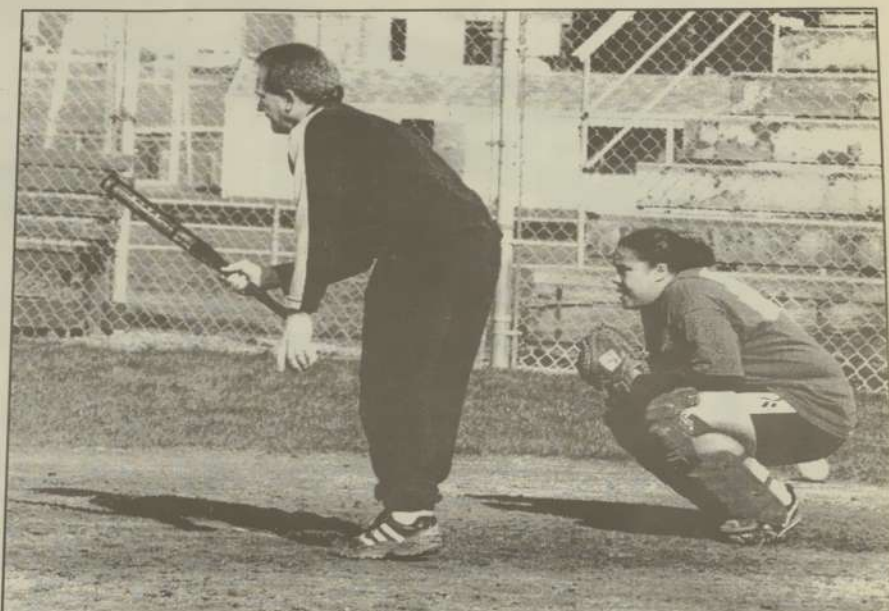




Freshman Vanessa Applegate [left] wielded a big bat over the weekend—producing game-tying and game-winning RBI hits against SWOCC. Head Coach Paul Fiskum [above] tipped off his 12th Southern Region campaign as the leader of the Cougars over the weekend.

Photos by John Thorburn

Fiskum: 'We're undefeated on the continent'

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

egon Community College [SWOCC] last Thursday.

In game one against the Lakers, Clackamas rolled to a 7-1 victory.

Steady hitting, improving pitching. With its sights set on an unprecedented ninth conference title, the Clackamas softball team is on target through the first three weeks.

"We're getting pretty steady hitting from all of the girls," noted Clackamas Head Coach Paul Fiskum. "Our pitching is about where it should be this early in the season. Mel [Warthen] is pitching tremendous right now and Cortney DuPree is getting better."

The Cougars [2-0, 4-4] opened their Southern Region schedule with two wins over Southwestern Or-

egon Community College [SWOCC] last Thursday.

Sophomore Cecily Burton, the top-returning hitter from last year's squad, led Clackamas with four hits in five plate appearances, including a double, driving in one run and scoring twice.

In game two, the Lakers jumped on pitcher Cortney DuPree and the Clackamas defense for seven runs in the first four innings, as the Cougars committed three errors. DuPree was

credited with four earned runs on eight hits, but stranded nine Laker baserunners before being replaced by Warthen in the fifth inning. Warthen faced 19 batters and gave up no runs while striking out four to finish the afternoon with only one earned run spanning 12 innings.

At the plate, Clackamas struggled through the first three innings before pounding SWOCC for four runs on five hits in the fourth frame to pull within two.

Heading into the fifth, the Cougars were down 6-4 before sophomore catcher Kati Brewster drove in freshman centerfielder Jessica Farnsworth to pull within one run.

After failing to score in their half of

the sixth, the Cougars were down to their final three outs.

With a leadoff walk by freshman second baseman Summer Conroy, the Cougars had the tying run aboard. After a pop-up by Burton and a grounder by Brewster that eliminated Conroy at second base on the fielder's choice, Clackamas was down to its final out.

On a two-and-one count, however, freshman Vanessa Applegate hit a shot over the left fielder's head for a triple that scored Brewster from first base to send the game into extra innings.

In the top of the ninth inning, Applegate struck again.

With Conroy aboard on a leadoff single, Burton sacrificed her over to second base. Brewster then hit a shot to center field that looked out of reach before the Laker player made a circus-like catch and forced Conroy to scramble back to second base.

With two outs, Applegate stepped in and hit the second pitch to drive in Conroy for the go-ahead and eventual winning run.

In the 7-6 victory, Applegate led the Cougars with two singles, a double and a triple in five at-bats and drove in four runs. Conroy finished the game three for three at the plate with one double.

Over Spring Break, the Cougars traveled to Hawaii to take on three four-year universities and returned with four losses and no wins.

"I've said all year long that it would take a tremendous pitcher to shut down our hitters," noted Fiskum. "We faced some awesome pitching in Hawaii."

Aside from its performance over the break, Clackamas is flawless with a 4-0 record.

"We're undefeated on the continent," added Fiskum.

Typical Student

Sally
Senior, Business Administration

Favorite class:
Second Year Japanese

Favorite hangout: Geppetto's

Favorite off-campus activity: Camping on weekends, or dining out and going to see a play.

What do you like best about SOU: The internships. I'll have a great résumé before I graduate.

What do you like best about Ashland: Downtown, the shops, the restaurants. And the surrounding area, because it's so beautiful.



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