

Cougars roll, reload for Classic

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

Welcome back, Cougars. After weeks of trying to find its own identity, the Clackamas volleyball team looks to be back on track.

The Cougars [9-1, 31-3] hosted Mt. Hood Community College in what was believed to be a showdown between the #2 and #3 teams in the Southern Region.

The visiting Saints [6-4] had been on fire recently, according to Clackamas Head Coach Kathie Woods.

"Mt. Hood had really been playing tough heading into the game on Friday," said Coach Woods.

The underdog Saints, however, looked slow and under-manned against the Cougars as Clackamas jumped out quickly to win the first game 15-5.

Mt. Hood rebounded in the second game and caused the Cougars to make some errors.

"In the middle of the match," noted Woods, "our serving really picked up when it got tough."

Clackamas went on to victory in the match — winning the next two games 15-11, 15-13.

Sophomore Amy Kraljev had an outstanding match recording 10 kills, eight digs and two service aces while Freshman Jessica Rowley, a player that has come on strong in recent weeks, continued her tear with six kills and 15 digs.

Freshman setter Kimber York had 17 assists with nine digs.

"We played very aggressive against Mt. Hood," said Woods.

"We really picked things up in that match. Not only was our serving and hitting strong, our passing was a lot better than we have seen in a long time."

Clackamas entered the contest riding the high of coming off its best match of the year against Linn-Benton, according to Coach Woods.

The Cougars traveled to Albany a week ago to take on the struggling, but stingy, Roadrunners.

"This is the best match we have played all year," noted Woods. "Offensively we played very aggressive and hit the ball well. It was the first time in a long time that anybody's really seen the Cougar attack."

Clackamas was led by a balanced attack of hitters and diggers in the 15-5, 15-6, 15-0 win.

Sophomore Michelle McKinney recorded a 61 percent hitting efficiency with 11 kills while York had 26 assists.

"Everybody, I think, was pleased with that game," added Woods. "It's the first time in a while we have left the court really feeling like winners."

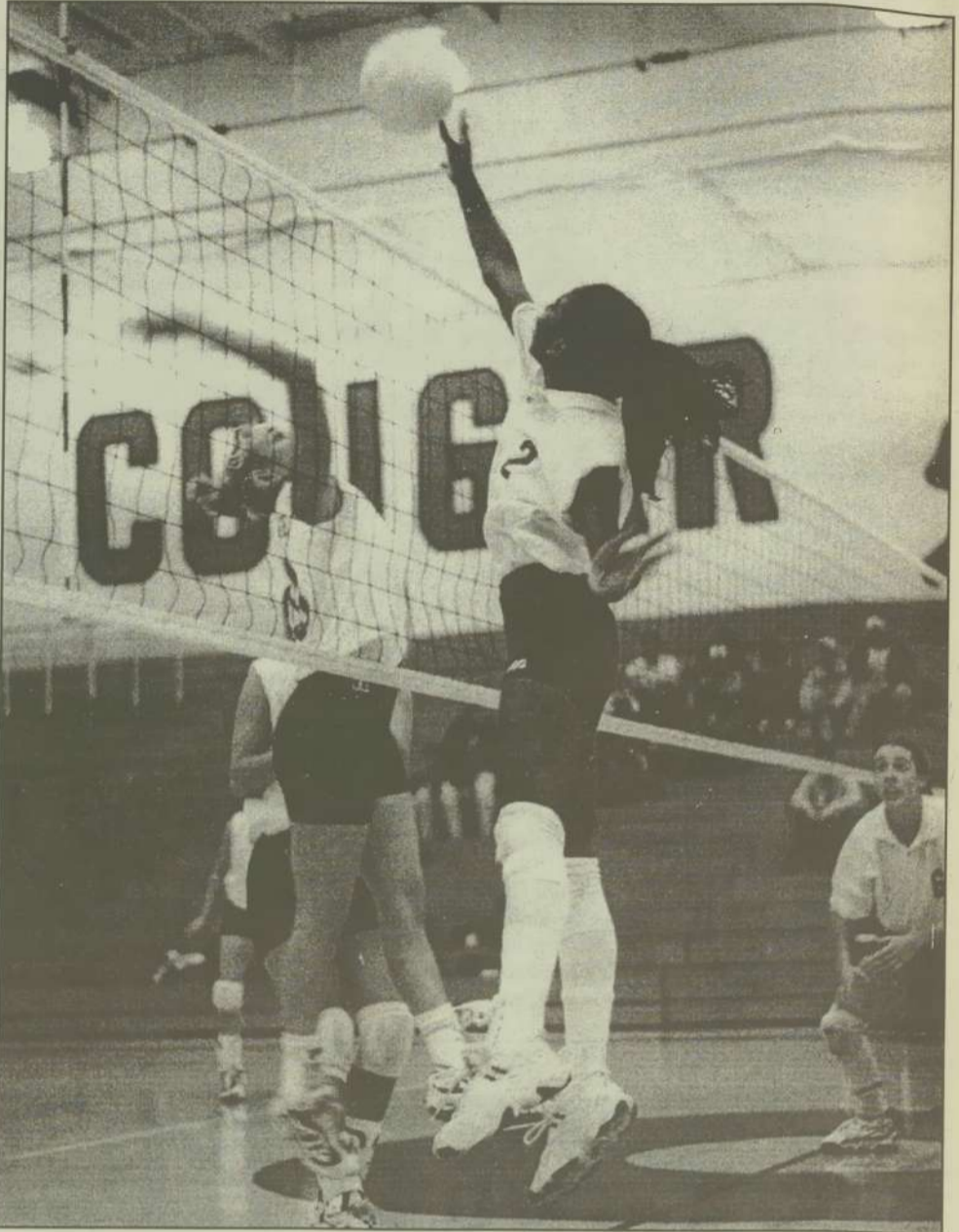
Now the Cougars have their work cut out for them.

Clackamas enjoys a league bye this week but prepares to compete in the renowned Mt. Hood Halloween Classic.

The two-day-long tournament this Friday and Saturday showcases the top teams in the Northwest and looks to be a preview of next month's Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] championship tournament.

“ The best schools and the best players are at this tournament **”**

Kathie Woods
Head Coach



Freshman Anita Johnson elevates for the tip. Johnson, one of the Cougars' steadiest hitters, had seven kills against Mt. Hood on Friday.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Sophomore Michelle McKinney led the Cougars against Linn-Benton last week with a 61 percent hitting efficiency and 11 kills.

"This is a big tournament in terms of recruiting," noted Woods. "The best schools and the best players are at this tournament so a ton of recruiters from four-year schools come to watch."

"We're anxious to look at Pierce because we haven't seen them play yet and we'd like to see more of Spokane and Chemeketa, as well."

Chemeketa holds a 2-0 record against the Cougars so far this season while Spokane is 1-2 against Clackamas. Pierce is the only team that has defeated Chemeketa [33-2] twice.

"If you go and watch this tournament," added Woods, "you'll see a lot of teams using different strategies. Everybody is still learning how to match up against each other because almost every team this weekend will be in the NWAACC tournament too. There will be some inconsistencies as teams try new things."

"The interesting thing is that this tournament usually has the best teams in it and very rarely will the winner of this tournament go on to win the NWAACC tournament."

The Cougars are facing a tough week of practice for disciplinary

action, according to Woods.

"We need to refocus and regroup. We're not focused right now. We need to get ready for the rest of the season."

Since it falls over the Halloween weekend, tradition remains that teams dress in costume for part of the day on Saturday.

"We plan to carry on that tradition," noted Woods. "Fans will just have to come see us play early Saturday morning to find out what we're going to do."

Last year, Clackamas sported cotton tails and bunny ears as their fearless coach led the way as the Energizer Bunny.

Classifieds Classifieds CLASSIFIED

For Sale: '87 Red VW Jetta, tinted windows. NEW clutch, flywheel, transmission, alternator and battery. 177K miles. \$4000 OBO. Leave message @ 271-0615.

For Sale: '92 Chevy Camaro RS, teal. Excellent condition, LOADED. A.C., cruise, T-tops, 10-disc CD changer, tape deck, AM/FM, alarm, good tires, power windows, 1 owner. 132K miles. \$7200 OBO. Leave message @ 657-7650.

For Sale: '85 Nissan Sentra, 75,000 miles. \$1500 or best offer. 655-2756.

For Sale: Brother Word Processor Model WP-3410. Separate monitor, manual, disk and ribbons. \$120 or best offer. Msg. 515-3697.

ADVERTISE IN THE CLACKAMAS PRINT Classifieds

Free to students, faculty and staff!!! All other classifieds must be paid in advance at the rate of \$2 for the first 15 words and .15 cents per word thereafter per issue.