

Cougars destroy Portland, fall to Lane

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Royce Kiser
Head
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ADAM CRUM
Staff Writer

The season continues to be a roller coaster ride for the Cougar basketball team.

Clackamas defeated the Panthers from Portland Community College last Wednesday, but then fell to Lane Community College on Saturday.

The Cougars dominated the less-talented Panthers en route to a 104-68 victory in the Randall Hall Gymnasium. This game was over at halftime, when Clackamas led 50-28. The Cougars were 19-38 from the field in the first half, including 4-6 from three-point range.

Freshman wing Billy Bright came off the bench to lead the Cougars with 20 points on 7-9 shooting, including 6-7 from behind the arc. Sophomore shooting guard Oscar Rodriguez scored 16 points on 6-8 shooting and added four assists and three steals.

Freshmen Billy Townsend and Josiah Lake scored 12 points apiece and sophomore J.J. Pilgreen added 11 points and nine rebounds. Townsend also pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds.

Head Coach Royce Kiser was pleased to see his team get an easy victory, and he knew this was a game his team had to win.

“We played well and executed the way we needed to,” said Kiser.

The Cougars shot an awesome .542 from the floor and held Portland to a dismal .294. Clackamas made good on 9-16 from downtown, a percentage of .562 and outrebounded the undersized Panthers 61-45.

Portland's leading scorer was Tobias Mitchell, who scored 13 points on 5-17 shooting. Freshman post Justin Jeffrey added 11 points and eight rebounds for the Panthers, who fell to 0-6 in conference play and 6-14 overall.

As good as Clackamas played on Wednesday was as bad as they played on Saturday against the Lane Titans. The Cougars never could get it going against the over-matched Titans and were defeated 90-67.

Lane outscored Clackamas 42-28 in the first half, making 19-34 shots and limiting the Cougars to 9-28 shooting. Clackamas made only 1-9 from three-point range in the half. The Titans outrebounded Clackamas 42-26 and shot .552 from the field in the game while holding the Cougars to .396 shoot-

ing. The Cougars were led by Townsend, who scored 15 points on 5-7 from the floor. Rodriguez added 13 points and grabbed a team-high 6 rebounds. Pilgreen was the only other Cougar in double figures, scoring 11 points.

In the loss, the Cougars came away with 15 steals, led by freshmen point guards Cody Eckman and Keenan Coleman, who each had four.

Coach Kiser pointed out that the loss was a direct result from a lack of toughness.

“We just didn't fight hard enough,” said Kiser. “We were outrebounded and could not match up physically. Lane is a much better team than PCC and it showed.”

The loss dropped the Cougars record to 2-4 in conference play and 11-10 overall.

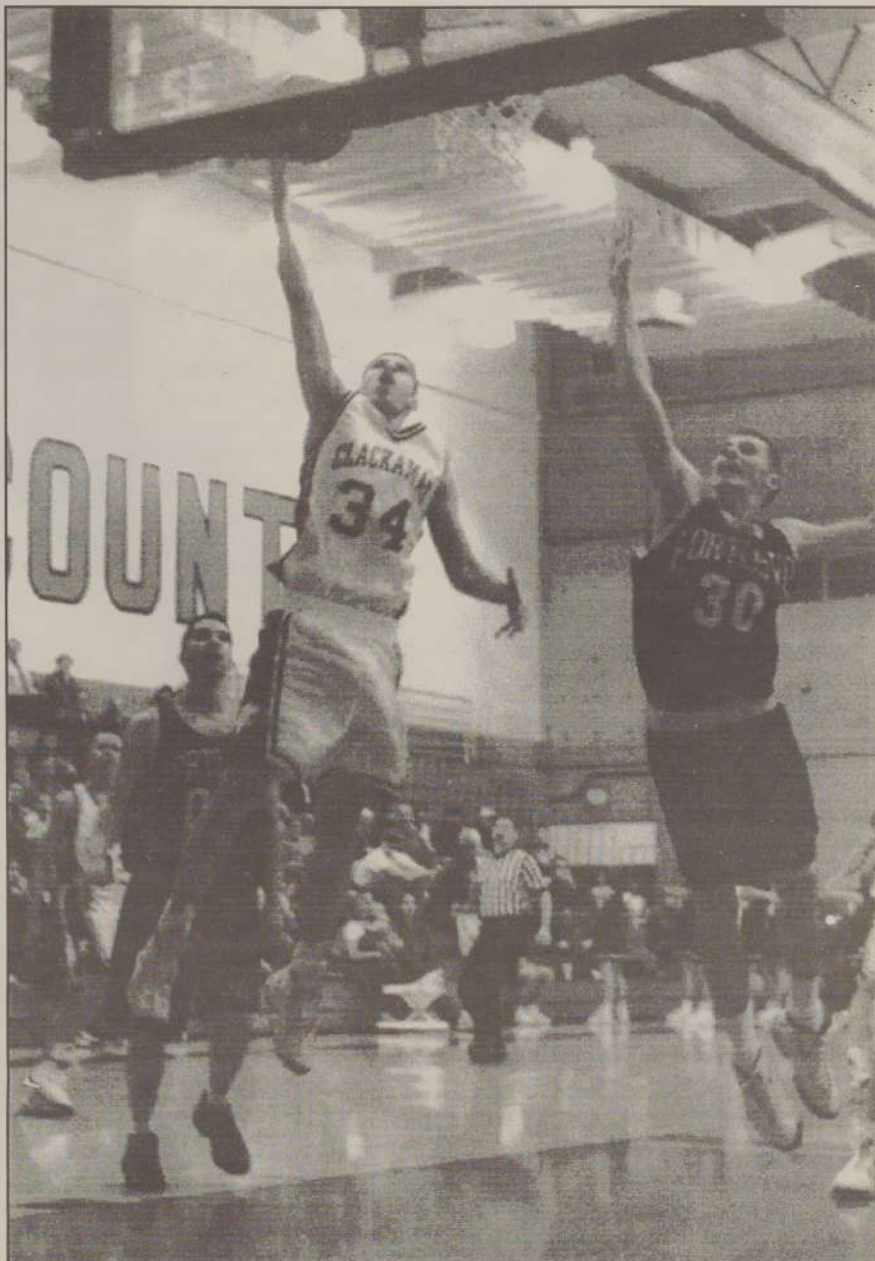
The Titans were led by freshman post Dan Carter with 22 points and eight rebounds, both game-highs. Carter was 10-18 from the field. Sophomore point guard Kevin McMann made good on 7-8 from the field and added 19 points, six assists, six rebounds and three steals for the Titans, who improved to 5-1 in the Southern Division and 16-5 overall.

The Cougars host rival Mt. Hood tonight at 8 p.m. in the Randall Hall Gymnasium.

Coach Kiser knew this will be a battle and realized what it will take to come out victorious.

“We're going to have to rebound well against [Mt. Hood],” said Kiser. “If we don't, it could be a long game.”

Clackamas is currently tied for sixth place with Southwestern Oregon Community College



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman wing Roland Contreras goes up for a layin during the Cougars' 104-68 victory over Portland Community College. Contreras finished the game with nine points, seven assists, five rebounds and two steals. Contreras and his teammates get set to take on the arch-rival Mt. Hood Saints tonight at 8 p.m. in the Randall Hall Gymnasium.

[SWOCC] in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges' [NWAACC] Southern Division.

Mt. Hood [4-2, 13-7] enters tonight's game in third place, one game behind Lane and Linn-Benton.

Clackamas travels to Roseburg to take on Umpqua Saturday. The Timbermen [3-3, 12-8] are currently tied for fourth place with Chemeketa [3-3, 15-5].

The Cougars host Chemeketa and SWOCC [3-3, 8-11] on Feb. 4 and Feb. 7, respectively.

Men's Southern Division Standings

School	League	Season
Linn-Benton	5-1	12-6
Lane	5-1	16-5
Mt. Hood	4-2	13-7
Chemeketa	3-3	15-5
Umpqua	3-3	12-8
SW Oregon	2-4	8-11
Clackamas	2-4	11-10
Portland	0-6	6-14

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