

Women's team takes region's #1 seed to tourney

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Women's Basketball team will head to the regional tournament with the number one seed from the Southern Region after defeating Umpqua Community College at home on Saturday, 90-77.

The Cougars defeated Southwestern Oregon CC (SWOCC), 80-70 on Thursday at home to set up their game with Umpqua. SWOCC scored the final 10 points of the game to make the game seem closer than it actually was.

Umpqua defeated Chemeketa, 88-65, on Thursday night to knock the Chiefs out of the playoffs. Chemeketa won last year's regional title.

Against Umpqua, Clackamas struggled early with the Timberwomen's inside power, but the Cougars eventually broke the game open during the second half as they were able to counter with their own inside force.

Clackamas led 23-20 with 8:20 to go in the first half on a foul shot by Clair Cox, but the Cougars went scoreless for six minutes and Umpqua was able to take a 29-20 lead. Denise Haselwood closed out Clackamas' first half scoring on a three-pointer with 30 seconds to go.

Clackamas Head Coach

Karen Twain talked to her team at halftime about rebounding, getting back on defense and moving the ball better on offense, and the team responded well.

The score was tied at 41-41 before the Cougars scored 10 straight to take a 51-41 lead with 13:30 remaining. Umpqua hit a foul shot and Clackamas followed with consecutive shots by Cox and Robin Barchus to lead 55-42.

The Cougars were able to successfully play a zone defense and slow down Umpqua. The Timberwomen cut the lead to eight (68-60) with five minutes to go, but would get no closer as the Cougars held on for the win.

"The first half was not pretty," Twain said. "We were just slow tonight to box out and do anything. We came out real flat."

Against SWOCC, the Cougars got off to a slow start, but broke the game open with a 10-0 run that gave Clackamas a 20-9 lead with 10:40 remaining. The Cougars led 28-17 with two minutes left and went on another spurt to take a 41-24 advantage at the break.

Cox again led Clackamas in scoring with 20 points. Hatch added 14 points, while Sorenson had 10.

Clackamas will play Thursday at 8 p.m. against Centralia, the number two seed from the

Western Region during the first round of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College (NWAACC) Tournament at Lower Columbia College in Longview.

The visiting Lakers got no closer than 10 during the final 20 minutes. A 51-41 lead turned into a 61-41 blowout following a strong run by Clackamas post Melanie Sharp in which Sharp scored six points and grabbed several rebounds.

The Cougars led by 20 (80-60) on a three-pointer by Lisa Sorenson, but the Lakers scored the game's next 10 points for the final margin.

Cox led Clackamas with 26 points and 21 rebounds. Sharp added 17 points, while Lindsay Hatch and Sorenson had 10 points apiece.

Twain was impressed with Cox's effort against SWOCC. "She was pretty awesome," Twain said. "She's really picked it up a notch. She was rebounding like crazy."

The Cougars (27-4) are currently ranked first in the final NWAACC Coaches Poll, released on Sunday. Centralia is ranked eighth.

Should Clackamas beat Centralia, they will play at 8 p.m. Friday. If the Cougars lose, they will play at 3 p.m. Friday.



Photo by Jesse Sowa

Lindsay Hatch takes a baseline jumper against Umpqua on Saturday night. Clackamas plays Centralia on Thursday during the NWAACC Tournament's first round.

Wrestlers finish ninth in nation; Garrison takes second

Leo Sandoval places third and wins a special award at the national tournament in Bismarck, ND

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College Wrestling Team did well at the NJCAA National Championships, finishing ninth in the team competition with two wrestlers placing individually.

Glenn Garrison took second at 142 pounds and Leo Sandoval was third in the heavyweight class. Sandoval also won a special award for "the most pins in the least amount of time."

Clackamas scored 38 points in the tournament held in Bismarck, ND last Friday and Saturday.

Lassen Junior College in California placed first in the championships with 112.5, upsetting number one ranked North Idaho, which finished with 73.5.

Lincoln of Illinois was third with 65, followed by Ricks of Idaho (60), Gloucester-Sewell of New Jersey (54), Muskegon of Michigan (48.5), Cuyahoga of Ohio (39.5), Iowa Central (39) and Clackamas (38).

Three of the top four teams that placed were from Region 18, the region in which the Cougars compete.

"We were great," CCC Coach Mike Haluska said. "We were ninth in the nation, not as great as we hoped. We had some real tough draws."

Three other wrestlers also qualified for the national meet with strong performances at the regional competition. Corey Caywood (134), Jamie Dixon (177) and Lonnie Eggert (150) wrestled at the national championships but did not place.

"They wrestled great," Haluska said. "Jamie Dixon lost

probably to two of the best wrestlers in his weight class, I feel the toughest weight class in the nation. Leo Sandoval also competed well."

The Cougars return most of their nationally-ranked members next year with only Jamie Dixon graduating and moving on to a four-year college.

"Compared to other teams I've had, I think this team, as young as they are, probably worked harder than any team that I've had," Haluska said. "If I can recruit one or two more kids and keep this team together, we have a chance to get back up into the top five (in the nation) again."

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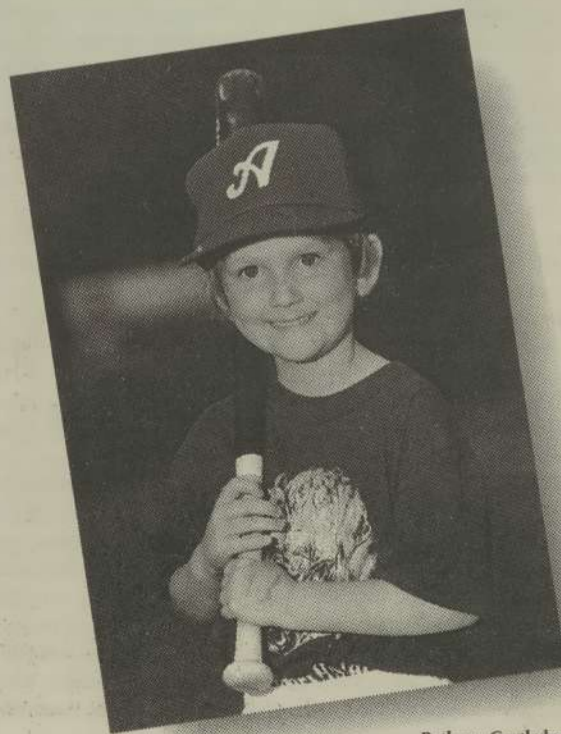
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Congrats to the men's and women's basketball teams in reaching their regional tourneys.



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