

Men take out Umpqua, prepare for post-season

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Community College men's basketball team improved to 10-1 in league play with an impressive 93-66 home victory over Umpqua on Monday night.

Clackamas is currently tied for first with Chemeketa CC in the Southern Region of the North-

west Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC).

The Cougars led Umpqua by 20 at halftime and cruised to the easy win. Aaron Pearson led Clackamas with 20 points and seven assists. Jawanza Hadley added 19 points and eight assists.

The Cougars beat Southwestern Oregon CC (SWOCC), 75-69, at home on Saturday. Clackamas

built a big lead early in the second half, but had to hold off the visiting Lakers in the closing minutes.

With a 36-25 lead at halftime and a 54-34 advantage with 11:30 remaining in the game, things appeared to be going the right way for the Cougars.

SWOCC got back into the game with good ball movement and some transition baskets off of several unforced turnovers by Clackamas. The Lakers trailed by 10 with six minutes to go and by four with 2:30 on the clock.

Hadley drove to the hole for two and Pearson sank two free throws, giving the Cougars a 68-60 lead with one minute to go. Clackamas held on for the win as the Lakers missed several open shots and Pearson was able to hit 8 of 10 foul shots in the double bonus during the final seconds.

"We weren't really running our offense very well," Pearson said of the Cougars' letdown during the last 10 minutes.

Despite Clackamas losing their sizable lead, Pearson knew that his team would hold on.

"We've got good character as a team," he said. "Jawanza (Hadley) hit some big shots. We played tough."

Leif Spencer and Hadley led the Cougars in scoring with 17 apiece. Spencer added 15 re-

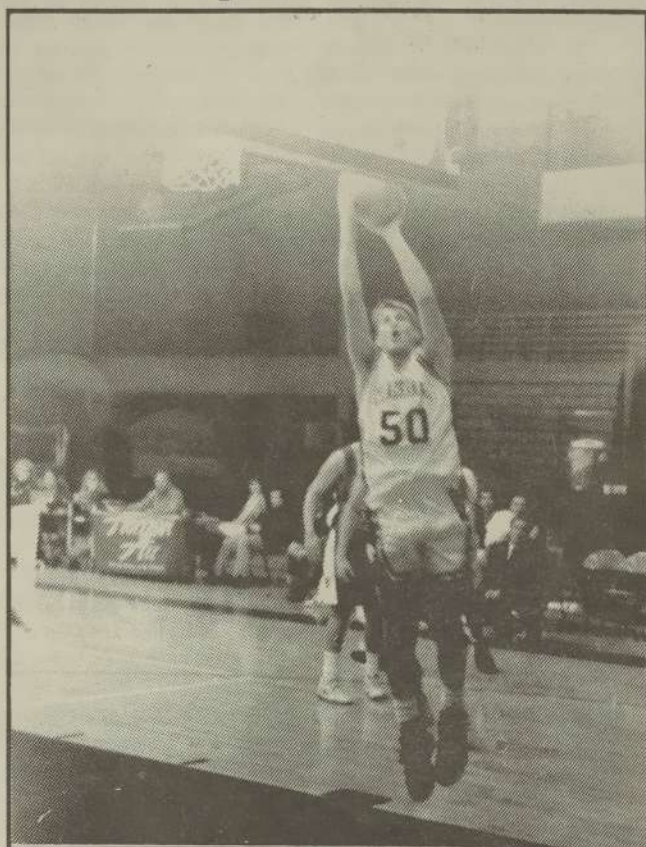


photo by Jesse Sowa

Clackamas post Jay Lassen shoots for two against Southwestern Oregon at home on Saturday night.

bounds. Jay Lassen scored 10 points and grabbed 14 rebounds.

Clackamas plays host to Portland CC tonight and travels to Albany on Saturday to take on

Linn-Benton CC. Both games begin at 8 p.m. The Cougars travel to Salem on Monday to play Chemeketa CC in a game originally scheduled for Feb. 7.



photo by Jesse Sowa

Jay Lassen posts up an Umpqua opponent on Monday.

Women fall to Chemeketa, drop into first-place tie

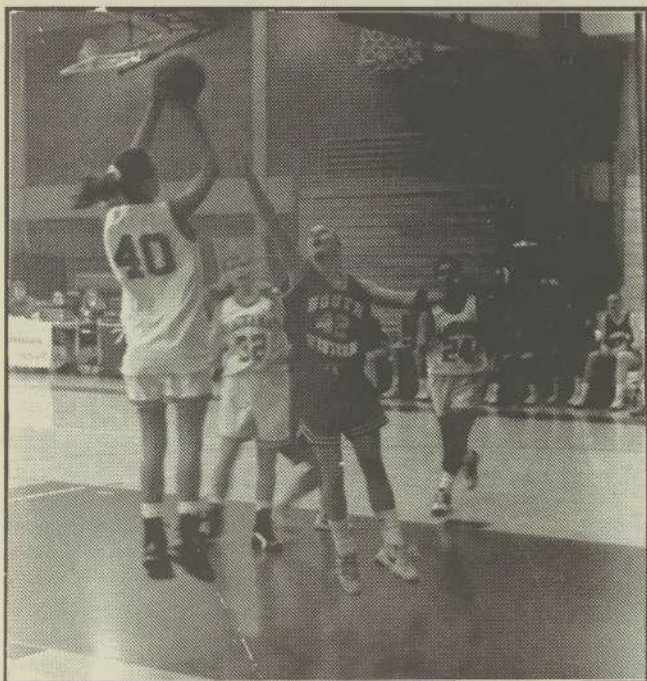


photo by Jesse Sowa

Clackamas post Robin Barchus takes a baseline jumper against Southwestern Oregon at home on Saturday.

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Sports Editor

The CCC women's basketball team dropped only its fourth game of the year and second in league play with an 86-67 loss to Chemeketa Community College in Salem on Monday night.

The defeat dropped Clackamas to 10-2 in the Southern Region of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC). The Cougars are now tied with Chemeketa for first in the Southern Region.

Clackamas, who defeated Chemeketa at home earlier in the season, had trouble early on with the Chiefs' defense. The Cougars were unable to get good looks at the basket and trailed 40-32 at halftime.

Early in the second half, the Cougars cut the lead to seven on

consecutive baskets by Clair Cox. Following a steal and score by Lindsay Hatch, Chemeketa scored the next nine points to take a 60-46 lead with 15 minutes remaining.

This seemed to dictate the rest of the game. Clackamas would make a strong run and cut the lead to single digits, but the Chiefs would answer with a run of their own and build the lead up again. The Cougars cut the lead under 10 several times, but untimely unforced turnovers allowed Chemeketa to hold on for the win.

Clackamas Coach Karen Twain expected the Chiefs to come out and play zone defense, but her team was faced with a tough man defense that they struggled with throughout the game. The Cougars shot just 28

percent during the first half and just over thirty for the game.

"We shot real poorly," Twain said. "We didn't execute our offense at all tonight."

On Saturday, the Cougars defeated Southwestern Oregon (SWOCC) 71-61 in Randall Hall. Clackamas held off the Lakers after SWOCC had cut the lead to two with just under three minutes remaining.

The first half was one of scoring streaks as the Lakers then scored the next nine points to take a 19-14 lead with 9:15 to go. The Cougars then held SWOCC scoreless over the next six minutes and scored the next 13 points of the game to lead 27-19 with 3:17 left in the half.

Tight defense by both teams kept the score low as Clackamas led 31-22 at halftime.

The two teams continued to battle closely during the first 10 minutes of the second half. Clackamas extended their defense and kept the Lakers, outside shooters, from getting easy looks at the basket.

The Cougars broke open the game and led by as many as 10, but several turnovers by Clackamas helped SWOCC close the gap to two with 2:45 to go. An assist by Haselwood to Barchus and a three-point bomb by Haselwood put the Cougars up for good.

Should Clackamas and Chemeketa win both of their games this week, a tie-breaker game would be played sometime early next week.

Clackamas plays host to Portland CC tonight and will travel to Albany on Saturday to take on Linn-Benton CC. Both contests begin at 6 p.m.

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