

Cougars reload for tough season

John Thorburn
Staff Writer

As the winter sports season approaches, Women's Basketball Coach Karen Twain's eyes grow a little wider and her heart beats a little faster.

Last winter, the Clackamas Women's Basketball team had a very successful season, finishing with a 28-6 record. After a grueling off-season of cross-training and summer league basketball, this year's squad is ready for another spectacular season. Led by returning sophomore co-captains Clair Cox and Lisa Sorenson, the Cougars are poised for another run at the Northwestern Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) title.

With ten freshmen on the team, some may speculate that the team will not be experienced, and this season will be a rebuilding year.

Karen Twain disagrees. "Every player on this team comes from winning programs in high school. Every player has played in the state playoffs. We recruited women for their skills and for their character. Although many of these players are new to each other, the team chemistry is

very cohesive," she said.

Four of the newcomers come from National Champion Oregon City, and 6'1" Robbie Nix of West Linn was heavily recruited by Division I schools, and Twain says she is a great inside and outside player.

"She is a finesse player that is very smooth with the ball," said Twain. "Robbie is going to post-up for us inside and shoot threes from the outside."

This young talent, combined with the experience of Cox and Sorenson, does not bode well for Cougar opponents. Cox's size is rather deceiving as a post player at 5'11", but her athleticism and

strength has allowed her to become one of the most respected women in the league.

Alongside her is teammate Lisa Sorenson. Her defensive prowess is the strength of her game, but her shooting has improved in the off-season.

"She has become a better shooter," said Twain. "Lisa has grown into a more complete player."

Clackamas has a defensive-minded game plan accented by a fast break style of offense. Their defensive scheme allows the game to be played at a much faster pace; one thing that Coach Twain looks for.

"We have very strong defense," said Twain. "The women that we recruited are very athletic. That is something that we looked for during recruiting. These players have skills beyond basketball that allow them to do things like scramble for the ball and cause turnovers. This allows us to run the court and set up our offense."

A tough season lies ahead for the Cougars. There are virtually no easy games scheduled for Clackamas. That can be attributed to Coach Twain's desire to be prepared for the playoffs.

"Almost all of our early games this season are against tough teams," said Coach Twain. "I tried to schedule games with the better schools. It would get us ready for regular league play and the playoffs."

Along with Chemeketa and Umpqua Community College, Clackamas is favored to win the title.

The team will play their first games at the Cougar Invitational Nov. 29 through Dec. 1.

Uniform Number (H/A)	Player Name and Year	Height	High School
00/00	Lauren Mohan-Freshman	5'10"	Crook County
20/21	Krystal Nakamoto-Freshman	5'5"	Waiakea, Hawaii
24/23	Lisa Sorenson-Sophomore	5'9"	Silverton
30/31	Michelle McKinney-Freshman	6'0"	Oregon City
32/35	Shelly Mitchell-Freshman	5'9"	Redmond
34/33	Melissa Hollenbeck-Freshman	5'9"	Stayton
40/41	Shelley Alderman-Freshman	5'11"	Oregon City
42/43	Shara Bormuth-Freshman	5'10"	Grants Pass
44/45	Clair Cox-Sophomore	5'11"	St. Mary's Academy
50/51	Robbie Nix-Freshman	6'1"	West Linn
52/53	Randi Buth-Freshman	6'1"	Oregon City
54/55	Denise Bean-Freshman	5'8"	Oregon City



Cougar Calendar

1996-97

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Home

Away

11/29-12/1 Lady Cougar Invitational	Time is TBA	12/3 Clark College	@ 6 p.m.
12/6 Columbia Basin	TBA	12/13 Columbia Basin	@ 6 p.m.
12/7 Blue Mt.	@ 6 p.m.	12/14 Walla Walla	@ 2 p.m.
12/17 Western OR	TBA	12/20-21 Shoreline Cross-Over	
1/15 Chemeketa	@ 6 p.m.	12/28-30 Blue Mt. Tournament	
1/18 Linn-Benton	@ 6 p.m.	1/8 Umpqua	@ 6 p.m.
2/1 Umpqua	@ 6 p.m.	1/11 SWOCC	@ 6 p.m.
2/8 SWOCC	@ 6 p.m.	1/22 Portland	@ 6 p.m.
2/12 Portland	@ 6 p.m.	1/25 Lane	@ 6 p.m.
2/19 Mt. Hood	@ 6 p.m.	1/29 Mt. Hood	@ 6 p.m.
2/22 Lane	@ 6 p.m.	2/5 Chemeketa	@ 6 p.m.
		2/15 Linn-Benton	@ 6 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Home

Away

11/28-12/1 Red Devil Tournament	TBA	11/22 Willamette U.	@ 8 p.m.
12/6 Blue Mountain	@ 7 p.m.	12/10 Linfield College	@ 8 p.m.
12/7 Columbia Basin	@ 8 p.m.	12/12 Clark College	@ 8 p.m.
12/19-21 Crossover Tournament	TBA	12/14 Columbia Basin	@ 8 p.m.
1/15 Chemeketa	@ 6 p.m.	12/28-30 Clackamas Inv.	TBA
1/18 Linn-Benton	@ 6 p.m.	1/15 Chemeketa	@ 6 p.m.
		1/18 Linn-Benton	@ 6 p.m.

Hockey fans trek to Dallas

Kim Harney
Staff Writer

For the past four years my mother and I have been taking what we call a once-a-year hockey trip. This past October we took our trip for 1996 and headed to Dallas, Texas.

Growing up in Minnesota (the hockey capital of the United States) I have always been a die-hard hockey fan. For two seasons my mom and I were season ticket-holders of the Minnesota North Stars. When the Stars relocated to Dallas, we began our once a year visits.

For the past four years I have been corresponding through letters with my favorite hockey player, Enrico Ciccone. After meeting Ciccone in Minnesota, we became friends and I have made it a point to see him somewhere every season.

So far it has worked out where we can see both the Stars and the team that he is currently playing for. Ciccone has played for four different teams in the past six years and we have been lucky enough to see him play for each team. Our travels have taken us to Dallas three times and to Tampa, Fla. once.

This season the schedule took us to Dallas where we would

see the Stars play the Buffalo Sabres and the Chicago Black Hawks (Ciccone's newest team). We arrived in big 'D' on a Wednesday afternoon and watched the Stars beat the Sabres 2-0. After the game is always the best part of our trip.

They have a special club where all the players go and we always manage to get tickets. Although there are only six original Minnesota Stars left on the team, we still managed to get a few surprised looks and talk to some old friends. The next day is the day I wait for every year, time to see Ciccone.

What a day! The Black Hawks were due to arrive at the hotel around 5:30 in the evening. After plane trouble and an emergency landing, they finally arrived at 8 p.m..

That was one of the longest waits of my life. I made friends with the doorman who kept me updated as to the teams progress to the hotel. 8:00, the bus finally arrived!

As the players filed off the bus, I spotted my friend and took off towards him, a bewildered look on his face he gave me a hug and proceeded to ask what I was doing there. He had not received my latest letter after switching teams

and was totally shocked to see us. It was a really great day.

The next day the Stars played the Black Hawks and lost in overtime. As loyal of a Stars fan as I am, I was happy to see my friend beat his old team.

Although the main point of our trip is to see some of our friends and watch hockey, we have been able to see some neat sites as well. On this trip we saw: Texas Stadium, Valley Ranch Cowboys practice center, Fog City Diner (Troy Aikmans restaurant), Arlington Stadium, Planet Hollywood of Dallas, and for my male friend that went with us Hooters.

In the two other trips to Dallas we saw the JFK memorial, the grassy knoll, and the Anatole Hotel, where all the presidents stay. Every time we take our trip we get to see more.

A lot of people think we are crazy to go watch hockey every year, however, it is something my mom and I enjoy and we can do together. I am currently deep in thought as to where our trip will take us next season.

It really depends on where Ciccone is playing, but we have really fallen in love with Texas, so hopefully we will go there for trip number five.

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