

CCC starts track season

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Track Team is hoping that it can continue its good effort after the successful Southern Region Preview held last Saturday, March 30 in Gresham.

The Cougars placed in all but seven possible track and field events at the Southern Region Preview, a (Northwestern Association of Athletics for Community Colleges) NWAACC competition. The Cougars have 42 athletes on this year's team, 12 on the women's team and 30 on the men's team. Eleven of the team members are former high school state champions.

"We're on schedule. We're where we should be," said Cougar Head Track Coach Mike Hodges.

Clackamas track athletes took several top honors in many individual events at the Southern Region Preview. Bill Jones and Ryan Healey dominated the men's pole vault competition with scores of 16 and 15 feet; Jones's mark was a personal best and tied for second place on the all-time school record.

Cougar high jumper, Wanjeria Washington, won first

place in the women's high jump, to tie a school record jump of 5 feet, 4 inches. The high jump record had stood since previously set the late 70's. Washington also took sixth place in the women's two hundred meter dash with a time of 27.27 seconds.

With 19 women athletes competing at the Southern Region Preview, the women produced 18 qualifying marks out of twelve events possible for the Cougars. The Clackamas men produced 30 qualifying marks in 17 possible events with 21 men competing overall. Other outstanding individual performances included Shawn Davis, who finished second in three different throwing events. Erica Sloan set a school record mark in the hammer throw.

The Cougars' next match will be the Willamette Open, a five team meet hosted at Clackamas between Northern Idaho Community College, Lower Columbia Community College, Grays Harbor Community College and Highline Community College. The match will be held this Saturday, April 6 at the Clackamas campus; the meet starts at 12:30 p.m.

Softball team shows no mercy

Laney Fouse
Copy Editor

The Clackamas Women's Softball team defeated Pierce College in two home games played Friday afternoon. Final scores were 9-0 and 16-1, respectively.

Saturday's games against Olympic City College ended with scores of 7-2 in the first game, followed by a resounding 12-3 victory in the second game.

Coach Paul Fiskum credits his team's strong pitching and dynamic hitting as the basis of their success. "We have a great balance between the two," he says.

Returning pitcher Brenda Ruppel threw her third shutout this season, allowing only 2 base hits by the Pierce players. This puts her at 4-0.

Catching for the Cougars in Friday's first game was Joell Whitton, a freshman. She comes to CCC from Glencoe High School.

The first game was called after the fifth inning by enacting what is known as the "8 run rule." What exactly is the "8 run rule?" According to Fiskum, "if a team is leading by 8 runs in the fifth inning, the game is automatically ended."

"Some folks call it the mercy

rule," chuckled Fiskum.

Showing no mercy in the second game against Pierce, freshman pitcher Robin Lisak led the Cougars to a 16-1 win. The only run allowed was due to an error. "Robin (a former LaSalle High School student) has been throwing great," states Fiskum.

Freshman Tracey Scharer caught during the second game of the doubleheader.

Leading hitters include Kriss Demos and Lisa Gander. Demos carries the team's top batting average. Gander who pitched Saturday's game against OCC hit her first home run on Friday. She came back Saturday and repeated the effort.

"This," says Coach Fiskum, "is pretty amazing, considering she had an appendectomy three weeks ago."

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Cougars looking for another good season

Andrew Beck
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Community College Men's baseball team is primed for a return to the playoffs this year.

Last year the Clackamas Cougar baseball team finished second in the Northwestern Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Southern Division. The Cougars' appearance in the NWAACC playoffs was the first time in the history of Clackamas Community College baseball. The Cougars finished last season with an overall record of 19 and 17, second in the league behind their arch rival Mount Hood Community College.

The Cougars will have eight returning sophomores either from last year's team or college transfers.

"Our team is extremely talented but we have to become more focused," said Clackamas Cougar sophomore outfielder Johl Smilowski.

The Clackamas Cougars' preseason record was 3 wins and 8 losses, with starting pitcher Ryan Moore winning all three of those games.

"There are nine innings in a baseball game, but we play six good innings, one okay inning and the last two bad," said Clackamas Cougar Head Coach Robin Robinson.

The Cougars started their 1996 baseball season with two losses to Mt. Hood Community College, last Saturday. CCC lost both games in the double header by scores of 12-5 and 12-0. The Cougars' next game will be Saturday, April 6, against Lane Community College at Clackamas.

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