

Cougars declawed in Salem

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Sports Editor

They say when it rains it pours. Well, it rained like hell in Salem last week.

Clackamas hit a brick wall that sent a wake-up call to the Cougars.

In a match that was touted as the showdown of two Southern Region powerhouses, the Chemeketa Storm put on a clinic and Clackamas [5-1, 27-3] couldn't even find a seat.

The Storm [6-0, 29-1] dispelled the visiting Cougars in three short matches 15-4, 15-7, 15-4.

"We played just awful," said Clackamas Head Coach Kathie Woods. "Chemeketa is very, very consistent and we just made too many errors."

Named by one fan as the "Heart-Attack Team," Clackamas is on a rollercoaster ride as it begins the second half of its season this Friday.

"It feels like a rollercoaster," noted Woods. "We had a down spot against Chemeketa and then on Friday we went back up in the



Clackamas Head Coach Kathie Woods is confident despite the Cougars' inconsistent play in the past week and is ready for her team to get back on top.

tournament but then went back down on Saturday."

The Cougars hosted the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC]

Crossover Tournament this past weekend and placed third despite winning six matches and losing one.

On Friday, Clackamas opened up against the Shoreline Dolphins and defeated them in two hard-fought games. Then the Spokane Sasquatch stepped onto the court for a shot at the home team and failed miserably.

The Cougars dealt their next two opponents quick losses to set up a second match against Spo-

kane. Clackamas looked lazy and confused and were soundly defeated by a hungry Spokane squad.

Later in the tournament, a drained Clackamas team rebounded with wins against Centralia and Shoreline.

"I'm both curious and excited to see how this team responds," said Coach Woods. "When we don't play well we play horrible, and when we play good nobody can touch us. We just need to get off the rollercoaster."

"Every team does this. Clackamas, Spokane and even Chemeketa is showing signs of it."

"Great teams are determined by whichever team gets off of the ride first," added Woods.

The Cougars dive into the sec-

ond half of its schedule with two home matches against Southwestern Oregon and Umpqua Community College this Friday and Saturday.

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”
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Head Coach

"I've sent a challenge to this team to respond. I'm anxious to see how they do that."

Despite the inconsistent play, Coach Woods is not disappointed with her team.

"I could look at the Chemeketa game and this past weekend and say that we're struggling," noted Woods. "But our record is 27-3. There aren't many teams that can say that. We just need to regroup and redefine our roles. I have total confidence that we'll

bounce back."



The Clackamas volleyball team was given the day off Monday by its head coach.

They were told to take a break, have fun, and to get away from volleyball.

Instead of going out with friends to a movie or shopping, however, sophomore defensive specialist Maren Maggio spent the afternoon in the weight room doing as much as possible to strengthen herself and her team.

Maggio, like every other athlete at Clackamas, wants to win and to succeed.

She is a Cougar — part of the winningest athletic program in the northwest in the 1990's.

One would think that a team like the Clackamas volleyball squad, with its three straight Southern Division title, its league championship in 1996 and its national ranking two years in a row, would draw a crowd.

One would think, anyway. Instead, parents line the bleachers with a few scattered students here and there — depending on what time the local parties start of course.

Now, it's always been argued that a school like Clackamas will never draw a crowd because of its closeness to the Portland Metropolitan area. One could always go to a Portland Trailblazers game or a Power game. They could venture to a Winterhawks hockey game as well.

If I'm not mistaken, the Blaz-

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Judi Arbuckle (left) and Kimber York are anxious for success heading into the second half of the Cougars' season schedule.



University of Oregon senior quarterback, Akili Smith, has found himself one of the nation's top contenders for the 1998 Heisman Trophy.

Akili Smith

Duck lands in Heisman race

Finally, after years of waning, the wait is over. At last, the Oregon Ducks now have a Legitimate Heisman Trophy contender.

Quarterback Akili Smith has led the Ducks to a 5-0 record and a #11 overall national ranking in the polls. Along the way, he has played himself right into Heisman Trophy contention with stellar play that has already earned him many honors (among them, most recently, offensive player of the week honors and USA Today conference player of the week, on 9/28 against Stanford in a 63-28 victory).

The senior Quarterback from San Diego, Cal. arrived at Oregon in his junior year (1997) as a transfer out of Grossmont Junior College, quickly lending the team a boost as quarterback.

After arriving late in spring training, he was forced to split quarterbacking duties with Jason Mass.

After learning the offense, he led the Ducks to

an upset victory over then 6th-ranked Washington 31-28 on a last second 29-yard touchdown pass to split end Pat Johnson.

One expert said Smith "looked like Houdini on that play," because he escaped so many defenders. This play was a sign of good times to come.

This year while leading U of O to their undefeated record (5-0) and national ranking (No.11), Smith has made himself a household name.

He is the most efficient quarterback in the country, leading the nation with a 196.3 quarterback rating (the rating formula figures pass attempts, completions, yards, touchdowns and interceptions).

The No.2 ranked passer (Donovan McNabb, Syracuse) is 20.4 rating points behind him at 175.9 (the NCAA record is 178.4, set by Danny Wuerffel of Florida in 1996).

He is ranked 5th nationally with 15 touchdown passes, is 8th in total offense at 297 yards per game, and has Oregon ranked 2nd nationally in both total offense (539.8 yards per game) and scoring (50.6 points per



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