

Cougar Sidelines

Wrestling

Clackamas travels to Couer d'Alene, Idaho to compete in the Region 18 championships.

Since having a mediocre regular season due to injury and ineligibility, the Cougars have come on strong in the past few weeks and hope to have a successful showing in this year's regional meet.

After competing in the championships, the Cougars will travel to Bismarck, ND to take part in the 1998 National Junior College Athletic Association [NJCAA] National Championships. The Cougars placed sixth in the nation last season with one Cougar winning a national title.

Indoor Track

The Cougars travel to Moscow, Idaho this weekend to compete in the McDonalds II Indoor Track Invitational.

"We've had one of the most successful indoor seasons we've ever had here," noted Track Head Coach Jack Kegg. "We're really looking forward to the outdoor season. We've had a number of athletes already make our Top 10 list which is pretty awesome. I can't say enough positive things about the way things have gone."

Clackamas concludes its indoor season at the Nevada Classic in Reno, NV on Feb. 21.

The Cougars open up their 1998 Outdoor Schedule in the Linfield Icebreaker, March 7, in McMinnville.

FCA News

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes [FCA] is holding its first ever retreat Feb. 13-15 at Camp Kuratli near Estacada.

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For more information, Contact Dusty Davis at (541) 485-4723 or e-mail her at dustyaia@oregon.uoregon.edu or contact Sue Kelly at (503) 675-0061 or e-mail her at fcaoregonsue@integrityonline.edu.

Registrations are still being accepted for this fun-filled retreat.

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Cougars prepare for title run

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

If the women's basketball team is not the best in Oregon, somebody had better let them know that soon.

They're about to win the Southern Division title.

After defeating Southwestern Oregon Community College [SWOCC] in a commanding 91-69 victory on Saturday, the 6th-ranked Cougars [8-2, 18-5] sit alone at the top of the division.

"This was the first time in a while that we played a complete game all the way through," said Head Coach Karen Twain. "In the past we've had slow starts or slow second halves but we came out and really stuck it to them and kept going throughout the game. We finally played our game. I was really pleased with how well we played."

The SWOCC Lakers faced a balance Clackamas offense with Robbie Nix and Melinda Freeman leading the way with 21 points each. Michelle McKinney collected 14 points and 14 rebounds and Lauren Mohan, coming off her best game of the season, had 10 points and 10 assists.

"It was a total team effort against SWOCC," noted Twain. "Nichole [Hayden] made some key passes throughout the game. Lauren [Mohan] is finally start to come into her game, she's shooting a lot more for us. Melinda played incredible defense and really did a good job running the floor. Robbie [Nix] and Michelle [McKinney] just played stellar for us and as far as the bench goes [Denise] Bean goes in every night and plays really well."

Clackamas shot 49 percent from the floor, a large increase from low shooting percentages in recent games.

The Cougars led 44-22 at the half.

On Wednesday, the Cougars faced off against the 5th-ranked Chemeketa Chiefs.

Clackamas defeated the Chiefs, 83-59, on Jan. 14 in the teams' first meeting of the

year.

Heading into the game, Clackamas, Chemeketa and Umpqua were in a three-way tie atop the Southern Division.

In the first half, Clackamas looked lethargic and slow but managed to keep the game close, trailing 37-30.

In the second half, the Cougars stepped up on defense and caused turnovers. Clackamas gradually began to catch the Chiefs.

With less than 30 seconds remaining, Robbie Nix grabbed the ball, down by one point. She buried a three-pointer and sent the gym into a frenzy.

Chemeketa soon responded to tie the game to send it into overtime.

Clackamas edged the Chiefs 62-60 in the extra period.

"We really squeaked by Chemeketa," said Coach Twain. "We didn't play all that well in the first half. In the second half, though, we had really good defense and that's what got the ball rolling for us."

Along with the Cougars' electrifying victory, Umpqua was upset by SWOCC in a 98-96 shootout.

The rare home loss was the first for the Timberwomen since the Cougars defeated them in overtime two years ago.

With Umpqua's loss, Clackamas holds a one game lead over both the Chiefs and the Timberwomen with four games left to be played.

"Now we pretty much control our own destiny," noted Twain. "We've played Chemeketa and Umpqua twice already so we won't have to face them again until the playoffs. Umpqua and Chemeketa still have to face each other one more time so a lot of things will change in the next two weeks."

"Right now, we just really need to step up and play our style of basketball and if things go okay then we should be on our way to the tournament [NWAACC]."

Clackamas travels to Portland Community College tonight to avenge a 63-62 upset loss that the Panthers handed the Cougars on Jan. 21.

"The girls are pretty fired up about playing PCC again," noted Twain. "They want a little revenge for losing to them earlier in the season. We hold high respect for them but we felt that it's a game that we definitely should have won."

"These next few games are really critical for us. We play some of the teams that are in the lower half of the division. They aren't bad, they just haven't had much success. They've got nothing to lose so they kind of play the role of spoilers. We're not



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Sophomore Jenny Hansen has played a key role in taking Clackamas to the top of the Southern Division. Hansen and the rest of the sophomores will play their final home game of the regular season Saturday night.

afraid of them, we just respect them."

On Saturday, the sophomores will play in their final home game of the season against Linn-Benton. A special ceremony dedicated to the sophomores and their parents will take place immediately prior to tipoff at 6 p.m.

"It's a pretty special moment," said Twain. "We'd like to have as many people come out for that game as possible."

“We control our own destiny now.”

Karen Twain
Head Coach



The Cougars enjoy a one-game lead over Chemeketa and Umpqua with four games remaining on their schedule.



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