

Cougars run strong in championships

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Staff Writer

The season did not end the way the Cougars had hoped.

Coach Jack Kegg and his cross country teams ran well but the success just wasn't there.

Clackamas hosted the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] Championships on Saturday, Nov. 8.

The women's team failed to defend their title, finishing fifth out of six teams with 131 points.

The Cougars were led by Tyana Moralez, who finished 14th overall in 21:09. Kegg was extremely pleased with the performance of Moralez.

"Tyana beat some people she didn't beat two weeks ago [in the Southern Region Championships], so she really improved."

Close behind Moralez in 19th place was Anthea Dejarnette, finishing in 21:35.

"This was her best race of the year," said Kegg of Dejarnette.

Rounding out the top five for Clackamas were Emily Schmierer, 28th in 22:28, Cody Hayes, 36th in 23:59, and Cassie Moorhouse, 41st in 25:50. Hayes managed to finish the race despite suffering from a foot injury.

The 1997 NWAACC Champions are the Community Colleges of Spokane. The Sasquatch were responsible for the first five finishers, giving them a perfect score of 15. Clark, Mt. Hood and Lane also finished ahead of Clackamas.

The men's team ran one of its better races of the year, yet could only record a sixth place finish in the ten-team

championship race. Kegg attributes the sixth place finish to the difficult competition.

"We ran a great race," said Kegg. "The conference was just really tough this year."

The Cougars were led by Andy Bradley, who finished 18th in 27:13, despite battling an injury. Chris Chatfield and David Lemarr finished 22nd and 27th, with times of 27:27 and 27:40, respectively.

Tim Winter ran his best race of the year, according to Kegg. Winter finished 34th with a time of 28:04.

Jason Bennett rounded out the Cougars' top five, finishing 36th in 28:14.

"This was one of our best races as a team," said Kegg, whose team reached its goal of 1:00 from its first finisher to its fifth.

Spokane won the men's championship as well, giving them the 1997 NWAACC combined championship. Clackamas had been a three-time defending champion in the combined competition.

Defending individual champion Billy Harper, a sophomore from Lane, set the Clackamas course record with a time of 25:03. Erika Colin, a sophomore from Spokane, was the women's individual champion.

Both teams were very young this year. The men's team loses only two runners, Bradley and Lemarr. The women's team was made up of all freshmen, meaning the entire team will be back next year.

"Because both the men and women are so young, they ought to be able to carry this into next season and be a good core group of sophomores. When we recruit some good freshmen, they'll be pretty good," said Kegg.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Cougars indoor soccer schedule is well under way. The team, headed by player/coach David LeDoux [above left], consists of Clackamas students and other various soccer fanatics. The Cougars play their games at the Oregon Indoor Soccer Center. For more information and a schedule, see page 12.

Clackamas softball team anxious for 1998 season after impressive fall comes to a close

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

Clackamas Community College has a very good softball program.

The Cougars, headed up this year by Denise Nasuta, finished their fall schedule of scrimmages and games a few weeks ago in what was characterized as a "productive" start.

"Fall ball isn't really about keeping stats or scores," said Head Coach Denise Nasuta. "It's about getting everyone some time on the field and giving them a chance to show what they can do. We had 24 players turn out and I got a good chance to see everybody. We had nine games scheduled and we got a chance to play all of those games, which is rare because of the weather."

The Cougars have won seven of the past nine Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] championships including the past three. With a record like that, recruiting the top players is a little easier.

"We have a lot more offensive power," said Nasuta. "Last year, we had

maybe two or three big hitters and this year we have probably five or six at least. Our starting lineup is going to be really solid.

"I was impressed with Marissa Smith. She's a graduate of Putnam and they've been really successful in high school softball. She's going to be a great hitter and plays really solid infield. She'll play either first or third.

"Megan Smythe from Riverside should have a great year pitching for us. Both of them have great attitudes and are willing to help the team in any way they can. That's what we need is team players that are really talented but they want to do what they can for the team."

Clackamas lost a number of key players to graduation. Robin Lisak, Clackamas' top pitcher, Joelle Whitten, catcher, Kris Demos, second base, and Robin Viol, centerfielder, leave a big hole that Coach Nasuta must fill by the start of the 1998 season.

"We recruited a lot of infielders in the offseason that can fill some holes," said Nasuta. "We'll probably need to convert some infielders to outfielders. Robin Viol was a great player for us

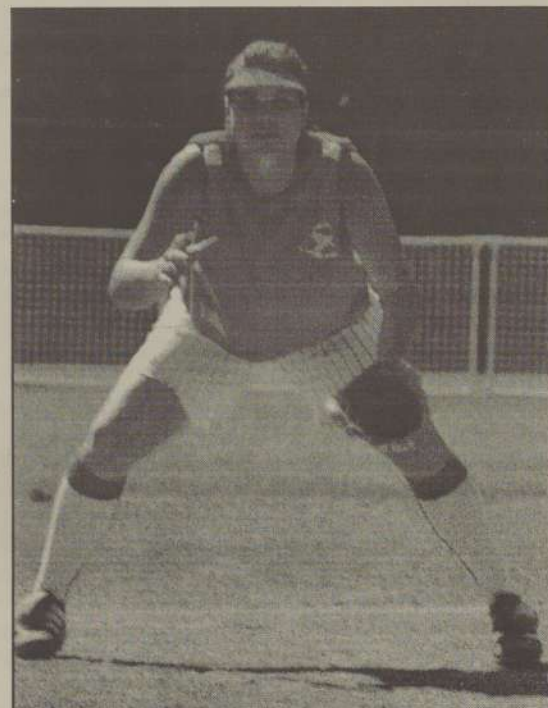
and that's going to be a tough spot to fill. Robin Lisak was an amazing pitcher but I just have to develop a new Robin now."

Clackamas returns a strong core of veteran players that Coach Nasuta will look to for leadership. Kelly Comstock returns to the Cougars' lineup after having a big impact in both pitching and hitting; Dani Soldani looks to improve on her excellent season at third base last year; and Lisa Hosford, shortstop for the Cougars last spring, is Nasuta's biggest team player.

"Lisa Hosford is a tremendous team player," said Nasuta. "She's always helping to motivate the team. Kelly [Comstock] improved from last year when she first came in. With her experience from last year and her power hitting, she should be very successful.

"We've probably lost some speed," added Nasuta, "but our hitting is so much stronger. I think we'll rely more on the extra base hits versus speed. We've got our 200-foot fence up now so we'll just hit it over."

The Cougars open up against Pacific University on March 4.



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Sophomore third baseman Dani Soldani and the Cougars open up their season against Pacific University on March 4.