

Wednesday, January 20, 1999

Cougars, 4-0, set for showdown in Roseburg

Sophomore guard Melinda Freeman plays defense against Mt. Hood in the Cougars' 84-40 victory over the Saints last Wednesday. Freeman and the Cougars [4-0, 14-5] face #1 Umpqua in Roseburg tonight.



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

The Clackamas women's basketball team travels to Roseburg tonight to take on the top-ranked Umpqua Timberwomen in a Southern Region showdown.

"We're going to have to play our best game of the year to win," said Clackamas Head Coach Jim Martineau. "If we end up with the loss then it's not a big deal. It's only one loss in a 14-game league schedule but it is important for us."

The Cougars [4-0, 14-5] enter the contest on a five-game winning streak with a suffocating defense and an explosive offense.

Clackamas completed its best week of the season with wins over Mt. Hood and Lane on Wednesday and Saturday.

Against the neighboring Saints, the Cougars rolled to a whopping 84-40 victory behind the defensive prowess of Sophomore Melinda Freeman who had four steals and one blocked shot.

On offense, Clackamas was led by Freeman with 14 points and Nichole

Hayden, Sina Gago, Trina Rogers and Michelle Thueson who each had 10 points in the game.

Against the Titans from Lane, the Cougars weren't threatened in the 82-55 victory.

Freeman led Clackamas with 18 points while Gago had 17, Rogers had 13 and Hayden recorded 10 points and 10 rebounds.

In tonight's matchup against the Timberwomen, Clackamas faces a team that boasts a perfect 18-0 record and a #1 ranking in the NWAACC.

The rivalry between these two schools, however, runs much deeper than rankings and records.

Last season, the Timberwomen were picked to win the Southern Region title but failed to do so as the Cougars captured the crown.

In 1997, Umpqua and Clackamas faced off in the NWAACC Championship game with the Timberwomen claiming their first Northwest title.

The Cougars were the last team to defeat Umpqua on its home court during league play back in 1996.

"It's a tough place to play," added Martineau. "We can win, though."

Wrestlers close home schedule Thursday

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

The Clackamas wrestling team finishes its home schedule tomorrow afternoon with dual matches against Simon Fraser University and Lassen College.

The Cougars open up against Simon Fraser at 2 p.m. and are slated to take on Lassen College at 5 p.m.

Clackamas competed this past weekend in a triangular meet which featured Region 18 schools in Clackamas, Southwestern Oregon and Highline Community College.

Against Highline, the Cougars scored a 24-16 victory before falling to Southwestern Oregon 33-12.

Freshman Ben Vombaur, competing in the 125 lb. weight class, won both his matches during the afternoon.

Sophomore Abel Valdez also knothed two victories in the 133 lb. weight class.

After Thursday's matches, the Cougars will compete in the Or-

egon Classic which is held in Portland all day Saturday.

In the Oregon Classic, all Clackamas wrestlers (including red-shirt athletes) are eligible to compete because it is set up as an open format instead of the traditional invitational. Nearly every Oregon college is expected to compete in the event.

The Cougars will use the open to prepare for the rapidly approaching Region 18 Championships on February 5.

The day-long event will take place in Des Moines, Wash. and features the best junior college teams in the toughest region of the National Junior College Athletic Association [NJCAA].

After the region championships, the Cougars will travel to Rochester, Minnesota to compete in the 1999 NJCAA National Championships—a two-day long event in which the Cougars placed 6th last winter.

Clackamas is planning to improve on last year's placing with a top five finish.

Clackamas drops two straight

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

Winning isn't always the easiest thing when you compete in the toughest region of the Northwest.

The men's basketball team learned that first hand after suffering back-to-back losses against Mt. Hood and Lane this past week.

Last Wednesday, the Cougars [2-2, 12-6] started slow and never seemed to recover against a hot-shooting Mt. Hood squad.

Falling behind 28-8 early in the first half, Clackamas awoke from its offensive slumber and battled back to take a small lead with minutes to play in the second frame. A surging Saints offense, however, put the Cougars away and escaped with a 95-91 upset victory over eighth-ranked Clackamas.

Sophomore point guard Jared Price led all scorers with 27 points. Sophomores Billy Bright and David Cohen each had 13 points while Cody Eckman and Kyle Bracy recorded 12 and 11, respectively.

On Saturday, the Cougars hoped to get back on track with a victory but soon found out why the top-ranked Titans from Lane are picked to win this year's Northwest title.

Clackamas trailed the entire contest but never remained out of striking distance as the Cougars wittled away at the Titans' lead behind a hustling defense. Mistakes down the stretch, however, sealed Clackamas' fate and an eventual 103-88 loss.

Price led all scorers in the game with 31 points and seven assists while Bright had 24 points and Cohen added 10.

"We really shouldn't have lost to Mt. Hood," noted Clackamas Head Coach Clif Wegner. "Against Lane, we faced a really solid team and we didn't play all that well. Losing two games this past week really



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Sophomore point guard sets Jared Price himself at the free throw line in the Cougars 95-91 loss to Mt. Hood last Wednesday.

puts a damper on our hopes to win a league championship."

The Cougars look for their third league win as they travel to Roseburg to take on the Timbermen of Umpqua Community College.

"Umpqua is a dangerous, dangerous team," added Wegner. "We have a tough week of games ahead of us and we have to get two wins to really get back on track."

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Wrestling

Thursday, January 21
2 p.m. vs. Simon Fraser
5 p.m. vs. Lassen College