

Men's Basketball

Cougars lose heartbreaker

MANDY GOOD

Sports Editor

The Cougars won their third away game in a row on Wednesday Jan. 12 against Mt. Hood in Gresham.

"We played a real good game at Mt Hood we started out with a nice lead of 25-12," said Wegner.

Despite the Cougars leading the game, the squad faced foul trouble, and Mt. Hood complicated the game when they changed the pace, of the game by playing zone defense.

"We had four different post players in foul trouble with two fouls each, so we had to switch up our rotation," said Wegner "Then they came back and went to zone defense and slowed down the tempo of the game a little."

At half time the game was close at 44-40. In the second half, Tony Edgerton and Ammon Bemis played outstanding defense to stop a high scoring Mt. Hood player.

"We came out in the second half and really took control of the ball game," said Wegner. "Tony and Ammon did a great job in the

second half shutting down their leading scorer who averages about 23 points a game. He had about 17 at halftime and in the second half he had only 7 points. They did a nice job and I felt that was a big factor."

Defensively the Cougar Squad dominated. Key players Kyle Bracy, Mike Fisher and Tony Edgerton were major assets to the team.

"Defensively we clamped down in the second half, we really made them work hard for everything. We did a good job pressing, we got some turnovers out of our press and some easy conversions," explained Wegner. "We had a great ball game out of Kyle Bracy, I thought Fisher played well, I also felt that Tony gave a big lift off the bench."

According to Wegner, the Cougars beat Mt. Hood badly on the board; it was close to even at half-

time and at the end of the game Wegners team out rebounded their opponents by twelve.

The final score of the game was 93-77, the game illustrated their strength and growth as a team.

Cougars played Lane College in Eugene on Jan. 15 and the game brought an end to the three game; winning streak. The loss of the game left the team placed 3-1 in the league and 12-6 overall.

"When I looked at the schedule before the season started my goal was to go 3-1, so we did that. I don't feel really good now because we got through the first three legs and I felt that we should have won the fourth game," said Wegner. "But when I look at it overall, winning three of four in the open league puts us in good shape."

According to Coach Wegner the team did not play up to their ability. One of the major factors was

playing selfishly. Players were going one on one and taking shots selfishly and not running an offense. Another factor was point guards not getting the team into an offense.

"I t seems like we were just out of sink in the whole first half of the game, we had a miserable first half and we did not defend them very well either. They are a team that averages in the low seventies and we gave them 40 points at half time," explained Wegner.

At halftime the Cougar squad was down; the score of the game was 40-24. Coach Wegner had a very direct half timetalk with his players. The talk motivated the players, and in the second half the team stepped back into the game.

"We scored the first 15 points in the second half, we shut them out. They did not score for the first eight minutes of the half, so that brought us to 40-39 it's very much a ball game now," said Wegner. "We go back and forth they kinda recovered and hit a few shots and they kept the lead. This is a ball game that we never once led in the entire night."



SARAH WELCH / Clackamas Print

Lane got up to an eight point lead with about eight minutes left in the game. The Cougars continued to rally against their opponents but could never make it over their lead.

"We had a chance at the end inside a minute, we had two free throws, we made the first and got within one but missed the second," said Wegner. "It came down with eleven seconds to go and we called a time out, we set up a play. The third and final option was Mike Fisher in the corner for a jump shot that he took and it got partly blocked at the buzzer and the game ended."

The final score of the game was

61-62 and ended in a Cougar defeat.

"We learned that we need to show up ready to play basketball, we played half a ball game so we got half a victory," Wagner concluded.

The Cougar team has a home game on Wednesday, Jan. 19 against Umpqua and a second home game against Southern Oregon on Saturday, Jan. 22. If Wegners team wins the next two games this week they have a chance to be tied for first place.

"Six out of seven games are at home and the kids feel really confident about playing at home, so we feel really optimistic about where we stand right now," said Wegner.

Clackamas vs. Umpqua Tonight!
Roar on Cougars. Tipoff - Men: 6 p.m. Women: 8 p.m.

Cougar Athletics

Schedule of home games

Basketball

1/19 ... vs. Umpqua
1/22 ... vs. SWOCC
1/29 ... vs. Linn-Benton
2/2 ... vs. Portland
2/5 ... vs. Lane
2/9 ... vs. Mt. Hood
2/16 ... vs. Chemeketa

Tipoff - M: 6 p.m.; W- 8 p.m.

Wrestling

No more home matches

Current Records:
Men's Basketball:
3-1, 12-6
Women's Basketball:
4-0, 13-5

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Clif Wegner
Head Coach

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Ammon Bemis drives but gets charged with an offensive foul in the Cougars' 93-67 victory over the Mt. Hood Saints last Wednesday in Gresham.

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