

Sophomore proving hard work pays off

Hillsboro High graduate Adam Edwards continues to open eyes in the northwest

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Staff Writer

So much for the dreaded "sophomore slump."

Adam Edwards, a sophomore first baseman on the Clackamas baseball team, has received all the attention from opponents but that hasn't bothered him at all.

Edwards, a first team All-Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] selection last year, is putting together another terrific season offensively for Coach Robin Robinson and the Cougars.

Edwards leads the team with five home runs and 30 RBI's, is second with 32 runs scored and is third with a .370 batting average.

He's been able to put up these numbers despite being pitched around all year long. This is evident by the large number of walks he's drawn.

Coach Robinson has enjoyed coaching Edwards and appreciates his work habits.

"Adam's been a great leader. He shows by example and all the guys have great confidence in him," said Robinson.

"He's always the first one to arrive and the last one to leave," added Robinson. "He is very committed to being a great player."

It's been a disappointing year for the Cougars thus

far and according to Edwards, the reasons are quite simple.

"We play good one day but not the next. Our pitching and hitting have been good but our defense has been a problem."

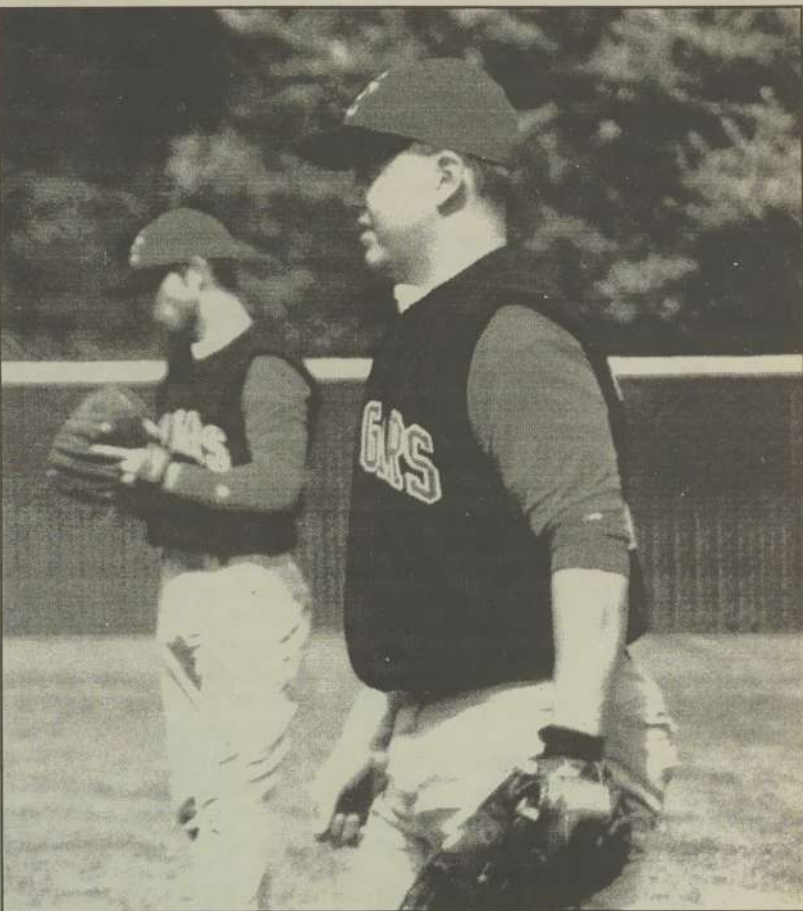
The defensive problem has never been more evident than it was this past week, when the Cougars committed 30 errors in six games.

Despite the success he's enjoyed, Edwards prefers to focus on the team, which is currently in fourth place in the Southern Division with an 8-10 record.

With only two weeks remaining, the sophomore slugger understands what it will take to win and hopefully get into the playoffs.

"We just need to have fun," said Eddy, as he is known by his teammates. "Everyone on the team has to want to play. When we play well defensively, we are tough to beat."

Edwards was part of the Cougar team that missed the playoffs by one game last year, when Clackamas lost to rival Mt. Hood the



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Despite the Cougars' defensive problems, Adam Edwards has had a steady glove at first base this season.



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Edwards leads the team with five home runs and 30 RBI's in 31 games played.

NWAACC with a .419 batting average, including two home runs and 36 RBI's.

Edwards, who is currently undecided on a major, has not decided where he will go to school next year, but he has received letters from schools such as Pacific, Willamette, Western, Portland State and George Fox.

"I'm not really sure where I'm going to go next year," said Edwards.

Pacific has shown the most interest, sending numerous letters through the mail.

No matter where he goes, Robinson believes Edwards is ready to compete at the next level.

"Eddy's made great improvement to play at a higher level," said Robinson. The sophomore plans on becoming a coach in the future.

One thing is for sure; if he's as good a coach as he is a player, you can expect a lot of success.

Adam Edwards Baseball

1998 Statistics

31 Games Played
.370 avg.
5 Home Runs
30 RBI's
6 Doubles
32 Runs Scored
.580 Slug. %

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