

Women's Basketball

Young team drops from 1st to 4th

JOHN THORBURN
Editor-in-Chief

The women's basketball squad is searching for answers when it travels to Salem tonight to take on the first-place Chemeketa Storm.

After back-to-back losses to Umpqua and Southwestern Oregon last week, the Cougars have dropped from a three-way tie for first to fourth place by themselves with a 4-2 league record,

13-7 overall.

Against the Timberwomen of Umpqua, Clackamas only managed 31 first half points compared to a tall offense that scored 50 for the visitors from Roseburg. A late second half surge by the Cougars couldn't pull the squad close enough as they fell 99-75—the most points allowed by Clackamas all year.

"We didn't play good defense at all," noted second-year Head Coach Jim Martineau. "Our offense was pretty good—we scored 75 points which should be enough to win the game if you play any kind of defense.

"I think that we were ready to go, ready to play the game. When it came to game time though I think we were a little intimidated by the size and the hype."

Clackamas surrendered 27 points off of turnovers and 14 from second-effort attempts by Umpqua.

The Timberwomen shot a blistering 58.8% from the field on 40 of 68 shooting.

Mercedes Juarez and Amanda Lee led Clackamas with 18 and 16 points, respectively. Michelle Thueson scored 13 while Trina Rogers broke out of a shooting slump with 12 points.

Umpqua had six players scoring in double figures and one with nine points.

"Our offense seems to be doing well," added Martineau. "It's our defense that's really killing us."

On Saturday, that defense remained questionable as it gave up 72 points in a 72-68 loss. The visiting Lakers from Coos Bay matched Clackamas in every statistical category with only one blaring difference—the Cougars shot 58.3% from the free throw



JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

Sophomore point guard Michelle Thueson drives into a crowd against Umpqua in Thueson and the Cougars' 75-99 loss to the visiting Timberwomen.

line missing 15 shots while SWOCC shot 74.2%.

"Our free throw shooting really hurt us down the stretch," noted Martineau. "We lose a game by four and miss 15 free throws. Even if we don't play that well we still win the game if we get some of those shots.

"Defensively, we didn't have the effort there that we needed. It was a tight game—probably a good game to watch from the

stands."

Mary Murphy led Clackamas with 14 points on five for five shooting while Rogers and Thueson

scored 13 and points, respectively. Lee added 10 points.

Lee, Juarez and Thueson all fouled out in the final minutes of the game.

"Offensively we struggled at times—they took us out of what we wanted to do at times—so there was a period that we didn't score very much," noted Martineau.

"Against Umpqua, it would have been tough to win that game because they played great basketball. Against SWOCC, that was a tough game to swallow. We're playing at home in a game that we could have won and we didn't."

After two straight losses and fading hopes of a region title, player morale is sinking on Coach Martineau's squad.

"This is a great group of girls," noted Martineau. "For the most part, they're pretty upbeat and ex-

cited—they struggle a little bit when things don't go well. I think they understand what they need to do. I've seen them play really well before. I think we can beat anybody in the league if we play well.

"We've played Chemeketa before," continued Martineau. "We were up by 12 or 13 at the half but then got shelled in the second half. I know the girls know that they're a talented team. They just need to figure out how to bring some energy and enthusiasm to a game for 40 minutes.

"I really think that we're going to go down (to Salem) and play really well," added Martineau. "I really do. If we go down and play well then we'll probably win. We need to win so we can be 5-2 at the break then have four home games ahead of us."

It's our defense that's really killing us.

Jim Martineau
Head Coach

Mosho & Pepe



Women's Basketball ... by Mosho

The women's squad finds itself in fourth place with a pinnacle game at hand tonight down in Salem.

If the team looks to have any chance at a postseason playoff spot, the ladies had better pick up their game quick.

The season started strong with energy and excitement. Since then, however, the Cougars have been about as exciting to watch

as a cross country meet.

Their play is uninspiring and lacks all feeling that a college basketball game is supposed to have.

While the team is young with seven freshmen, Jim Martineau's squad is looking shell-shocked after two-straight losses. The second-year coach has yet to get the full potential of this team show its capability when it comes to game time.

The sophomores are finally coming around but nobody wants to step up and take control of this team.

This time of year, the squad should be improving and yet it finds itself backpedaling.

If the Cougars don't show up and start fighting they're going to end up way out of contention for a playoff berth let alone the region championship.

Men's Basketball ... by Pepe

The men's team is ... well in reality I don't know that much. This is a result of only attending two games this season, but I will give a small dissertation on the differences of those games.

The first game that I witnessed was the first home game against Lower Columbia College. From this game I came to the conclusion that we were in for a long season, due to the fact that the 'D' was la v, and the offense was selfish. This is a recipe for losing

which, coincidentally is just what happened.

I then attended a game at Mt. Hood CC. It was at this game that I saw the real potential of CCC. Offensively Nate Block and Kyle Bracy seemed to be in a different league and the defense shutdown Mt. Hood's offense. Clearly this was a different team, or maybe just a group of guys motivated by the desire not to get whooped yet again.

This strange turnaround brings to mind a funny little story. I was

in Mexico and had some how gotten myself lost among the natives. I was alone and wondering how to get money, due to the fact that the federales had taken it, and then a man came along with a small cart.

This man had the intuition to see how hungry I was and he gave me some home made tortillas and beans. I was quite full after that and feeling much better.

Now you can see just where I am coming from.

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