

Women sit at 4-0 with tough games ahead

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

Clackamas Women's Basketball Coach Karen Twain has been waiting for this chance since she took over the program three years ago.

The Cougars are now 4-0 in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Southern Region and are currently ranked third in the Northwest.

Clackamas moved to 4-0 with a tough 70-66 win against Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) in Coos Bay on Saturday. The Cougars led by eight at halftime, but the SWOCC kept it close before eventually falling to Clackamas. SWOCC is currently ranked fourth in the Northwest.

The Cougars were led by Lindsay Hatch, who had 18 points on 9-13 shooting. Clair Cox added 16 points and Lisa Sorenson 14.

Clackamas knocked off #2 Umpqua in Roseburg on Jan. 9. The Cougars were led by Clair Cox, who totalled 25 points and 11 rebounds. The game marked the first time that Clackamas had all of its players available to compete. Lindsay Hatch added 22 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Clackamas also defeated Umpqua earlier in the year in a non-league contest at Randall

Hall.

The Cougars defeated Lane CC on Jan. 6 in a home contest. Post Robin Barchus scored 16 points and grabbed five rebounds. Lindsey Virtiska added nine points and six assists.

Clackamas pulled out a tough 62-58 victory against Mt. Hood at home on Jan. 3. The Cougars shot 23-52 from the field compared to 23 -71 for the Saints. Clackamas was 5-11 from the three-point line. The Cougars had 13 blocked shots and 49 rebounds.

Clackamas had a successful Christmas Break, winning two tournaments. The Cougars won the Crossover Tournament in Olympia Dec. 14-16 and the Lady Red Devil Classic at Lower Columbia College Dec. 27-29 in Longview.

The Cougars defeated Highline, Lower Columbia and Mt. Hood to win the Red Devil Classic.

Against Highline, Clackamas led 47-30 at halftime and cruised to the easy win. The Cougars played a close game with Lower Columbia, but pulled out the 57-53 win. Clackamas beat Southern Region rival Mt. Hood for the Classic Title.

In the Olympic tournament, the Cougars won three close games to take the title. Clackamas beat Wenatchee Valley, Olympic, and Skagit Valley in

winning the first-place trophy.

The Cougars held Wenatchee and Olympic to 53 and 57 points, respectively, before holding off Skagit Valley for a 94-89 overtime win.

Clackamas trailed 30-23 at halftime, but came back to tie Skagit at 71 to force the extra period. The Cougars shot 29-53 from the field in the second half.

Sorenson led Clackamas in scoring with 22 points. She also added six rebounds and four assists. Barchus had 20 points four rebounds, while Melanie Sharp scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Point guard Denise Haselwood had eight points and dished out 14 assists.

League play will continue to be interesting for Clackamas with five of the top six teams in the Northwest coming from the Southern Region.

Clackamas will take on Chemeketa CC, the top-ranked team in the region, tonight at home in Randall Hall. The Cougars will then host Linn-Benton CC (#6) on Saturday. Both games begin at 6 p.m.

Before the contest with SWOCC, Twain looked ahead to what could be a very satisfying rest of the season. "If we come out of it winning the next three (SWOCC, L-B and Chemeketa), we'll win the league," she said. "The girls feel real good about it."

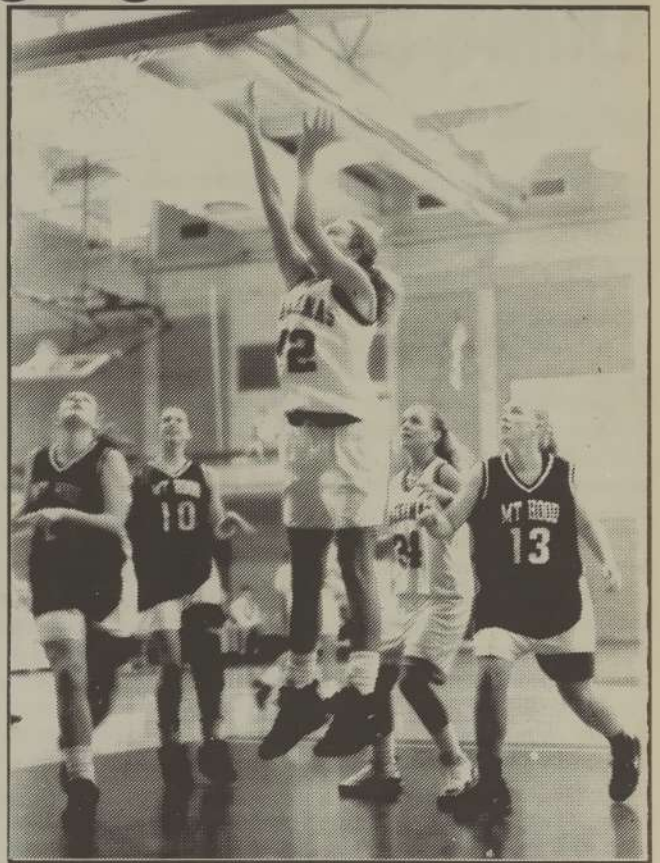


photo by Jesse Sowa

Melanie Sharp puts up a lay-in against Mt. Hood at home. Clackamas beat the Saints 62-58 in the Jan. 3 contest.

Colts: from losers to winners

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

The Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers will play in the Super Bowl. "And now, the rest of the story".

Radio personality Paul Harvey uses that catchphrase to indicate he is going to read you an amazing story. If Paul Harvey worked for the NFL, he might read this story about the resurrection of a proud franchise and their Cinderella-like entry into the NFL playoffs. One year ago, one of the NFL's oldest and most established franchises, the Indianapolis Colts, were in a very common situation; The club did not have a winning team.

The Colts felt their goal of a winning season was nearer and more attainable after more than a decade of failure, having only made it to the NFL playoffs once since 1978. The Colts finished with an 8-8 record in 1994-95 and felt they were just a few players away from reaching the playoffs.

The Colts had built their team on the concept of a ball control offense balanced with a powerful running game.

Bill Tobin, the Colts Director of Football Operations, hoped to build this team in the mold of his former jewel, the 1986 Chicago Bears, maybe the greatest team in NFL history. So far, Tobin had found his running back to emulate Walter Payton, the All-Pro speedster Marshall Faulk, but the Colts still ranked 27th in the NFL for total offense in 1994-95. The next season would have to be different.

The answer to Tobin's linger-

ing problems were solved in nine-year NFL veteran quarterback Jim Harbaugh and former Green Bay Packers Head Coach Lindy Infante. Infante, an offensive mastermind, was coaxed by Tobin out of retirement to become the Colts' offensive coordinator. Infante installed a well-rounded offense that centered around the quarterback and took pressure off of the running game. In the second game of the season against the New York Jets, Harbaugh became that quarterback and went from a backup player to the Pro Bowl. Harbaugh set career highs in passing efficiency, touchdowns, and overall performance percentage.

Following a strong quarterback like Harbaugh, as good teams usually do, the Colts became a winning team from the ground up. Vince Tobin, Bill's brother and the Colts' defensive coordinator turned the Colts into a defensive force that held the San Francisco 49ers to 17 points. The Colts' defensive scheme was so aggressive that with four linebackers in the game, plays were called for the cornerback Ray Buchanan to blitz.

But the MVP performance for the Colts may not have been on the field but in the front office by Bill Tobin. Tobin drafted two All-NFL rookies in defensive tackle Ellis Johnson and tight end Ken Dilger. Ellis Johnson was second on the team in sacks with 4.5 and Ken Dilger bested Hall of Famer John Mackey's Colt record for catches by a tight end. When Mike Cofer, the Colts place kicker was released mid-season,

Tobin replaced him with Cary Blanchard, who kicked 19 of 24 field goals. For his efforts, Tobin was selected as the "Executive of the Year" in a recent issue of the USA Today/Sporting News and is most likely a shoe-in for the NFL equivalent as well.

The Colts finished 9-7 this season and the team qualified for a wild card playoff berth. Indianapolis team defeated the defending AFC champion San Diego Chargers, 35-20 in the first round, amazingly without the presence of Faulk.

Rookie running back Zack Crockett got the first start of his career and ran for 147 yards and two touchdowns.

The magic continued for the Colts even as they faced the best team in the AFC in the regular season, the Kansas City Chiefs. Without starting fullback Roosevelt Potts or Faulk, the Colts won the game, 10-7. The Colts won with three interceptions and Harbaugh's will to stay in the game despite popping his shoulder out of place and coughing up blood. No, these are definitely not the same Colts that have been in only one playoff game since 1978. The Colts play with heart, despite limited expectations.

In an era where Nike can throw money at Jerry Jones so he can further tarnish the Cowboys' name and NFL owners can move their franchises like chess pawns, it is nice to see a Cinderella take the stage. The story of how an underdog goes from loser to winner through hard work and perseverance. And now my friends, you know the rest of the story.

Support Cougar Athletic Programs

Men's basketball hosts Chemeketa tonight and Linn-Benton on Saturday. The men travel to Portland CC on Jan. 24 and to Lane CC (Eugene) on Jan. 27. The men play at 8 p.m., the women 6 p.m.

Women's basketball hosts Chemeketa tonight and Linn-Benton on Saturday. The women also travel to Portland and Eugene next week. NOTE: Chemeketa is ranked #1 in both the men's and women's polls.

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