

Clackamas rolls, wins 11 of 14

MANDY GOOD
Sports Editor

The Clackamas Cougars stayed one step ahead of Portland's performance on the Jan. 5th game in Portland's home gym.

"We out-played them slightly in about every area—we shot better, handled the ball better and out rebounded them," said Head Coach Cliff Wegner.

The game started strong straight off the bench and clinched the sixth-game winning streak out of seven games played.

"Our depth was really far superior. We out-scored them off the bench 54 to 10," said Wegner.

Dallas Husak came off of the bench and scored 22 points. Tom Lenox also came off the bench and displayed his outstanding skills. By halftime the Cougars had a confident lead of 13 points.

"We came up very flat in the second half, so we benched all five of the starters. The second team came in and played very well and got the lead up to about 15 points," said Wegner.

Wegner noted that the players that are coming in off the bench to play are playing with a lot more confidence, which added to the strength of the team.

"Tom Lenox is coming into the game and just shooting the ball and relaxing, Wes Jennings is playing well off of the bench, and Nate Block is coming in off the bench looking superior," explained Wegner.

Much of the success of the

game is attributed to the post players' skills. The players have proven, and will continue to prove, their strong role in the team.

"I think that we have the best post kids in the league, which includes Nate Block, Wes Jennings, Jered Gritters, Chris Lohrey and Dallas Husak. Although we still need to prove it when we play," said Wegner.

The final score of the game was 100-84, and ended in a Cougar win.

"When the starters came back into the game, they played very hard and we finished the game off right," said Wegner.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, the Cougars played Linn-Benton in their second away game of the week. The team got up early in the game with a score of 20 to 8 and went on to win 88-66.

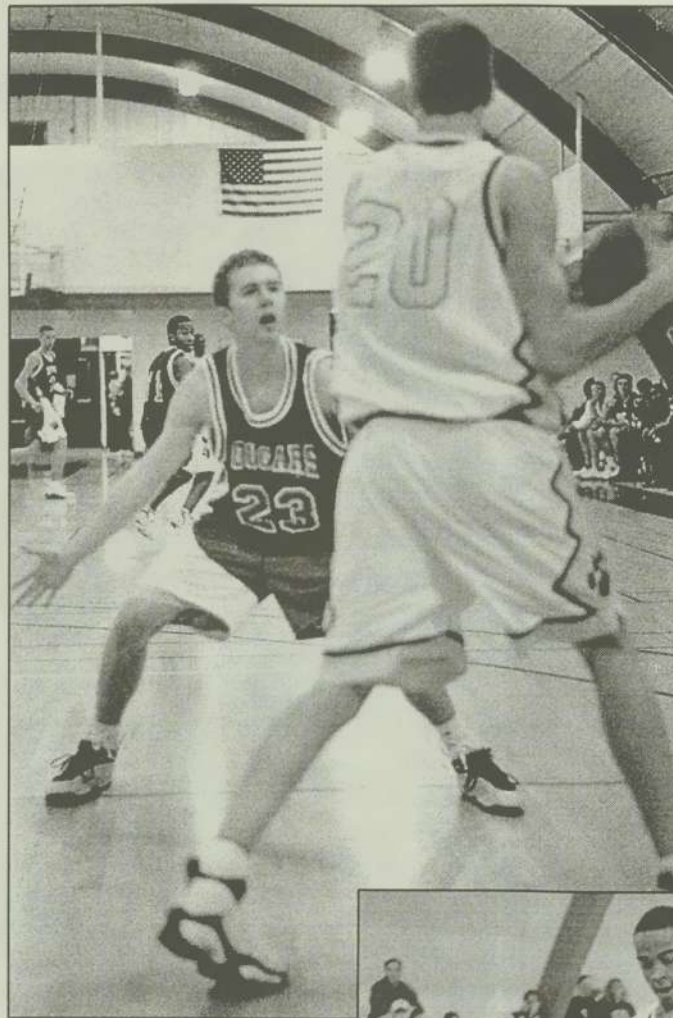
"We got a nice early lead by going to the inside and rebounding and playing very good defense," said Wegner.

By halftime, the Cougars were still leading the game 35 to 22. Linn-Benton continued to play hard and got back into the game in the second half. The score was brought down to a ten-point spread.

"They made a furious rally; they didn't shoot very well all night, but they had a streak where they hit about five out of eight three's," said Wegner.

An obstacle that Linn Benton had to face was Cougar player Nate Block.

"Nate stepped up and looked like a man among boys, they just could not guard him," said



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Wegner.

In the second half of the game, Block was dominating the court. His ball-handling skills were a factor in the team's overall performance.

"In the second half of the game, every time he touched the ball he either made a lay-in or got to the free-throw line," said Wegner.

Point Guard Kyle Bracy was another strong force for the Cougars.

"Kyle Bracy did a fabulous job running the ball—he played 35 minutes and only had one turnover. As a point guard, 3 to 4 turnovers is pretty good for playing that amount of time," said Wegner.

The effort was outstanding due to the time and the competition. The Cougars continued to play well even as Linn-Benton rallied against them.

"We settled down and got our composure and finished the game winning by 22 points," said



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Wegner.

The Cougars are off to a good start, winning the first two out of four road games. They face a tough situation with four straight road games.

"We were away both games last

week, we're away both games this week. If we just get through those games 4-0 or 3-1, then I think that we will be in good shape. Then we have 6 out of 7 games at home and we play very well at home," said Wegner.

Don't tell Cal schools that Pac-10 power lies in the Northwest

Oregon football fans need to start opening their eyes to the Pacific-10 and its state today.

From the Editor's desk...



John Thorburn
Editor-in-Chief

For years, the Pac-10 Conference has been synonymous with excellence. For the past two seasons, however, the level of talent and play has been mediocre at best. The result? A major loss of respect.

Why has this happened?

It's a simple answer.

In 1991, the University of Wash-

ington Huskies dominated college football—winning a share of the national title with Miami, thrusting

the school into national power status and ultimately showing a changing of the guard from California school dominance in the conference.

What happened next? The "Pac-10" cut the Huskies down at the knees, unleashing huge penalties for small sanctions brought against the team for violations.

The Pac-10 doesn't like Washington.

The Pac-10 is comprised of the four state schools from Oregon and Washington plus four universities from California and two from Arizona. For decades, dominance has resided among those six schools. In the past 10 years, however, some of the best football has been played by the Northwest colleges. When the Cal schools tried to shift that

power back down south, the conference was weakened severely.

The problem that existed between California schools and Washington was recruiting.

For years, Washington was increasing the number of top recruits that it pulled from the Gold State's backyards.

What were the penalties imposed? Loss of recruits and no bowl eligibility. This spells a loss of interest for Washington when young players make their choice of college.

When team members of the UCLA football team broke federal and state laws last season, what happened? Nothing.

In recent years, Oregon football, namely the Ducks, have increas-

ingly gained respect because they're playing good football. How long do you think the "Pac-10" is going to allow this to go on?

The University of Oregon is building an image of a great football program. With the California schools showing nothing better than .500 level play, the Ducks are going to start attracting more of that big talent away from those schools.

What would happen next?

Washington is returning to dominance. Oregon is increasingly getting stronger. Oregon State is back on the college football map. Great football doesn't lie within the Pacific-10 conference.

It certainly doesn't lie within the "Pac-6."

... the Ducks are going to start attracting more of that big talent ...