

Winter: 'Tis the season to bust an ollie

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Snowboarding's rising popularity in the past ten years makes it the fastest-growing snow activity today, and Clackamas is participating in this sport by offering four classes for winter term.

In 1985, only seven percent of U.S. ski areas allowed riding. Today, the number is 97 percent. More than half of those ski areas now have snowboard parks and half-pipes. Some industries say there may actually be more inbound terrain open to snowboarders than to skiers. There are only 13 resorts in the U.S. that still will not allow snowboarding. A record 2.3 million people started riding in the U.S. alone in 1996.

Many Clackamas students are involved in snowboarding although it can be an expensive sport.

"Riding isn't cheap," said student Jason Oliver. "I have spent over \$500 just in snowboard equipment, and that doesn't include lift tickets and gas to the mountain. That's really cheap considering I got hooked up with a board and bindings, and I'll be able to use everything for a couple seasons."

The P.E. Department at Clackamas now offers a class in which students can ride and get college credit. The classes range from beginning [A] to advanced [E/F]. Depending on students' experience, the classes are on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays for two hours. The class costs \$34 for tuition and \$195 for lift tickets and lessons or \$315 with rentals included.

"This is a great opportunity for students to get a credit," said Coordinator Nancy Mikleton. "It does seem expensive, but you're practically getting the lessons for free."

"Lessons are a smart way to go to learn good technique and form. It helps you get better faster. There is something for everyone to learn."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / Clackamas Print

A 'boarder performs an inverted aerial maneuver high above the snow. The sport has gained popularity in the last 10 years, and Clackamas now offers snowboard and ski lessons both at Mt. Hood Meadows and Timberline for Winter Term.

Cougar SIDELINES

Volleyball

Clackamas volleyball standout Amy Kraljev was selected to the All-America second team.

The 5'10" sophomore middle blocker led the Southern Region champion Cougars in hitting efficiency, total kills, kills per game, total blocks and blocks per game.

The All-America teams are selected by a group of coaches from each conference.

Kraljev finishes her Clackamas career this Saturday night, Dec. 5 at Clark College as she competes along with Sophomores Judi Arbuckle and Michelle McKinney in the 1998 All-Star Games.

McKinney, a 1995 Oregon City graduate, also received All-America votes from Northwest coaches.



Talented team poised for success

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

Wrestling

• Next Home Match:

Clackamas hosts Yakima Valley CC, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

The Clackamas wrestling season is well underway.

Four matches into the 1998-99 schedule, the Cougars look as strong as ever.

"We've had some success," said Head Coach Lloyd Martindale. "The team is very talented and if we get the right guys eligible and healthy then we should really be a tough group to beat."

The Clackamas wrestling team

competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association [NJCAA] since few schools offer intercollegiate wrestling in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC]—the conference of which Clackamas is a member in all other sports.

"We really compete all year to prepare for the National Championships in February," noted Martindale. "If everybody returns, we should place in the top three in the nation."

The Cougars possess a strong core of returning wrestlers that anchor a team strengthened by some of the best high school wrestlers in the Northwest.

Sophomores Robbie Buxton and Dennis Olsen, who placed third and fourth in the nation last winter, return to Coach Martindale's roster while national qualifiers

Michael Holbrook and Abel Valdez also rejoin the Cougars.

Valdez was a Region 18 champion as a freshman last winter.

Freshman Ben Vombaur comes to Clackamas from Evergreen High School in Washington as a three-time state champion, while newcomer Andre Moore of Jefferson is an experienced wrestler with a state championship.

"With the talent that this squad has," added Martindale, "we could have one of the most successful seasons in Clackamas history. We just need to get everybody eligible."

Coin toss error provokes new rules

It's a moment that someday could rank right up there with the Immaculate Reception as one of the most bizarre occurrences in NFL history. One of the simplest parts of the game, the coin toss, was responsible on Nov. 27 for what is perhaps the most bizarre moment in one of the stranger games of this decade.

During the Thanksgiving Day game between the Detroit Lions and

Pittsburgh Steelers, confusion surrounding the coin toss for the overtime period resulted in the strangest coin flip in sports history.

You toss the coin, call heads or tails, and it lands. Then you find out if you called it right. How hard a concept can this be to grasp?

Apparently, tough, it was quite difficult for the Steelers' team captains and referee Phil Luckett

At midfield during the coin toss, it sounded as if Jerome Bettis of the Steelers called tails. The coin landed tails, but to

Bettis's surprise, Luckett awarded the Lions the choice to kick or receive.

After the game, Luckett told reporters that Bettis had called "heads-tails," saying 'heads' before quickly changing his call to 'tails.' NFL rules stipulate that the first call made by the team captain goes.

Bettis, however, seemed to disagree with what Luckett claims to have heard him say.

"I did not say 'heads-tails,'" Bettis said after the game. "That is a lie. That's a bald-faced lie."

However, on Friday, Bettis admitted he had started to say heads, but quickly changed it to tails. More like

a 'h-tails.'

Lions cornerback Robert Bailey [who was not part of the coin toss] said he heard Bettis call one thing, and Steelers' co-captain Carnell Lake call another.

"To me, it sounded like one guy called heads and another guy called tails. That way, no matter what happens, you can argue. It's an old trick," Bailey said.

An enhanced audio recording of the toss by a Pittsburgh radio station seems to support this claim. A faint 'heads' was audible when the

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