women's race, the Cougars will also be in the race for the team title, but will be chas-

ing the favorite, Mt. Hood CC., Lane CC and Clark will also be in the running for a trophy.

"Our goal is to be in the top three and bring home a trophy for the ninth time in 10 years," Hodges said. Clackamas will try to claim the co-ed trophy for the seventh year in a row. The trophy is given to the school with the best overall performance at the meet.

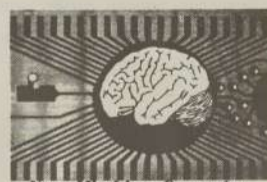
The Cougars' Jenny Newell is still recovering from a stress fracture in her foot, but will compete. Newell ran strong for Clackamas at the regional meet, finishing 13th overall.

Hodges believes that Clackamas should be well prepared for the meet. The team made a trip to Eugene in late September after a meet in Salem to run at Lane CC. Some of the team members also travelled to Eugene on Saturday to run on the course after Oregon state high school meet.

The meet begins on Saturday at 11 a.m. with the women's race, followed by the men's race at 11:45.




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