

Men's basketball claims third at regional tourney

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College Men's Basketball Team finished third in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship Basketball Tournament.

The Cougars had entered the tournament as the second seed in the NWAACC Southern Division with an overall record of 27-7.

Clackamas was ranked third in the Northwest heading into the tournament.

The NWAACC tournament was held at Clark CC in Vancouver, Wash.

Wenatchee Valley won the title by defeating defending champion Clark, 79-63.

The Cougars' final and best performance of the three-day tournament took place on Saturday as Clackamas came back to knock off Shoreline CC to claim third place.

Clackamas fell behind early in the game as the Cougars struggle on both ends of the floor. Shoreline led by 10 at halftime (45-35).

The Cougars trailed by as many as 20 points early in the second half.

Clackamas was still behind by more than 10 points with eight minutes remaining when the Cougars switched to a 1-3-1 trap defense that had the Dolphins unsure of what to do on offense.

Leif Spencer hit a three pointer with seven seconds remaining and the Cougars called a timeout. Clackamas fouled a Shoreline player immediately in trying to regain possession.

The player missed the foul shot and Valley grabbed the rebound. Ryan Valley hit Aaron Pearson, who dribbled to the three-point arc and shot. Pearson missed, but the ball deflected of a

Shoreline player and Spencer hit a layup just before the buzzer and the Clackamas fans went wild.

"It was amazing, just an amazing comeback," said Cougars' Assistant Coach Troy Merrill. "We came back. We didn't play for the first three quarters of the game and we decided to play the last ten minutes and got them at the buzzer."

"We went to the one-three-one trap and we put our big quick lineup in there and it worked," Clackamas Head Coach Royce Kiser said. "It was my last option and we took the ball away from them."

Spencer led the Cougars with 30 points and 11 rebounds. Jawanza Hadley added 20 points. Jay Lassen and Tio Beall had 12 points and five rebounds apiece.

Clackamas shot 42 percent (16-38) in the first half, but turned the tide on the Dolphins in the second half with a 53 percent performance.

On Friday, Clackamas lost 106-101 in the semifinals to Wenatchee Valley CC.

The Cougars came close to winning in the second half of the game when Hadley scored with 3:02 left on the clock, but the Knights put the game away in the last seconds in building a four-point lead. Lassen fouled Brent Darnell with seven seconds left and Darnell sank the free throws to seal the win.

"Our defense wasn't good enough in the end," said Clackamas guard Jared Bullock. "It's disappointing because it's a game we should have won."

Lassen scored 34 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Spencer scored 26 points, including 4-5 from the three-point line.

Clackamas shot better from the field than they did from the free throw line, 64 percent (38-

59) to 61 percent (17-28). The Cougars shot 9-17 from behind the three-point arc.

The Cougars won their first game in the tournament against Lower Columbia College by the score of 98-83. Hadley stole the ball with three minutes remaining to ice the victory for the Cougars and freeze the Red Devils.

The leading scorers for the Cougars were Spencer with 24 points and Hadley with 22. Spencer also grabbed 16 rebounds in the winning effort. Lassen had 15 points and six rebounds for Clackamas.

Shoreline took fifth with the loss to Clackamas. Chemeketa, which was ranked number one in the NWAACC going into the tournament, took fourth after beating Lower Columbia in the consolation final.

Spencer and Hadley were praised for outstanding tournament performances by being named to the All-Tournament teams.

Last week, Hadley and Lassen were named to the Southern Region All-Star First Team. Pearson was voted to the second team and Spencer to the third team.



Photo by Andrew Beck

Leif Spencer drives the baseline towards the hoop last weekend at the regional tournament in Vancouver.

Davis leads men's track team in first outdoor meet in Seattle

Jesse Sowa
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Track & Field teams began their outdoor season with a strong performance at the University of Washington Preview Meet in Seattle on Saturday.

The Cougars had 16 athletes set qualifying marks for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship Meet at the end of the season.

Clackamas Head Coach Mike Hodges mentioned that an athletic director from one of the schools in the Northwest is attempting to change the qualifying marks, but Hodges does not believe it will happen.

Freshman Shawn Davis had the best day of any of the Clackamas athletes. Davis qualified for the hammer throw, discus and the shot put at the regional meet. He took fifth in the hammer with a toss of 138 feet, eight inches, fourth in the discus at 137-10 and sixth in the shot at 46-2.

Davis reached ninth on the all-time list at Clackamas in the hammer. Hodges mentioned that Davis threw the hammer probably 30 feet farther than any other freshman has in their first outdoor meet.

"Overall, it was a pretty good performance," Hodges said of Davis.

Ryan Burck qualified for the regional meet in his 3000-meter steeplechase with a fifth-place time of 10 minutes, 9.01 seconds. Jon Gotchall qualified in the same race with a time of 10:29.47, good enough for seventh place. Evan Goin finished ninth in the steeplechase in 10:38.75, but just missed

qualifying for the regional meet. Both Burck and Goin ran the steeplechase for the first time ever.

The Cougars looked strong in the pole vault with two qualifiers. Clackamas had three others who competed and would have qualified, but were forced to travel to the meet on their own and compete unattached because of academic problems.

Bill Jones was fifth in the vault at 14-11, while Carl Crowe was sixth at 14-5 1/4.

Ryan Healey would have broken the school record in the vault with a leap of 16-4 3/4, but his mark did not count because he was unattached. Bill Hurford and Brian Clement were also unattached, and cleared 14-11 and 13-6, respectively. Both would have been qualifying marks.

The men's 400-meter relay team of Joel Knight, Marco Banks, Jimmy Horne and Edward Lincoln qualified for the NWAACC Meet with a time of 43.16.

Knight finished second and Horne third at 100 meters in qualifying times of 10.8 and 10.9. Knight placed fifth in the fast heat of the 200-meter races in a qualifying time of 22.49. Banks and Horne also qualified in the 200 with times of 22.57 and 22.66 in the slower heat. Banks was third and Horne fourth.

Non-qualifiers that Hodges pointed out were Scott Bills and Travis Armstrong in the 1500 (4:12.05 and 4:15.41, respectively), Horne in the long jump (20-10) and Scott Hein in the javelin (165-8). Other good marks included Geof Morgan with a seven-foot personal record of 159-

6 in the javelin, Lincoln in the 400-meter hurdles (60.03) and Bill and Kasey Johnson in the 800 (2:00.59 and 2:03.10, respectively).

For the women's team, Jaime Fairchild placed eighth in the second heat of the 1500 and in 5:09.18 and second in the third heat of the 800 in 2:29.56. Fairchild qualified in both races.

Also in the 1500, Becky White was eleventh in the second heat in 5:18.10, her best time in two years. Jenny Newell placed thirteenth in the same heat in 5:37.42. Marea Crowe was sixth in the third 800 heat in 2:36.62.

Melissa Abramson qualified in two events, the 100-meter high hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles. Abramson was fourth in the third heat of the 100-meter race in 16.34 and third in the second heat of the 400 hurdles in 1:09.53.

High jumper Misty Forgey tied her best mark of last year and qualified for the NWAACC Meet with a jump of 5-1.

Erica Sloan, competing unattached, placed seventh in the shot put at 36-7 1/2.

"We certainly competed well," Hodges said of his teams' first outdoor meet of the year. "I'm pleased with where we're at."

Hodges believes the sunny, dry weather as of late has helped his program to progress.

"We've been working hard and we do have talent," he said.

Clackamas will travel to McMinnville on Saturday to compete in the Linfield College Icebreaker Meet. The Cougars will compete against 20 to 25 colleges and universities.

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