

Cougars defend NWAACC title with two wins over Spokane

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the defense, the pitchers can make a mistake, and we can still win."

Lorenz ended the day with 5 RBIs and three runs, including a home run on 4-7 hitting. Menzia added two runs and 3 RBIs on 4-5 hitting for the day.

"Basically I think Edmunds and we are teams that are supposed to meet," said Assistant Coach Denise Nasuta about the match up between Clackamas and Edmunds on Saturday. The teams are the best in their respective leagues. (Note: NWAACC is made up of two leagues, North and South)

Clackamas played Edmunds on Saturday, winning 2-1 in nine innings. Neither team scored in the first three innings of play. The game was a challenge of defense rather than offense.

"It (the game) will come down to who makes one error," said an Edmunds' coach to Clackamas fans during the second half of the game.

Fiskum noted that one of Clackamas' losses over the last eight years was to Edmunds in a game that also went nine innings. In that game Edmunds won 2-1 and won the championship.

Clackamas was down 0-1 going into the seventh inning. Menzia got an RBI with two outs and two strikes in the seventh inning to tie the game 1-1.

"Cori's hit in the seventh, is the biggest single hit since I've been in softball," commented Fiskum about Menzia's hit late in the game. In an almost identical play in the ninth, Menzia got an RBI on a Voil run to give Clackamas the final margin of 2-1.

Rupple struck out 10 players and gave up five hits holding Edmunds scoreless in the final five innings.

"Once we get through the first time, through the (batting) order, if we haven't scored by then we will normally start producing runs the second time through," added Rapp on Clackamas' batting.

Clackamas played Spokane again on Saturday in the Championship game after Spokane came up through the losers' bracket with a win over Edmunds, beating the Sasquatches 4-2.

Spokane jumped out to a 1-0 lead early in the first, but Clackamas came back to tie it in the first and never trailed after that.

Rupple got a run in the third inning to start a 3-0 run to give the Cougars a 4-1 lead after three innings. Haselwood went 2-3, including an RBI and a double steal with Joell Whitton. "A real key there, is the person that is running from first to second, they have to stay alive long enough to let the person score," said Fiskum on the double steal.

Rupple pitched her third straight game, giving up only two

runs on seven base hits.

"She (Rupple) came back from this injury and all she did was hit left handed because of the strain on the elbow," noted Fiskum on Rupple's performance after recovering from her elbow injury.

Clackamas went the entire tournament without an error and only allowed five runs in 30 innings.

"How many times have you seen an error lead to a rally? You make no errors you just don't give anybody any chances," said Fiskum. "Great defense and great pitching can win league titles."

Players that did not play in the tournament provided needed support for their team mates.

"They were 100% behind those on the field," said Fiskum on the attitude of sidelined players.

"This team has the most enthusiasm and spirit of any team we have ever had. A couple people that were the real life of our cheering on the bench were

"Winning is fun. I think we have more fun than anybody."

-Paul Fiskum
Softball Coach,

Nicole Lindgren and Tracey Scharer. Those two, they were banging on the fence, leading the cheers, leading the yells and giving high fives. They were two players who didn't get to play in this tournament," commented Fiskum on the mind set of benched players.

Nine of Clackamas' 13 players got regular season honors. Pitcher Robin Lisak, who did not play during the NWAACC Tour-

The Cougar softball team beat Spokane 4-1 to clinch the NWAACC tournament for the second consecutive year.



Photo by Brendon Neal

Cougar Softball Receive Honors

Coach of the Year: Paul Fiskum

Regular Season MVP: Short Stop Holly Lorenz-.451 average, 37 RBIs, 2 Home Runs
First Team All League (Southern Division):

Infielder Kriss Demos-28 runs, 26 RBIs
Infielder Cori Menzia-.441 average, 41 runs
Outfielder Alicia Scott-1 Home Run, 28 runs

Outfielder Robin Voil-37 runs, 18 RBIs
Pitcher Robin Lisak-1.29 ERA, 15-1 record
Pitcher Lisa Gander-11-1 record, 1.51 ERA

Second Team All League:

Outfielder Denise Haselwood-.454 average, 27 RBIs

NWAACC Tournament All Stars:

IF Cori Menzia-.636 average, 5 RBIs
SS Holly Lorenz- 1 Home Run, 5 RBIs,
IF Kriss Demos-1 Home Run, 1 RBI

OF Robin Voil-3-3 on stolen bases, 5 base hits

Tournament MVP: Pitcher Brenda Rupple-ERA 1.21, allowed 18 base hits on 82 at bats

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