

## Clackamas faces Chiefs in showdown

JOHN THORBURN  
Sports Editor

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Mattye Walsworth  
TRI-CAPTAIN

The Clackamas volleyball team has their sights set on a championship.

After winning their 22nd consecutive league game, the Cougars [5-0, 16-5] are well on their way to capturing the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's [NWAACC] title for the second year in a row. The streak dates back to October 11, 1995.

"We're going to win NWAACC's," said Head Coach Kathy Woods. "Last year we had an awesome team, this year we have an awesome team. Last year we won the title because of our defense. This year we have excellent defense but we're combined with a little more offense. That combination is going to win the title this year."

Clackamas faced its first true test of the season against Mt. Hood Community College this past Saturday.

"Along with Clackamas and Chemeketa," said Woods, "Mt. Hood is one of the best teams in the NWAACC this year and we knew that going into the game."

In a game that lasted more than two hours, the Cougars outlasted the Saints 15-10, 16-14, 13-15, and 15-10.

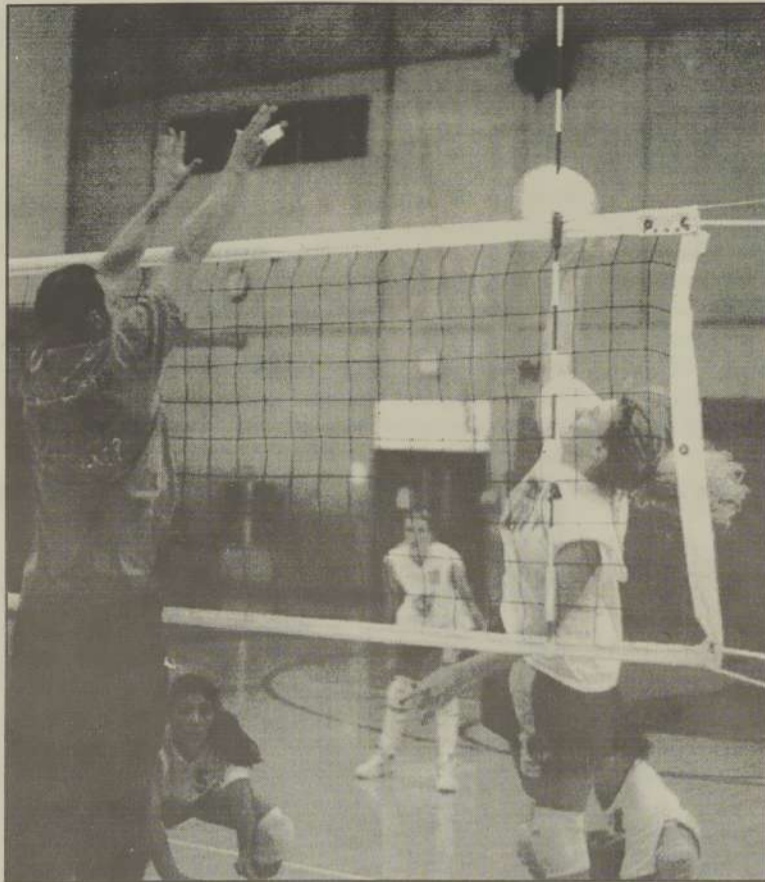
"It was an intense battle between two teams that wanted to prove they were the dominant one in the league," said Woods. "We won the long rallies, we played awesome defense, and just tremendous team ball."

This season's squad is captained by three veteran sophomores in Amy Felando, Mattye Walsworth, and Jodi Stirmlinger.

Walsworth's play against Mt. Hood and Lane on Friday earned her Player of the Week honors from her coach and team.

Walsworth, usually known for her defensive skills, stepped up her offense as she finished the weekend with 45 digs and 20 kills.

"She has always been our strongest, most aggressive player on the floor," said Coach Woods. "She's our digger, that's her role. But instead of just being the most aggressive defender, she stepped up her game on offense and got some kills."



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print  
**Sophomore Mattye Walsworth [right] and the Cougars put their 22-game winning streak on the line against the visiting Chemeketa Chiefs in an NWAACC volleyball showdown.**

When asked about her thoughts on the win over Mt. Hood, Walsworth responded with a straight face.

"It was a warning signal," said Walsworth. "This tells teams that are watching us to look out because we're good. We're real good."

Coach Woods has been ecstatic by the play of the freshmen on the team but points out Amy Kraljev as becoming a true leader on the floor.

In the Cougars' past four games, Kraljev has recorded kills at 14, 9, 18, and 16 along with 19 digs against Mt. Hood.

"All of our freshmen have done an outstanding job," said Woods. "But I think she stands out a little bit because of her athleticism. She's really stepped up as a leader not only because of her athletic ability, but also her maturity and competitive nature as well."

With the tremendous win over Mt. Hood, the Cougars need to quickly reload for tonight's game against the visiting Chemeketa Chiefs.

"This

could easily be a preview of this year's NWAACC championship game," said Woods. "I believe that the Southern Division is the strongest in the league undoubtedly. At the end of the season it could be Clackamas and Chemeketa or Clackamas and Mt. Hood."

The Chiefs came into this 1997 season as one of the favorites to win the title because they have six returning players.

"They weren't that successful last year," said Woods. "But they have six people returning and that's a jump on any team. We played against Chemeketa in a tournament in the preseason and we lost but that doesn't mean anything because games and strategies are different in tournaments and we didn't have Mattye against them for that tournament. This is the real true test."

When asked if the team would make any adjustments for the Chiefs, Coach Woods responded frankly.

"They are going to have to adjust around us. We don't make adjustments for teams because we feel we're the best team in the NWAACC. We'll play smart and we'll play with strategies but we won't have to make any changes. We're the champions."

## Cougars look for improvement after weekend meet results

ADAM CRUM  
Staff Writer

The Clackamas Cross Country teams traveled to Salem this weekend, where they competed in the Willamette Invitational.

The women's team finished 21st in a 28-team meet. The Cougars were led by Cody Hayes, who finished the 5K race with a time of 20:13. Twenty seconds behind at a time of 20:33 was Tyana Moralez. Other top individual performances included Emily Shmear, 21:27, Anthea Dejarnette, 21:52, and Cassie Moorhouse, who finished in 25:17.

Despite not finishing amongst the leaders, the ladies have continued to improve every week.

"We had a good meet because [the top five ladies] ran their season's best this weekend," said Coach Jack Kegg. Kegg is in his first year of duties as head coach after spending the past three years as assistant coach.

The men's team fared a little better than the women, placing 14th out of 29 teams. In the 8K race, the Cougars were led by Andy Bradley, who placed 29th overall with a time of 25:38. The second through fifth place runners all finished within eight seconds of one another. Chris Chatfield finished with a time of 27:17. Just behind him was David Lamar, 27:20, Jason Bennett, 27:22, and Jason Fryberg, 27:25.

Kegg was pleased with his team's improvement, but eluded to the fact that after Bradley, there is a dramatic drop off.

"If our second through fifth men run just a little bit faster, we're going to be competing with the other Southern Region schools really well and be right in the middle of it."

The Cougar men and women travel to Tacoma next week, where they will compete in the Pacific Lutheran Invitational.

Looking ahead to the meet, Kegg feels good about both of his teams' progress. "Our guys are running real well as a group, but we need to move that up a little bit and run with the next group of runners," said Kegg.

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