

Women's Basketball

Cougars awaken from mid-year slumber

JOHN THORBURN

Editor-in-Chief

The Clackamas women's basketball team only won one game last week.

To Head Coach Jim Martineau, however, his players picked up two victories.

Heading into last week's games, the Cougars dropped two straight to Umpqua and Southwestern Oregon, raising questions about the young team's defensive skills.

Against first-place Chemeketa last Wednesday, those questions were answered.

"We played extremely hard (against Chemeketa)," said Martineau, "and defensively, we played extremely well. We did everything we needed to do defensively to win the ballgame. We held them to only 63 points and they're a team that's used to scoring 85-plus every night.

"We just didn't make very many shots. We didn't shoot the ball very well from the three-point line."

As a team, the Cougars (5-3, 14-8) shot 17.7% from beyond the three-point line.

Mercedes Juarez led the squad with 13 points followed up by Amanda Lee's 12. Trina Rogers, last year's conference scoring champion from three-point range was held scoreless after returning to top form in recent weeks.

The Cougars left Salem with a heartbreaking 63-57 loss to the Storm.

With two minutes left, Clackamas took a small lead but wasn't able to fight off a late push by Chemeketa.

"We had a chance to win it," noted Martineau. "Obviously we would have loved to win it—we needed to win it. I was real happy how the team came back after a couple of lousy efforts at home."

On Saturday, Clackamas broke its three-game losing streak with a

thunderous win over the Linn-Benton Roadrunners, 78-59.

Rogers was perfect from downtown as she scored 14. Kathryn Kettles led all scorers with 17 points. Lee put up 16 points on the scoreboard for the Cougars.

At halftime, Clackamas had the game well in hand as it led 44-21 at the break.

"I was real happy with the effort (against Linn-Benton)," noted Martineau. "We were getting after the ball. The posts are doing a very good job at working hard. Offensively in the first half, we didn't do much wrong. We made a lot of shots—we didn't turn the ball over a whole lot the entire game. The second half, we didn't do as well offensively and (Linn-Benton) made a few shots, but it was pretty much over at halftime. It was a very good effort."

Over the next week, the Cougars will get comfortable as they play three straight home games starting with tonight's matchup against Portland Community College. Coach Martineau is confident that his team will see success over the next few games.

"Starting with Linn-Benton," noted Martineau, "we're going to play against four teams that we should be able to beat. These are the games that we have to win so we can make a run at the playoffs."

Currently, Clackamas sits alone in fourth place in the region behind Chemeketa, Umpqua and Southwestern Oregon, respectively. After facing Lane this Saturday and Mt. Hood a week from tonight, the Cougars will take the road again down to Roseburg before returning for their final home game against Chemeketa. Clackamas is 4-1 in league play on the road this season and 1-2 at home.

Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. following the men's game at 6 p.m.



PHOTOS BY JOHN THORBURN / Clackamas Print

[Above] Trina Rogers (bottom right) and Mary Murphy (middle) scramble for a loose ball last week against Chemeketa.



[Left] Mary Murphy shoots a long jumper against the Storm last Wednesday.

Mosho & CANCELED Pepe

This week's installment of the entertainment column Mosho & Pepe has been canceled due to repeated charges of harassment from students who have come forward in protest. The cartoon to the right should shed some light on the issue.



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