

Softball heads for championship

Brendon Neal
Opinion Editor

The Clackamas softball team won five straight games to end the regular season with wins over Southwestern Oregon Community College and Mt. Hood.

The Cougars beat SWOCC 8-7 scoring five runs on five hits in the first inning.

They started the doubleheader against Mt. Hood with a resounding 12-1 win. Cori Menzia went 3-3 with 4 RBIs and three runs, including a three-run homer in the first inning.

Clackamas scored with seven runs in the third. Alicia Scott had two runs on two hits for three hitting. Denise Haselwood added two runs and an RBI.

CCC beat Mt. Hood 5-2 in the second game of the doubleheader. Brenda Ruppel pitched her first game since coming back after an elbow injury. Ruppel allowed only one run and had no walks while striking five players out. Robin Lisak finished the game on the mound giving up only two runs on three base hits.

The Cougars played consistently with one run in each of five straight innings. They got nine hits but left six players stranded.

Haselwood had two runs on 2-3 hitting. She also stole two bases including a steal at home plate. Holly Lorenz added 1 run and 1 RBI.

Clackamas played SWOCC in a doubleheader on May 11, beating SWOCC 9-1 in the first game.

Ruppel, pitching her first full game since the injury, gave up only one run on three hits. Menzia had three doubles and 4 RBIs on 3-4 batting. Lorenz added 2 RBIs and two runs on 3-3 hitting.

The second game went into extra innings with the score tied 7-7 and Clackamas won in the bottom of the 8th inning with a single by Ruppel who ran for Kriss Demos.

Lisak pitched the first three innings but sat out the last five because of a stiff back. Gander finished the game, giving her a final record of 11-1.

Clackamas had eight runs on 12 hits. The game was tied after five with the score 2-2, but the

Cougars came back with five runs in the sixth. Menzia had two runs on six hits and Demos added 4 RBIs and a home run.

The Cougars finished off the regular season with a final record of 25-3 in league play and 35-3 overall. Their overall hitting average was over .371. They gave up only 67 runs in 38 games.

"We had contributions from everybody. There's 13 players and there is no player on the squad who wasn't instrumental in at least one or two victories. The balance of the contributions up and down the roster, I thought was the best I have ever had here," said Head Coach Paul

Fiskum about the players' contributions throughout this season.

"Lisak and Gander, when Brenda (Ruppel) went down, they just stepped up and did the job," commented Fiskum on the two freshmen pitchers.

"The thing that helps most is the team's attitude. You got to have great players that are sitting on the bench," said Fiskum. "We have thirteen players, all of them really deserve to be out there every inning."

Clackamas will travel to Spokane and play Bellevue CC at 10 a.m. in the first round of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges on Friday.

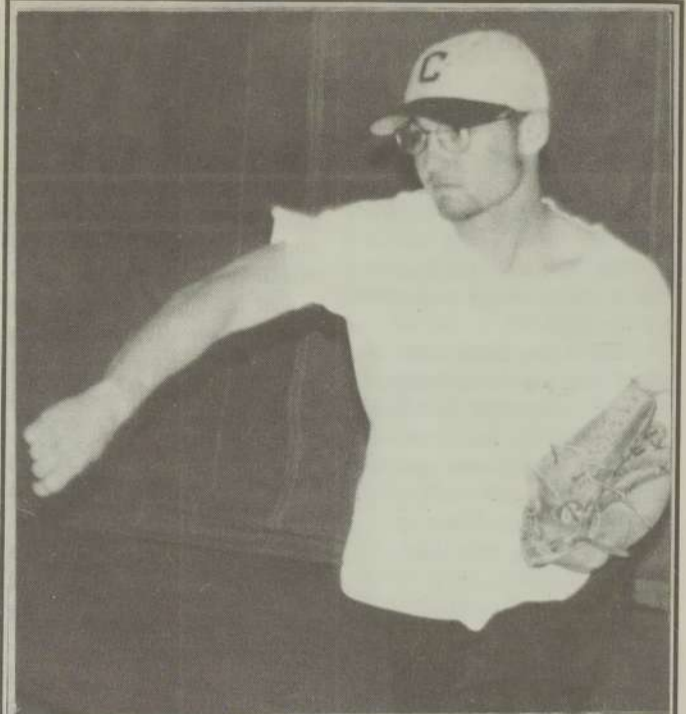


Photo by Chad Patteson

The persistent rain forced the Cougars into the gym for practice on Monday. Pitcher Ryan Moore practices fielding while getting ready for Tuesday's game against Mt. Hood.



Photo by Chad Patteson

Scott Hines, javelin thrower, works out Tuesday afternoon in preparation for the NWAAC Championship.

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Clackamas	13-8
Chemeketa	14-9
Linn Benton	13-9