

Volleyball takes fourth at NWAACC Tournament

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Community College Volleyball team set a goal for themselves going into the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championships and accomplished that task.

The Cougars wanted to finish in the top four at the Mount Hood Community College-hosted regional tournament November 16-18 and they did just that with a fourth-place trophy.

"We felt we could win," said Clackamas Head Coach Kathie Woods.

The tournament was in double-elimination format, meaning a team must be defeated twice to be eliminated from play.

Clackamas finished their season on a down note with a loss to Mt. Hood, ending the Cougars hopes of a Northwest title. The Saints beat Clackamas in a three-game match, 7-15, 15-7, 15-3.

The Cougars played strong throughout the match and stunned the Southern Region champions by taking the first set. With Casie Ireland serving the first ball, Clackamas took a quick 3-0 lead on a service ace and two hitting errors by Mt. Hood.

The Cougars led 11-2, but the Saints climbed back into the game with five consecutive points.

Clackamas retained side out and a chance to win the game. Three hitting errors by Mt. Hood and a huge kill by Melanie Sharp giving the Cougars the game.

The Saints came out hard in the second game and Clackamas never seemed to get on track. Mt. Hood scored the first four points, but Clackamas tied the score on two blocks by Sharp.

The Saints pulled away on some mental mistakes by the Cougars and won the game going

away, 15-7.

Clackamas went up 2-0 in the third and decisive game on a kill by Sharp and a hitting error by Mt. Hood. The Saints then scored six of the next seven points to take a 6-3 lead.

Trailing 10-5 with setter Katie Holdorf serving, Clackamas scored five in a row, including a block and kill by Sharp. The game was again tied at 13, but Mt. Hood took the game and match on a service ace and a shot out of bounds by the Cougars.

Sharp led the Cougars with 13 kills followed by Misti-Kae Filley (11) and Jenn Walters (9). Katie Holdorf had 32 assists while Jenn Walters and Sharp had 3 blocks apiece. Ireland led Clackamas with 23 digs.

Clackamas began tournament play with consecutive wins against Walla Walla CC and Highline CC. Clackamas beat the Warriors of Walla Walla in four games 15-3, 11-15, 17-15 and 15-0.

Against the Warriors, Ireland had 13 kills and 15 digs, Holdorf totalled 49 assists and Walters got 9 blocks.

The Cougars then defeated co-North Region champ Highline on Nov. 10 in three straight games. Clackamas took the match against the Thunderbirds 16-14, 15-9 and 15-10. Sharp led the Cougars in kills with 22. Holdorf had 41 assists, Sharp 23 digs and Walters 5 blocks.

Clackamas fell to the eventual runner-up and co-East Region champ Spokane CC in the semifinals. The Cougars won the first game, 15-12, but Spokane won the next three and the match.

Filley was the catalyst for Clackamas in the first game with two kills and one tip for scores. Filley also got the side out for the

Cougars with a kill to set up the final point, a short-set kill by Walters, the Cougars middle blocker.

The Sasquatch pounded Clackamas in the second game in winning 15-4. Spokane controlled the entire game except for a small stretch where the Cougars scored three consecutive points on Spokane hitting errors.

The third game was much of the same with Spokane scoring the first nine points and later taking a 14-4 lead before Clackamas scored five straight points on three Sharp kills and two shots by Spokane out of bounds. The Sasquatch then closed out the game at 15-9.

The Cougars were never able to get anything going in the fourth game and were totally dominated at the net. Spokane took control from the beginning and defeated Clackamas, 15-7. Another late run by the Cougars came up short as they fell to Spokane.

Against Spokane, Sharp had 22 kills and 28 digs, Holdorf got 44 assists and Walters 4 blocks.

Clackamas then moved to the consolation bracket where they defeated West Region champ Green River in a best-of-three match on Nov. 18 to set up their match with Mt. Hood.

The Cougars lost the first game against the Gators, 4-15, but came back to win the next two, 15-8 and 15-3, to take the match. Sharp had 17 kills to lead Clackamas. Holdorf had 24 blocks, Ireland had 14 digs and Walters 3 blocks.

For the tournament, Sharp led the Cougars in kills with 94, followed by Walters (53) and Ireland (50). Holdorf had 190 assists. Sharp also led Clackamas in digs with 109, trailed by Ireland (84) and Holdorf (78). Walters had 24

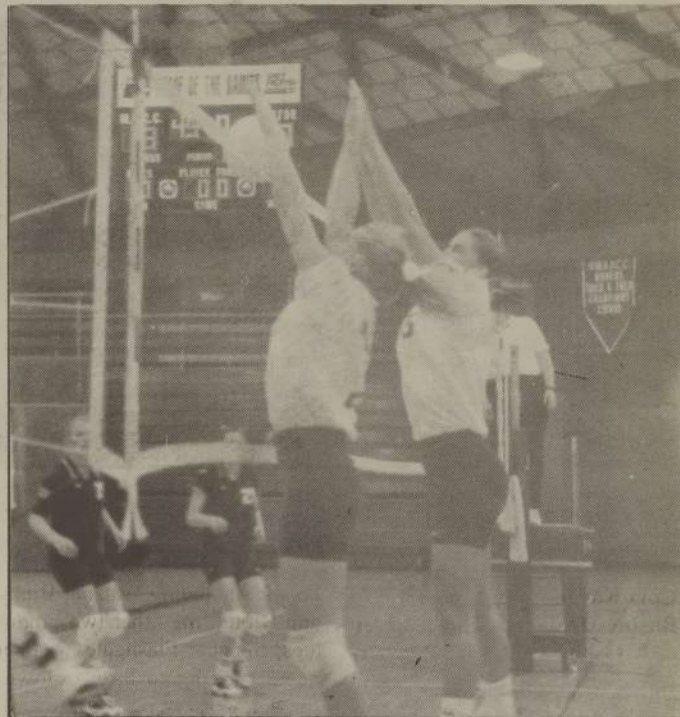


photo by Jon Roberts

Casie Ireland and Misti-Kae Filley attempt to block a kill against Spokane CC in the NWAACC semifinal match. Clackamas went on to take fourth in the Northwest.

blocks and Sharp 9.

Sharp was named to the All-American Second Team for community colleges nationwide earlier this week. She was also a unanimous pick for the Southern Region First Team.

Sharp, Walters and Ireland were selected as Northwest All-Stars and will participate in the NWAACC All-Star Competition at Clackamas on Dec. 2. Woods was named the Southern Region Coach of the Year.

Despite ending their breakthrough season with a loss, Clackamas looked at the positives in the tournament.

"We're definitely satisfied with the way we finished (fourth)," said Ireland. "Our primary goal was to play good. We

played tough. So finishing there just proves how good we are."

"It feels like we're number one," Woods said of the team's first trophy since started at Clackamas 12 years ago.

The Cougars played each of the number one seeds from each of the regions and played well against all of them. "They are all top teams," Woods said. "We played them all tough. We showed heart, determination and desire." "I couldn't ask for more," Woods said. "All I wanted from those guys was to play 100 percent."

The Clackamas Volleyball Program will hold its annual awards banquet tonight at Gregory Forum at 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$6 at the door.

Practice makes perfect for Clackamas Wrestling

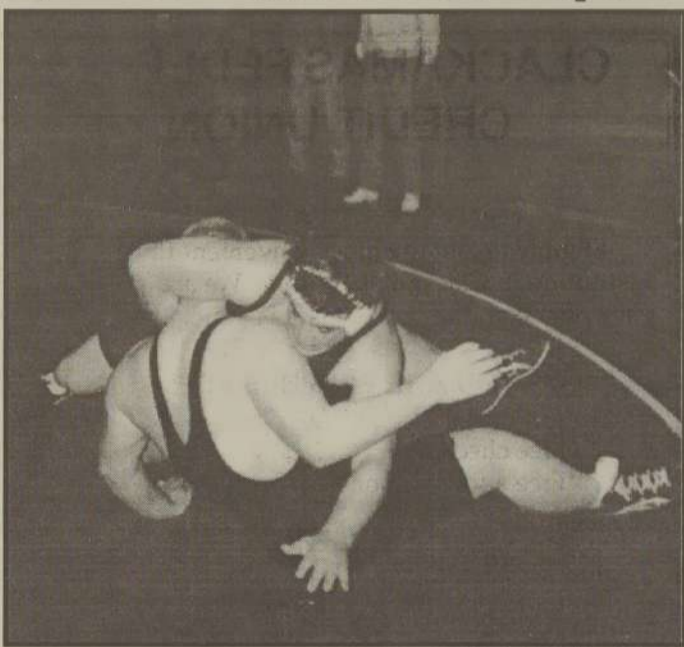


photo contributed by Mike Haluska

Clackamas' Leo Sandoval battles a competitor last weekend at the Lassen Open competition.

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Wrestling team has the heart and work ethic, but not the talent that they've had in the past.

That's what Clackamas Wrestling Coach Mike Haluska says about this year's team. He believes that the time they put in practice will put out results dur-

ing their competitions.

The Cougars will be led this year by its four sophomores. Chris Frisbie of Willamette High School in Eugene will compete at 118 pounds, Lloyd Martindale of Marshall HS in Portland will be at 142 lbs., while Jeremy Braun of Banks HS and Jamie Dixon of Tillamook HS will fill the roster at 177 lbs. Dixon was a national

qualifier for Clackamas in 1994.

"All four are returning starters and I'm getting leadership out of all of them," Haluska said.

Athletes competing this year after coming off their redshirt seasons last year are Santos Cantu of Gervais at 126 lbs, John Jones of Hermiston (126), Glen Garrison of Beaverton (150), Shonn Leno of Willamina (150), John Hogland of Canby (158), Lonnie Eggert of Tillamook (167) and Tyler Anderson of Ferndale, Washington (190).

Corey Kaywood of Nampa, Idaho is a transfer from Boise State that will compete at 134 lbs.

First-year wrestlers not using their redshirt season include Travis Wittlake of Myrtle Point and Charles Clifford of Woodburn (167), while Leo Sandoval of Woodburn and Kevin Shone will compete at the heavyweight level.

Those ineligible until mid-December are Shawn Allen of Philomath (150), Jason McCoy of St. Helens (177) and Rob Knott of Newberg (190). Jose DeCastro of Alaska and Donnie Boyum of Grants Pass will not compete this season due to injury.

First-year athletes using their redshirt are Jason Pense and Israel Flores of Riverside, Gary

Sauer of Oregon City, Ryan Gillespie of Vancouver, Davis Johnson of Tumwater, WA, Josh Armstrong of Tillamook, Matt Bielenberg of Silverton, Adam Trumbauer of Newberg and Dustin Leno and Joey Smith of Willamina.

Haluska did not have very big expectations going into the season, but the team's hard work over the last month has started to show.

Clackamas competed against Lassen College, the number one junior college team in the nation and did better than expected.

In the Lassen College Open Tournament on Saturday that featured at least three of the top 10 teams in the country, Garrison was the champion in his weight class and defeated one of the top wrestlers in the nation. Martindale and Sandoval finished second while Hogland, Eggert, Braun and Dixon all were fourth.

"I was real pleased with the way we wrestled," Haluska said.

The only problem that Haluska has now is finding one wrestler for each weight class. His problem lies in that there are too many quality wrestlers to choose from. "I have two tough kids at almost every weight," he said.

Clackamas will take on a

tough Highline CC team in a dual at 7:30 Friday night at Randall Hall. The Cougars will then travel to Forest Grove on Saturday for the Pacific Tournament.

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