

Cougars upset Chiefs, fall to 'Runners

Clackamas hosts PCC tonight to open three-game homestand

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The Cougars' up and down season continued this past weekend.

Clackamas traveled to Albany to take on Linn-Benton in a Southern Division matchup on Saturday.

The Cougars, coming off a huge victory over Chemeketa, the second-ranked team in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC], had a bit of a letdown as they fell to the Roadrunners, 77-71.

“We played good defense, played tough, played smart and we played together.”

Royce Kiser
Head Coach

Clackamas trailed 33-30 at halftime, but came out hot to start the second half. The Cougars led by as many as 14 midway through the second half, but then the wheels came off. The Roadrunners started hitting their shots and Clackamas struggled from the floor. Linn-Benton took the lead with just under four minutes to play and never trailed after that en route to a six point win.

Sophomore post J.J. Pilgreen paced the Cougars with 21 points on 10-20 shooting. Freshman post Billy Townsend was 6-10 from the field and added 12 points. Sophomore shooting guard Oscar Rodriguez struggled from the floor, going 3-12 and scoring nine points. Freshman wing Roland Contreras also scored nine for Coach Kiser's squad, who fell to 10-9 overall and 1-3 in conference play.

Clackamas was without freshman post David Cohen, who was averaging 18 points and 10 rebounds before an injury to his leg.

Linn-Benton was led by sophomore post Nick Matsler, who hit 12 of 16 from the field and scored a game-high 25 points.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman guard Cody Eckman scored 13 points and dished out nine assists against the heavily-favored Chiefs.

Sophomore guard Brian Fauth added 16 points for the Roadrunners, who improved to 10-6 overall and 3-1 in league.

The Cougars shot a dismal .429 from the floor, but stayed in the game by holding the Roadrunners to .418 from the field. The difference in the game may have been at the line, where Linn-Benton made 16 of 26 and Clackamas made only 6 of 12.

The Cougars opened conference play with a hard-fought loss to Umpqua at home, 84-70. Clackamas then traveled to Coos Bay to face off against Southwestern Oregon Community College. Playing in front of the toughest fans in the league, the Cougars fell to the Lakers in a see-saw battle, 87-81.

Coming off back-to-back losses, the Cougars were faced with the impossible task of traveling to Salem to take on the second-ranked Chemeketa Chiefs.

Clackamas played what was clearly their best game of the year, defeating Chemeketa 90-80.

Rodriguez led six Cougars scoring in double figures with 20 points. Townsend scored 16 points and grabbed eight re-

bounds, while Pilgreen added 13 points and 12 boards.

Freshman point guard Cody Eckman scored 13 points and dished out a team-high nine assists. Contreras and freshman wing Josiah Lake chipped in with 11 points apiece.

The Chiefs had not lost a home game in two years before being upset by the Cougars.

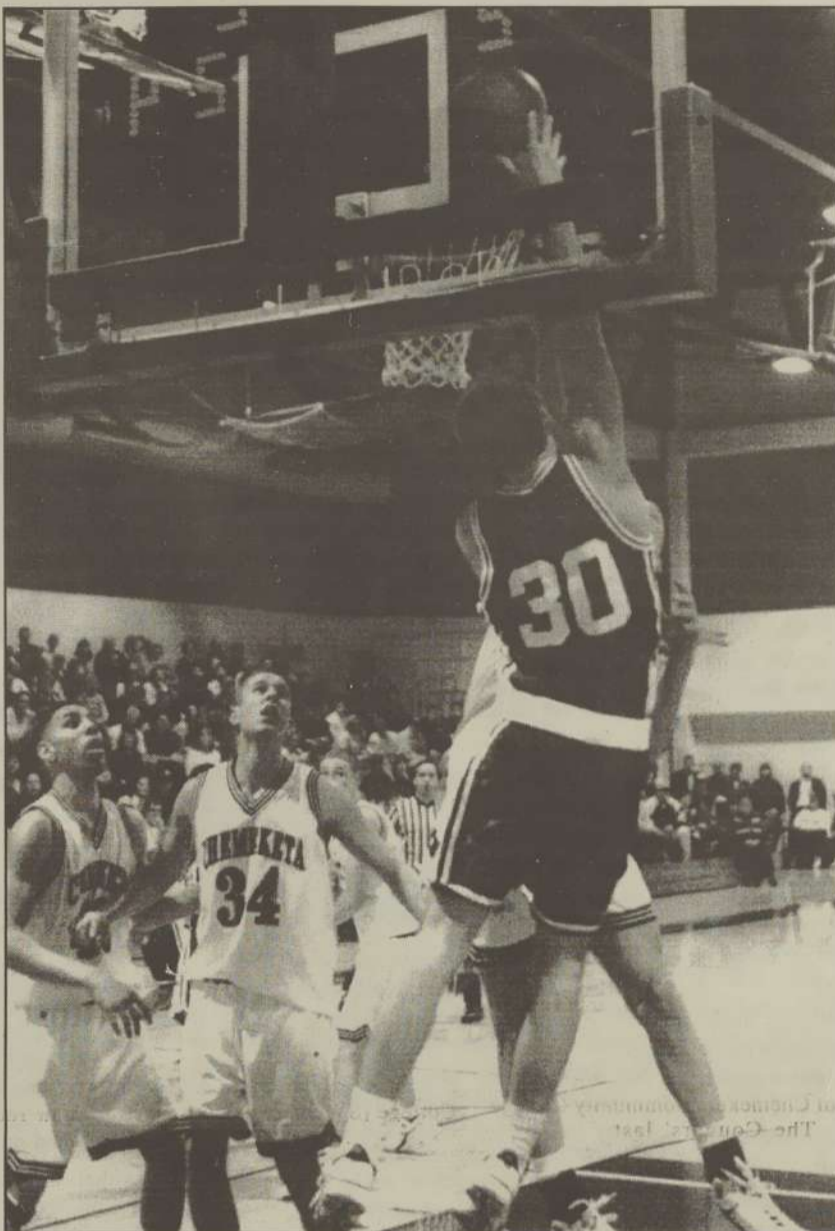
Coach Kiser was extremely pleased with the way the Cougars fought back after two losses in a row.

“We played good defense, played tough, played smart, and we played together,” said Kiser.

Kiser also pointed out that he was very pleased with the play of Townsend.

“Billy Townsend really, really produced in the Chemeketa game,” said Kiser.

The Cougars open a three-game homestand tonight [Wednesday] against cellar-dweller Portland



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Sophomore J.J. Pilgreen attempts the reverse lay-up en route to his 13 points and 12 rebounds against the Chiefs last Wednesday. Clackamas upset second-ranked Chemeketa 90-80.



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print

Freshman Billy Bright and the Cougars have shown potential but struggled early in league play. Clackamas looks to get back on track against the Panthers of PCC tonight.

Men's Southern Division Standings

School	League	Season
Linn-Benton	3-1	10-6
Lane	3-1	14-5
Umpqua	3-1	12-6
Chemeketa	2-2	14-4
Mt. Hood	2-2	11-7
SW Oregon	2-2	8-9
Clackamas	1-3	10-9
Portland	0-4	6-12