

Young Cougars close out season

11 players, three starters eligible to return to the court next winter

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Staff Writer

The season ended earlier than expected, but the Cougars lose only two starters and look ahead to next year.

Clackamas was picked by many to win the Southern Division title, despite having only two sophomores on the team. That was primarily because of the success Head Coach Royce Kiser has enjoyed over the last 19 years.

Clackamas ended their season with three consecutive losses, all to teams who advanced to the playoffs.

The Cougars took on rival Mt. Hood last Wednesday in Gresham. Coming off a loss to Linn-Benton that ended their playoff hopes, Clackamas was playing solely for pride.

The Cougars played with the fifth ranked Saints to the very end, but came up short and fell to defeat, 99-91.

Despite shooting only 15-43 from the field in the first half, Clackamas trailed by only one at halftime, 42-41. The Saints shot the ball well all game and held off the Cougars to win the game.

Mt. Hood shot .531 from the field

and converted on 26-36 from the free throw line.

Clackamas finished the game with a .423 shooting percentage, hitting only 8-26 from three-point range.

The Cougars were led by freshman wing Josiah Lake with 27 points and 17 rebounds. Lake was 8-15 from the floor, 10-11 from the line and pulled down 10 offensive rebounds.

Freshman shooting guard Billy Bright scored 20 points on 8-18 shooting and freshman point guard Keenan Coleman came off the bench to score 16 points on 6-13 shooting.

Sophomores Oscar Rodriguez and J.J. Pilgreen struggled shooting the ball, combining for 14 points on 6-20 from the field and 1-8 from three-point range.

Despite the loss, Coach Kiser felt his team played well and never gave up.

"I thought we really battled and played a good game," said Kiser. "[Mt. Hood] is a good team and they're more experienced than we are."

The Saints were led by sophomore guard Drake Hudgins, who scored a game-high 28 points on 9-17 shooting and 8-9 from the line. Hudgins also pulled down seven rebounds and dished out a game-high five assists.

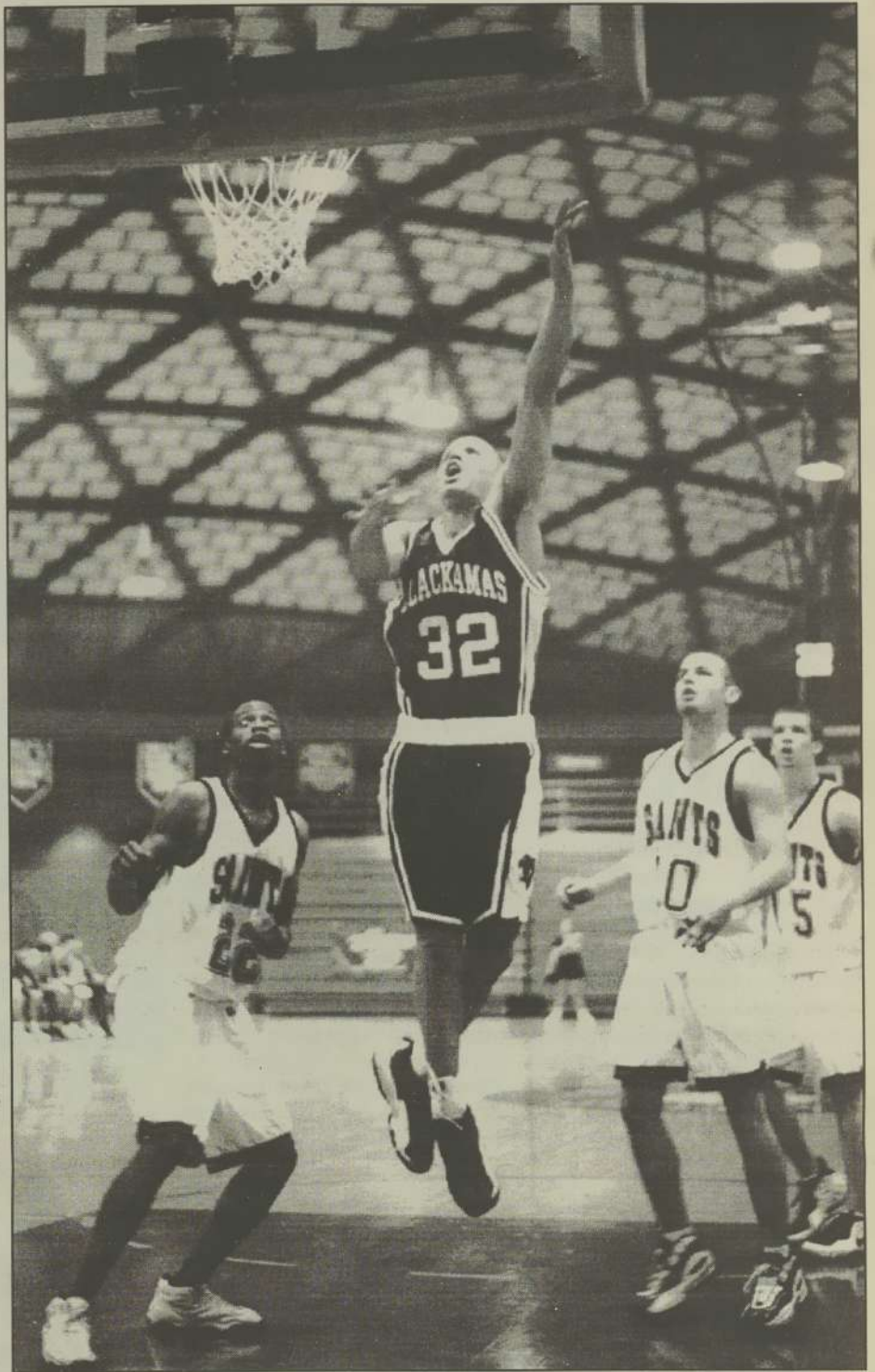
Sophomore wing Jeff Peart scored 19 points on 7-10 shooting and sophomore wing Joe Coleman also scored 19 points, hitting 7-12 from the floor and grabbing seven rebounds.

Freshman post Brad Beckham added 15 points on 7-11 shooting to help the Saints improve to 10-3 in the Southern Division. Mt. Hood defeated Southwestern Oregon Community College [SWOCC] 83-73 on Saturday to secure second place with an 11-3 record in the division and 20-8 overall.

The Saints will host Chemeketa [10-4, 22-6] in the first round of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] regional playoffs on Thurs-

“We played really well the second half of the season. I felt we outplayed every team except Lane.”

Royce Kiser
Head Coach



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman Josiah Lake elevates for two of his team-high 27 points. Lake also led the team with 17 rebounds in the loss to the Saints.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Freshman Billy Bright penetrates the Mt. Hood defense en route to a 20-point performance.

Men's Southern Division Standings

School	League	Season
Lane	12-2	23-6
Mt. Hood	11-3	20-8
Chemeketa	10-4	22-6
Linn-Benton	8-6	15-11
Clackamas	5-9	14-15
Umpqua	5-9	14-14
SW Oregon	3-11	9-18
Portland	2-12	8-20

day.

The Cougars traveled to Eugene to play the second ranked Lane Titans on Saturday in the regular season finale.

Clackamas was clearly over-matched heading into the game, and the Titans proved why they are one of the top teams in the NWAACC, cruising to a 104-75 victory.

"Lane is an excellent basketball team," said Kiser. "They're just too physical for us and they play smart."

The Cougars were just 27-59 from the field, a .458 clip. Lane shot the lights out

in the second half and finished the game at a .557 mark. Lane outrebounded the Cougars 46-27, including 19-9 on the offensive end.

The Cougars' leading scorer was Bright, who scored 13 points on 4-8 from the floor. Freshman guard

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'98 Team Highs

- Scoring: J.J. Pilgreen, 31 pts.
- Rebounding: Josiah Lake, 17.
- Assists: Cody Eckman, 10

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