

Baseball squad stumbles again

JOHN THORBURN
Sports Editor

The Clackamas baseball team will miss the playoffs again.

After winning only two of the five games that the Cougars needed to win to challenge for a playoff spot, the young squad was all but eliminated from the postseason play.

The team's play, however, has continued to improve.

It seems that the Cougars' efforts were too little too late.

"We're playing very good baseball right now," said Clackamas Head Coach Robin Robinson. "We've just been unlucky with some close games but a very young squad."

On Thursday, Clackamas took on the Mt. Hood Saints in Gresham

in a doubleheader that was rescheduled due to rain from last Tuesday.

In the first game, Ryan Oliver and Dan Floyd pitched very well, according to Robinson, but couldn't get much offensive support in a 6-3 loss.

Todd Boyle led the Cougars with a three for four performance at the plate with two doubles.

In the second game, a 5-3 loss for Clackamas, Tim Fellows pitched a complete game but couldn't manage help from his teammates.

Boyle went two for four with two more doubles.

"We played pretty good baseball against Mt. Hood," said Robinson. "Our defense has gotten better, but we left a lot of our baserunners stranded."

On Saturday, Clackamas played



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Sophomore pitcher Tim Fellows winds up for the pitch while the Clackamas defense readies itself.

Southwestern Oregon Community College [SWOCC] for three games.

The Cougars, hoping to take three from the last place Lakers, won the first two but lost the third.

In the first, Greg Palmer pitched a 3-0 shutout only allowing five hits.

In the second game, Ron Landlot outlasted SWOCC 6-4

while Glenn Boss earned the save.

In the finale, the Lakers pounded the Cougars for 11 runs while only allowing Clackamas to score three. Alvin Ellis earned the loss.

Clackamas has five games remaining on their schedule and has the opportunity to finish as high as third place in the Southern Region.

Three of the five games, how-

ever, are against league-leading Lane Community College.

"The good news is that we're playing very good baseball everyday now," noted Robinson. "We'll be throwing our best pitchers against Lane so it could be a battle."

"We're young but we're getting better which is encouraging."

Blazers on roll again

For most of the season, it was Portland who played timid during big games. Monday night however, was a different story.

On a night when it looked as if Karl Malone was the only Jazz player to show up at the Delta center, the Blazers were busy showing Phoenix the way to the playoff exit door.

This is quite a change from the regular season, when Utah was the consistent one and Portland didn't always show up.

If Portland can keep this pace up, things look good for the second round, no matter the outcome of the Utah-Sacramento series.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves, though; the Blazers first must finish the job against Phoenix Wednesday night before we can start talking about round two's match-up. Looking toward round two and not taking Sacramento seriously is what got the Jazz beaten by a young Sacramento squad Monday night.

So far this series, the Blazers have shown a team maturity that hasn't been present since the end of March. They are playing as a team again, playing with a goal in mind.

At the start of game one when Portland looked lost, in need of someone to step up and get things rolling, JR Rider took over the game.

Rider took the burden to get the offense rolling on his shoulder's, and responded with a career playoff high of 25 points.

Everything Rider put up

seemed to go down, as high teammates got into the act as well by creating offensive player movement which more often than not cleared the defense to one side of the court.

This enabled Rider to get into a shooting rhythm, which resulted in him sinking many tough, off-balance shots as the defense keyed in on him down the stretch.

Rider's impact on the series went far beyond the 25 points he scored that Saturday in game one.

Rider gave Portland a lift, providing them with the go-to player they have lacked recently. His presence on the court forced Phoenix to give him special attention that game, which opened up the court for his teammates. When Rider stepped up his play, it opened the floodgate containing all of Portland's bottled-up play and feelings.

Rider's teammates responded to his leadership role that game by pulling together as a team.

Portland's offense is full of player movement again, no longer appearing to be dead tree stumps just occupying court space.

The result of the Blazers' offensive player movement has been an improved shot percentage. Portland shot 62.9 percent from the floor on Monday night.

The player movement has helped Portland's playing in more ways than just shooting percentage and scoring.

Portland's front court has been dominate once again. The movement has allowed the Blazers to clear the defense from under the basket.

The result is increased re-



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Rohrer becomes All-American decathlete

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Freshman Brian Rohrer had a good week last week.

He went to school, did some homework and even watched some TV.

Oh yeah, he also became an All-American Decathlete.

Rohrer, a graduate of Columbia River High School in Vancouver, Wash., took part in the 1999 Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges [NWAACC] Multi-Event Championships and placed third in the conference to earn national recognition.

On Monday, the first five events were held, and according to Clackamas Head Coach Jack Kegg, Rohrer didn't have a great start to his bid.

"Brian had kind of a mediocre performance on the first day," noted Kegg. "He did okay in the 100m race, had a personal record in the long jump and the 400m, but had a pretty bad performance in the shot put that really hurt him."

After the first five events were completed and the first day of events were over, Rohrer sat in a distant 8th place.

On the second day, however, Rohrer won two events and finished in second place in another-making up five places to take third.

"Brian had an incredible second day that really allowed him to finish as high as he did," noted Kegg. "Going into the final event, he was in fifth place, but he won the 1500m race by 10 seconds. He would have needed to win by 20 seconds to win the decathlon."

This year's decathlon champion-

ship went to Spokane's Dusty Lane—the 1997 NWAACC Decathlon Champion. Lane's performance puts him in second in the NWAACC behind the conference record-holder and world record-holder Dan O'Brien, also a former Spokane athlete.

In track and field, the top three finishers in the NWAACC Championships are also named All-Americans.

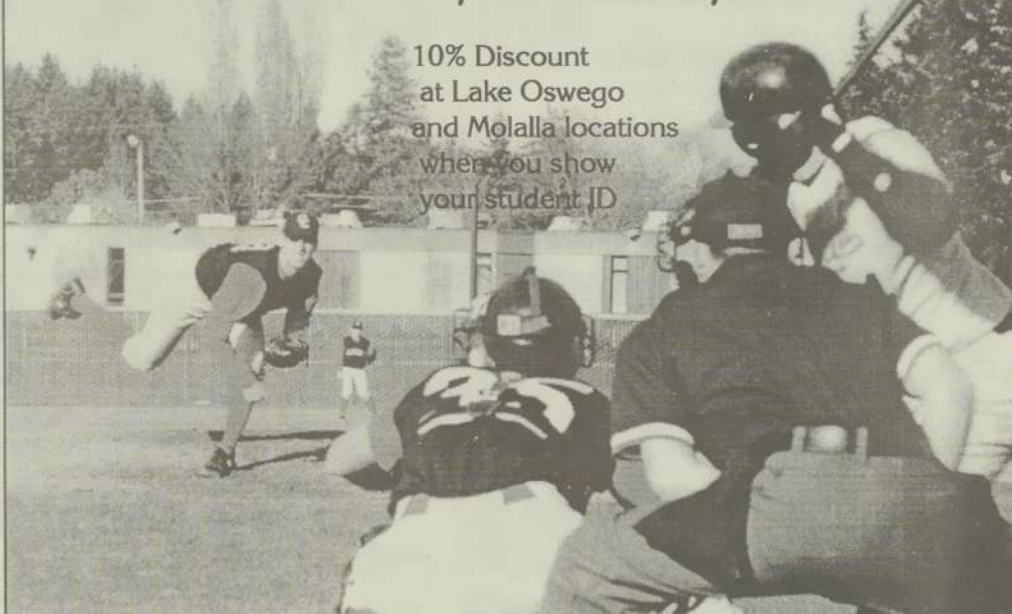
In the women's multi-event championships, Sophomore Michaela Foeller competed in the heptathlon finishing 11th overall. Foeller improved in six of the seven events and moved up to #7 on Clackamas' All-Time list in the heptathlon.

Clackamas competes in the Southern Region Championships this Friday and Saturday at Mt. Hood.

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