

Clackamas wins behind team effort

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Staff Writer

It wasn't pretty, but the Cougars' victory over Southwestern Oregon Community College [SWOCC] on Saturday brought hope to a team that has struggled for consistency.

Clackamas defeated the Lakers 76-74 in a showdown in the Randall Hall Gymnasium.

The two teams went back and forth in the first half, with the Cougars running out to a 39-31 half-time lead.

Defense was the key for Head Coach Royce Kiser's squad, who held SWOCC to 11-36 shooting in the half and 1-9 from three-point range.

The Lakers came back in the second half, hitting on 17-27 shots from the floor, but could not overcome a poorly played first half, as the Cougars went on to record a 76-74 victory.

Clackamas won the game on the boards, where they outrebounded the Lakers 45-26, including 19-11 on the offensive end. The Cougars shot 15-33 from the field in each half, good for a .455 mark.

Clackamas used a balanced scoring attack to preserve the win, led by freshman guard Billy Bright with 13 points on 5-8 shooting and 2-5 from beyond the arc.

Sophomore guard Oscar Rodriguez played an excellent all-around game, scoring 12 points while adding six rebounds, six assists and three steals. Freshmen Josiah Lake and Scott Riddle

scored 12 and 11 points, respectively, and grabbed eight rebounds apiece.

The Cougars' bench played really well, according to Coach Kiser, outscoring SWOCC's bench 27-16.

"Roland [Contreras], Alfredo [Villarreal] and Josiah [Lake] really produced off the bench for us," said Kiser. "They, along with the rest of the guys, gave us a lift and helped preserved the win."

Although the Cougars did not play well, Kiser knew a win was important.

"We played flat but still came away with a win, which is a good sign," added Kiser.

"We needed the moral win," said sophomore forward J.J. Pilgreen. "We didn't play great but we needed the moral win for our team to keep winning. That's a team we should have put away at the beginning."

The Lakers were led by sophomore wing Mark Hunter, who scored a game-high 26 points on 10-19 shooting and added six rebounds and four steals.

Freshman guard Hollis Hale scored 17 points on 7-13 from the floor and sophomore guard Stephen Harold came off the bench to score 16 points for the Lakers, who fell to 2-8 in the Southern Division and 8-15 overall.

The win improved the Cougars' record to 4-6 in the Division and 13-12 overall.

Clackamas played host to Chemeketa last Wednesday in another close game.

The Chiefs were seeking revenge on the Cougars, who defeated Chemeketa 90-80 in the teams' first meeting.

The Chiefs took a 38-32 lead into the locker room and never looked back, defeating Clackamas 79-75.

Chemeketa shot .517 from the floor and were 6-11 from three-point range.

Despite the loss, Coach Kiser was pleased with his team's performance.

"We played well all game but we just couldn't find a way to win," said Kiser. "We are finally learning to play as a team. Earlier in the year, we played well individually but



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman wing Roland Contreras looks to drive on Chemeketa sophomore Steve Butler in the teams' first meeting. Contreras and the Cougars beat the Chiefs 90-80 last month, but Chemeketa escaped with a 79-75 victory last Wednesday.

weren't winning. Now we're playing as a team and we're playing good basketball."

The Cougars assisted on 24 of their 31 field goals, an incredibly high percentage that exemplifies the team game.

Pilgreen and Lake led the team with 17 points apiece. Pilgreen added nine rebounds and six assists on 7-17 shooting while Lake pulled down seven rebounds and was 5-6 from the field and 7-9 from the line.

Riddle and freshman post Billy Townsend chipped in with 10 points apiece and grabbed five and four rebounds, respectively.

Sophomore Steve Butler led the Chiefs with 17 points, seven assists and five rebounds on 6-12 shoot-

ing from the field and 3-6 from three-point range. Sophomore point guard Jermaine Thompson added 16 points, five assists and five rebounds and freshman wing Ryan Slider scored 13 points and grabbed eight boards, helping improve their team's Division record to 7-3 and overall record to 17-5.

The Cougars play at Portland Community College [1-9, 7-17] tonight at 8 p.m. and then host Linn-Benton Community College [6-4, 13-9] Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Randall Hall Gymnasium.

The Roadrunners from Linn-Benton are currently two games ahead of Clackamas for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Southern Division.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman guard Alfredo Villarreal looks for an open man against Chemeketa.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman wing Josiah Lake surveys the floor with a defender closely guarding him. Lake scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the team's loss to Chemeketa.

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Royce Kiser
Head Coach
-on the team's victory over SWOCC

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Sophomore Ceremonies

Saturday is the final regular season home game for Clackamas sophomores. Special presentations will be made prior to each game. Women play at 6 p.m., Men at 8 p.m.